



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Crisis preparedness in food, animals and plants

WORKING GROUP
ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED

Section Forest Reproductive Material

9 DECEMBER 2021

SUMMARY

SECTION A **Information and/or discussion**

- 1. Update on the revision of the plant and forest reproductive material legislation.**

The Commission gave an update on the revision of the legislation on plant reproductive material (PRM) and forest reproductive material (FRM) and the next steps. The Member States will be consulted at several stages to give input on the revision. The Member States welcomed the information and in general supported the initiative and asked for clarifications in relation to the process.

Several Member States asked if different policy options could be used for different plant reproductive materials (PRM), and enquired what would happen if the PRM sector showed preference for one policy option and the FRM sector another. The Commission took note of the concerns of the FRM sector and stressed that the impact assessment will look into the specificities of the different sectors.

The Commission informed about the input from the forest genetic resources experts on the revision of the legislation. One Member State noted the developments in tree breeding and expressed desire for more communication with forestry breeders to take account of those developments upon the preparation of the FRM legal draft.
- 2. Official Controls (Regulation): Commission's further analysis**

The Commission presented three potential options on official controls: rules in PRM legislation, tailor-made approach under Official Control Regulation (OCR) and full harmonisation under OCR. The Member States welcomed the presentation. Some Member States raised concerns regarding an increased administrative burden, in particular in relation to delegation of official controls tasks and on adherence to the ISTA standard. Several Member States expressed issues with the ISTA standard because it is very expensive for small seed testing laboratories. The Commission clarified that it will analyse the rules on delegation of tasks in the OCR. The

Commission asked the Member States to send written comments by 10 January 2022 and to provide more information in relation to the ISTA standard.

3. Update on the Forest Reproductive Material Information System (FOREMATIS).

The Commission informed that in 2021 almost all Member States have submitted their national lists to FOREMATIS. In addition, the Commission confirmed that pursuant to the Northern Ireland Protocol, Northern Ireland must comply with EU FRM legislation.