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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 14 DECEMBER 2018**

*(Section Seeds and Propagating Material for Agriculture and Horticulture)*

*CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/007a7e0e-5c34-452b-a1e8-1c7e77bfc9fe>*

**A.01 Presentation of Member States' certification results on the requirements for soybean, in particular the threshold for inert matter: discussion on possible way forward.**

The current purity requirement for soy bean seed is 98% and the inert matter requirement 0.3%, which may include broken seed. The inclusion or not-inclusion of broken seed in inert matter can lead to a widely varying risk of a lot being rejected for certification. The Commission summarised data from Member States on certification results calculated with 99 % purity and deleted inert matter requirements for soy bean seed. The replies show that 0 to 10 % of the seed lots were rejected under this scenario. The majority of Member States asked to delete the inert matter requirement without any other changes as according to the EPPO quality pest project a requirement on inert matter is no longer needed for preventing possible contamination by harmful organisms. According to Member States' experience, the risk of increased broken seed content (e.g. harvest under dry conditions or extensive cleaning) and a subsequent reduced number of plants produced on farmers field is small. The Commission took note of the outcome of the discussions.

**A.02 Results of the working group meeting on providing reference material and control of maintenance of varieties.**

The Commission shortly presented the results of the working group meeting. The correct term to be applied is 'standard sample' and there is a clear obligation of the Member State listing a variety to control the maintenance of the variety and to ensure that a standard sample is available, either by storing a sample or through a bilateral agreement with the Member State which carried out the DUS testing. The Commission will continue the discussion with the experts of the working group.

**A.03 Exchange of views on a request from Denmark to amend the quantitative restrictions for maize seed laid down in Commission Decision 2004/842/EEC (the so called not-yet listed varieties).**

Postponed until new data will have been received from Denmark.

#### **A.04 Update on the approach to seed fraud.**

The Commission informed about the publication of a dedicated web site on Seed Fraud Network including the contact list: [https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant\\_propagation\\_material/eu-seed-fraud-network\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_propagation_material/eu-seed-fraud-network_en). In reply to a question of a Member State the Commission clarified that the scope of action is limited to the 12 Marketing Directives and does not cover legislation on Plant Variety Rights or CAP as such.

#### **A.05 Update on EU equivalence requests.**

The Commission informed that the equivalence decision for Brazil and Moldova was adopted (Decision (EU) 2018/1674) and provided a summary of the state of play of the existing equivalence requests: Ukraine, Bolivia, India, Senegal and Jordan. The request of Ukraine will not go ahead during the remaining term of the current Commission. Bolivia has addressed the shortcomings identified in the audit and updated its requirements accordingly. The analysis of the relevant Indian legislation is on-going with the help of Member States' experts. No new information was received from Senegal or Jordan.

#### **A.06 Exchange of views on requirements for propagating material of garlic (*Allium sativum*).**

France gave a presentation on the national system of certification of propagating material of garlic, *Allium sativum*. The system addresses authorisation of producers, growing conditions, field inspections, phytosanitary requirements and varietal identity and purity standards. Several Member States expressed interest in developing harmonised requirements for the production of garlic propagating material and France, Spain, Italy, the Czech Republic and Poland agreed to participate in a working group.

#### **A.07 Exchange of views on labelling of seed potatoes with regard to plant protection products.**

The Commission has been made aware of labels of seed potato consignments lacking information required by Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 on the placing on the market of plant protection products. This Regulation does not give a definition of "seed". The Commission stated that the notion of seed must be interpreted broadly and in the framework of the EU seeds legislation and that therefore, the term "seeds" in Article 49 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 should be interpreted as also including potato tubers.

An exchange of views took place and Member States concluded that a harmonised approach is needed to define the requirements for the documents accompanying treated seeds. The Commission will consider further steps to take and will consult with the Committee in due course.

**B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Directive amending Commission Directives 2003/90/EC and 2003/91/EC setting out implementing measures for the purposes of Article 7 of Council Directive 2002/53/EC and Article 7 of Council Directive 2002/55/EC respectively, as regards the characteristics to be covered as a minimum by the examination and the minimum conditions for examining certain varieties of agricultural plant species and vegetable species.**

The Commission presented the text highlighting the new and revised technical protocols issued by the Community Plant Variety Office and UPOV. On the request of one Member State the date of transposal was changed to 31 August 2019.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Council Directive 2002/56/EC as regards the date laid down in Article 21(3) until which Member States are authorised to extend the validity of decisions concerning equivalence of seed potatoes from third countries.**

Portugal informed that this decision allows the continuation of imports of small amounts of seed potatoes of the variety ‘Kennebec’ to Portugal from Canada.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Commission Implementing Decision providing for a temporary derogation to the conditions required for certified seed provided for in Council Directives 66/401/EEC and 66/402/EEC.**

The Commission presented a draft working document on the Decision to provide temporary derogation to meet the temporary supply difficulties of fodder plant seed and spring cereal seed in Sweden. The delegate from Sweden presented the updated amounts, which had been substantially decreased on the basis of offers received from other Member States by 5 December 2018. On the request from a Member State Sweden agreed to inform about the accepted offers in detail and also at the same time on the accepted offers in relation to its request in the context of Regulation (EC) 217/2006 authorising Member States to temporarily market seed not satisfying the minimum germination requirements. The Member States agreed and the Commission will finalise its internal procedures and present a draft Decision on the urgent matter for vote as soon as possible in January 2019.

**Vote Postponed**

**C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Directive amending Council Directives 2002/55/EC and 2008/72/EC as regards the use of scientific and common names for vegetable species.**

Member States welcomed the draft which updates the common names used for the vegetable species covered by the Council Directives 2002/55/EC and 2008/72/EC and provided some minor technical comments and corrections. All Member States expressed their agreement with the draft.

## **M.01 Spain**

The delegate from Spain informed about the recently adopted EU strategy on plant protein with the aim to reduce independency from imports and possible need to add new species to scope of the Marketing Directives. A short exchange of views took place, in particular on the criteria to list species or delete species. It was suggested to define the criteria for inclusion or deletion of species.