



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 21 NOVEMBER 2016
(Section Seeds and Propagating Material for Agriculture and Horticulture)**

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A.01 Report on the implementation of Commission Decision 2004/842/EC on the placing on the market of seed of not yet listed varieties.

The Commission presented the report on the use of Commission Decision 2004/842/EC which authorises the placing on the market of seed of not yet listed varieties. In 2015, a total of 626 notifications relating to the use of Decision 2004/842/EC were received from 19 Member States on agricultural crops and 14 Member States on vegetable crops, i.e. a 50% increase compared to 2010. Notifications of authorisations concerned a total of 705 varieties of agricultural species (40% increase compared to 2010) and 2357 varieties of vegetable species (10% increase). The total amounts authorised for certain agricultural species also increased considerably over the past years.

A.02 Update on OECD Seed Scheme matters.

The Commission gave a short update on the issues which require preparations for the next OECD Technical Working Group meeting taking place end of January 2017: revision of Seed Schemes Strategic Plan and Action Plan, role of biochemical and molecular techniques (BMT) in variety registration and certification, rules on information on the non-official part of the label, varietal seed mixtures and technical requirements for buckwheat seed. The Maltese presidency is planning to have a Council coordination meeting before the end of January 2017. Poland will prepare suggestions on the technical requirements for buckwheat seed.

A.03 Discussion of the requirements for soybean, in particular the germination rate, the threshold for inert matter and the inclusion of quality pests.

The delegates from Austria and Poland presented the request on inert material. The maximum content of inert matter includes broken seed although broken seed does not effect e.g. the germination rate. However, in the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) rules broken seed is included in inert material. An exchange of

views took place and it was decided that Poland and Denmark will first contact ISTA on the issue to see whether broken seed could be excluded.

A.04 Exchange of views on the use of common names on the vegetable Directive.

The Commission presented the results of a survey on the Member States' practices of vegetable variety registration, where the use of common names in Directive 2002/55/EC on marketing vegetable seed may lead to a lack of clarity. The results of the survey showed that some Member States will register varieties whose common names are not mentioned in the Directive, while other member States will not register. Member States supported the Commission's proposal to explore with the help of a Member State expert group if common names can be replaced with Groups as defined in the 'International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants'.

A.05 Presentation of a working document on true potato seeds.

The presentation of a working document was postponed.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision providing for the temporary marketing of certain seed of the species *Beta vulgaris* L., not satisfying the requirements of Council Directive 2002/54/EC.

The Commission presented the text which allows for a temporary authorisation to market a limited amount of beet seed with a higher threshold of impurities. There were no comments from Member States.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2010/680/EC releasing Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Spain, France, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom from the obligation to apply to certain species Council Directives 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC, 68/193/EEC, 1999/105/EC, 2002/54/EC, 2002/55/EC and 2002/57/EC on the marketing of fodder plant seed, cereal seed, material for the vegetative propagation of the vine, forest reproductive material, beet seed, vegetable seed and seed of oil and fibre plants respectively.

Vote postponed

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision providing for the temporary marketing of seed of the *Hordeum vulgare* L. variety Scrabble, not satisfying the requirements of Council Directive 66/402/EEC.

The Commission presented the text which will grant a temporary derogation concerning the requirement on varietal purity for a barley variety. Some Member

States were concerned about lowering the standard on varietal purity and thus the quality of certification, however, the measure is only temporary. The concerned authorities will work together and the Standing Committee will be kept informed.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

M.01 Denmark

Denmark made a request to revise the provisions on the quantitative restriction for maize seed (0,1 % of seed of the same species utilised yearly) in Commission Decision 2004/842/EC on the so called 'not-yet listed' varieties. Exchange of views took place. It seems that due to the small general production of maize seed in Denmark the quantities allowed are very low. The discussion will continue in the next Standing Committee meeting.