



SUMMARY REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY MEETING ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD, AND FEED

Section *Vine propagating material*

Section *Propagating material and plants of fruit genera and species*

22 JUNE 2016

Chairperson: Ms Diana Charels

With the exception of Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ireland, Malta, Portugal, Romania, and Slovakia, all Member States were present.

Section *Vine propagating material*

Information and/or discussion

A.1. Rules on the denomination of vine varieties

The French delegate presented the problems of variety denomination and wine labelling due to different Directorate-Generals responsible for the legislation on vine propagating material (DG SANTE) and wine and markets (DG AGRI). The French delegate called for the creation of a mixed expert working group combined of wine and vine propagating material experts to establish harmonised rules for denomination of varieties and labelling of wine bottles.

A.2. Marketing of traditional *Vitis* varieties as conservation varieties

Directive 68/193/EEC on the marketing of material for the vegetative propagation of the vine, foresees the possibility to market vine propagating material with the aim to help preserve genetic diversity. Because of the increasing interest in the cultivation of traditional vine varieties in Germany, the German delegate proposed to lay down the authorisation procedure for such varieties through Comitology.

A.3. Labelling provisions and registration of resistant varieties in the Italian catalogue

Italian producers have developed crosses of existing varieties resistant to certain pests. However the denomination of those crossed varieties can't refer to the designation of origin or a protected geographical indication. The Italian delegate stressed the importance of including information on the crossed varieties on the labels to avoid misleading the vine growers.

A.4. Resistant varieties and their listing in the Common catalogue

The Italian delegate stated that crossed varieties cannot carry the name of the parent varieties. Ideally the denomination of such varieties should refer to both varieties. For example, the crossed variety Merlese was obtained by crossing Merlot and Sangiovese. There is however a low public acceptance of Merlese because the denomination is unknown.

Section Propagating material and plants of fruit genera and species

A.6. Marketing possibilities of fruit plant propagating material and fruit plants from 1 January 2017 onwards

Commission presented an overview document thereby distinguishing between registered/non-registered varieties and varieties marketed for the first time before/after 2012. Commission invited Member States to submit comments in writing by 8 July 2016.

A.7. Clarification concerning several provisions of Council Directive 2008/90/EC and its Implementing Directives on the marketing of fruit plant propagating material and fruit plants intended for fruit production

Commission presented a document containing answers to questions from Member States regarding Directive 2008/90/EC and the Implementing Directives on labelling, registration, and certification. Some Member States stated that they do not want to officially register varieties which are protected by a Plant Variety Right. One delegate informed that they market certain fruit species at the species level without any reference to a variety denomination. Commission replied that it is mandatory to market propagating material and fruit plants with a reference to the variety to which they belong. There was a long discussion on Article 5(3) of Directive 2014/98/EU regarding pending applications for registration and a Plant Variety Right. Commission invited Member States to submit comments in writing by 8 July 2016.

A.8. Variety register: Fruit Reproductive Material Information System (FRUMATIS)

Commission presented the state of play of the EU variety register. An EU excel template for submission of national registers developed by Commission was tested by The Netherlands and France. Commission proposed the inclusion of three fields for internal Member State codes referring to official registration, national Plant Variety Right, and Community Plant Variety Right, respectively. Commission invited Member States to submit comments in writing by 8 July 2016.

A.9 Exchange of views regarding labels containing the denomination "virus free material" and "virus tested material" after 1 January 2017

Commission presented an overview of Member State approaches on the above-mentioned denominations upon implementation of the secondary legislation on fruit propagating material and fruit plants. Most Member States intend to abolish the use of these denominations. A delegate stated that those denominations could be used by small private producers on private labels. Another delegate informed about the development of a private brand containing the denomination "Virus free". Such material will comply with stricter health requirements than certified material. However, Directive 2008/90/EC does not allow Member States to impose more stringent measures. According to the aforementioned delegate it is allowed to use the denomination "Virus free" material because the new legislation no longer contains any provisions regarding its use. Commission will look into this matter.

A.10. Exchange of views regarding official controls on CAC material

The Spanish delegate informed that the production system is annually inspected. The Netherlands intend to check all suppliers and producers annually. In Austria the controls on CAC material are carried out concomitantly with the checks on the plant passport.

A.11. Working document on requests for derogation to grow pre-basic mother plants and pre-basic material in the field

Commission presented the working document including the requests submitted by Belgium, Czech Republic, France, and Spain. A delegate commented that the content of the working document is identical to the transitional measures in Article 32 of Directive 2014/98/EU. Another delegate noted that the identification of propagating material produced under this derogation should appear on all labels. Commission invited Member States to submit comments in writing by 8 July 2016.

A.12. Revision of special requirements for the movement of plants for planting listed in Annex IV to Directive 2000/29/EC on harmful organisms

Commission explained the state of play and invited Member States to submit comments in writing by 8 July 2016.

A.13. Import of fruit propagating material and fruit plants from Republic of Serbia: common EU approach

The UK delegate explained that they have taken action against the importer of the material and have sent a letter to the Serbian Competent Authorities with no reply from the latter until now. One delegate suggested contacting the Serbian Competent Authorities to address the issues at stake.

A.14. State of play of the proposal on Protective measures against pests of plants

Commission informed about the expected dates of publication and application.

A.15. EU quality pest project in collaboration with the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO)

Commission presented the draft methodology, questionnaire, and both horizontal expert working groups. Commission informed that there will be sectorial working groups for the different groups of seed and propagating material. The deadline for responding to the questionnaire, sent out in July 2016, is end of October 2016.

A.16. IT approach to implement the Commission Directives on registration, labelling and certification of fruit plant propagating material and fruit plants

The Italian delegate presented their approach to establish an EU harmonised certification system and showed the genera and species for which technical protocols are available as well as the structure of the national certification organisation.

A.17. Emergency Decision 2015/789 on *Xylella fastidiosa*

Commission informed that the list of species in the Emergency Decision will be constantly updated on the basis of scientific and technical findings.