



Seed legislation issues

**PLENARY MEETING OF THE ADVISORY GROUP ON THE FOOD
CHAIN AND ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH
26 November 2021**

Outline

- Seed legislation issues
 - Revision of PRM and FRM legislation
 - Next steps and opportunities for contributions
 - EU seed equivalence requirements for third countries
 - Temporary derogation for organic varieties

Options for updating the legislation

Baseline: No changes to the current legal framework

Option 1: Retain the 12 Directives and align them, harmonise official controls outside OCR. Lighter rules for seed conservation networks, marketing to amateur gardeners and exchange in kind of PRM between farmers.

Option 2: Reduced number of acts, e.g. one on seeds, one on PRM and one on FRM. Tailor-made inclusion in OCR. Exempt seed conservation networks, and exchange in kind of PRM between farmers. Lighter rules on marketing to amateur gardeners.

Option 3: Full harmonization without exemptions or lighter rules. All acts combined within a single instrument containing chapters for individual crop groups. Full inclusion in the scope of OCR.

Next steps and opportunities for contributions

- Public consultation: January - March 2022 (online questionnaire)
- Targeted interviews and surveys by contractor: December 2021 - March 2022
- Validation survey: May 2022 (TBC)
- Meetings with Member States and stakeholders: spring 2022
- Finalise impact assessment and adopt Commission proposals for the revision of the legislation by end 2022

EU Seed Equivalence requirements for third countries

Decision 2003/17/EC

- Sets out conditions for granting equivalence to third countries (field inspections and seed)
- Lists the third countries to which EU equivalence has been granted
- Seed produced and certified in those countries can be marketed in EU

In Q1 2022 Commission will present a proposal for

- Extending period of application of Decision/2003/17/EC (currently until 31/12/2022)
- Adding Bolivia to list of third countries with EU equivalence as regards maize, sorghum and sunflower (request from 2016)

Organic varieties

- Implementing a temporary derogation for organic varieties suitable for organic production to meet the needs of the organic production
 - Focusing on ten priority species for organic production
 - Temporary derogation for seven years (entry into force 1 July 2022)
 - Implementing act for agricultural and vegetable species is under discussion
 - Adapted DUS protocols for certain species with less uniformity standards
 - Harmonised VCU principles for organic varieties

Thank you for your attention!