



**Summary report of the meeting (web-conference) of the Expert group on legislation of seed and plant propagating material - Working Group on soya bean requirements
24 April 2017**

Chairperson: P. Mannerkorpi

Experts from the following Member States were present: AT, CZ, FR, HU and PL.

1. Approval of Agenda (agenda document)

The agenda was approved.

2. Discussion on the Commission Working document

The working group was set up to re-evaluate the requirement for inert matter with a threshold of 0.3 %. The survey on the refusals of soya bean seed lots in the context of seed certification shows that the five Member States analyse and calculate inert matter in different ways leading to the situation that in some Member States seed lots are rejected because of too high inert matter content (7-9.9 % of lots) while others hardly refuse (0-2.8%). Those with low refusal rates do not include broken seeds in the inert matter as its inclusion would lead to high refusal rates (20-30%).

According to the international standard of ISTA, broken seed is included in inert matter for the technical purity analysis of seed.

It would need to be ensured that any changes to the content of inert material, and in particular non-seed inert material (e.g. soil material) and maybe also seed inert material (broken seed material), would not increase the risk of contamination with the harmful organisms. The temporary experiment on inert matter in soya bean carried out in 1992-1998 resulted in the outcome that the inert matter should not represent a risk of contamination by the harmful organisms *Phialophora gregata* and *Phytophthora megasperma*. However, the technical and scientific knowledge in this regard would need to be updated.

It was concluded that as a first step to assess if the inert matter in soya bean seed lots represents a risk for the spread of *Phialophora gregata* and *Phytophthora megasperma*.