



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON PLANT REPRODUCTIVE MATERIAL LEGISLATION - WORKING GROUP ON SEED POTATOES

18 April 2013

Chairperson: T. Weber

Experts from the following Member States were present: BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, HU, IE, IT, LU, NL, PL, SE, UK.

1) Update of Annexes I and II and requirements for grades

The Working Group discussed the outstanding issues concerning the review of the Annexes I and II of Directive 2002/56/EC.

The Commission informed the participants that the harmonised system of grades of seed potatoes as discussed in the Working Group cannot be imposed as obligatory on the Member States.

NL, UK, FR and DE will present in writing clarifications concerning the requirement for the limited flexibility of field generations of pre-basic and basic seed potatoes.

The question if field generation shall be included on the label was raised. A majority of experts rejected such a requirement, but it was agreed that the inclusion could be voluntary.

The discussion of the experts reached agreement on the other requirements and thresholds.

2) Requirements for pre-basic seed potatoes

The Working Group reached agreement on the minimum requirements for pre-basic seed potatoes and their grades. NL, UK, FR and DK will present in writing some improvements and clarification concerning some definitions, such as for mother plant.

FR raised the issue of minimum rotation requirements for pre-basic and basic seed potatoes. NL noted that phytosanitary risks can be managed using different methods and that the imposition of rotation requirements is not necessary. FR proposed that minimum inspection requirements should also be included in the recommendations of the Working Group. UK suggested that such a requirement should be restricted to the so called "high grade regions".