



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Seeds and Propagating Material for Agriculture and Horticulture*
04 October 2019

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/e6d404c8-4ce5-4bd1-86c1-b5b19ebc1a33>

SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Presentation of draft guidelines on providing reference material and control of maintenance of varieties.

The Commission presented the draft guidelines. A short exchange took place and the Member States supported the draft document. It was suggested to make clear that only the competent authorities should be provided with standard sample. The Commission will finalise the document and upload it on CIRCABC and see whether to formalise the document in the form of a Commission recommendation.

A.02 Exchange of views on a working document amending Commission Regulation (EC) No 637/2009 on rules as to the suitability of the denominations of varieties of agricultural plant species and vegetable species.

The Member States expressed support for the working document. Several Member States and CPVO provided comments on the draft text. The Member States are asked to send written comments by 31 October 2019.

A.03 Exchange of views on a request to update the list of species and certain botanical names listed in Directives 66/401/EEC, 2002/55/EC and 2002/57/EC.

The Commission presented the working document. An exchange of views took place and the Member States were in general in favour to adopt the changes. The Member States were asked to provide written comments by 31 October 2019.

A.04 Exchange of views on criteria to list/delist species in the Marketing Directives.

The Commission informed Member States of its intention to establish a Working Group examining criteria to be employed when adding or removing species from the scope of the Marketing Directives. Several Member States expressed interest in participating in such a Working Group. Other Member States can inform the Commission until 18 October 2019 of their interest to take part.

A.05 Exchange of views on the preparations for a temporary experiment on organic varieties.

The Commission presented the basic approach and expected time schedule to draft the temporary experiment on organic varieties. The Member States raised questions in respect of VCU and DUS matters and how the experiment will be structured. The Commission will establish a working group to draft the experiment. AT, BG, CZ, DE, EE, ES, FR, HU, IT, LV, NL, PL and CPVO showed interest to take part in the working group. Further Member States should inform about their interest by 18 October 2019. The deadline to adopt the temporary experiment is 1 July 2021.

A.06 Presentation of an annual report from Germany on the organisation of a temporary experiment providing for certain derogations for the marketing of populations of the plant species wheat, barley, oats and maize pursuant to Council Directive 66/402/EEC.

Germany gave a presentation on the results of the temporary experiment in 2018. A short exchange took place on description of the material, whether there is only need for organic production and the current low demand.

A.07 Presentation by Sweden of a report concerning the process and results of the temporary derogation to the conditions required for certified seed provided for in Council Directives 66/401/EEC and 66/402/EEC.

Sweden gave a presentation about its application of the Commission Decision providing for a temporary derogation from conditions applied for certified seed due to extreme weather conditions in 2017 (wet) and 2018 (dry).

A.08 Presentation by the Commission of a report on the implementation of Commission Decision 2004/842/EC on the placing on the market of seed of not yet listed varieties.

Postponed.

A.09 Presentation by the Commission of a report on the implementation of Regulation (EC) N° 217/2006 as regards the authorisation of Member States to permit temporarily the marketing of seed not satisfying the requirements in respect of the minimum germination.

Postponed.

A.10 Presentation by Ireland of the outcome of the meeting of the European Seed Certification Agencies Association held in Dublin on 21-23 May 2019.

Ireland gave a presentation about the last ESCAA meeting in Dublin. The Member States and the Commission thanked Ireland for the summary and welcomed an exchange on a regular basis.

A.11 Update on the approach to seed fraud.

The Commission gave a presentation about the requests for investigations sent to some Member States regarding potential cases of seed fraud.

A.12 Update on EU equivalence requests.

The Commission gave a brief update on the different requests for EU equivalence. A Decision to grant equivalence to Ukraine will be addressed by the new Commission, a Decision on Bolivia will be prepared as soon as possible. For India an audit will be carried out in December 2019. There are no further updates from Senegal and Jordan.

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 and an exchange took place. In reply to a comment from a Member State the CPVO representative confirmed that the CPVO protocol on Sorghum and the UPOV guideline on Sorghum have an identical scope. The Member States agreed with the proposed draft.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Directive amending Council Directives 66/402/EEC, 68/193/EEC, 2002/55/EC, 2002/56/EC and 2002/57/EC, Commission Directives 93/49/EEC, 93/61/EEC and Implementing Directives 2014/21/EU and 2014/98/EU as regards harmful organisms on seeds and other plant reproductive material.

The Commission presented the latest version of the draft Commission Implementing Directive in relation to regulated non-quarantine pests (RNQPs). An exchange of views on outstanding issues took place. The Commission expressed its intention to take a vote on 18 October.

M.01 AOB

The Commission requested information from the Member States on the possible removal of varieties from the Common Catalogue because of the revision of the groupings of vegetable varieties introduced in Commission Implementing Directive (EU) 2019/990. Member States should provide this information by 23 December 2019. The Commission also informed that a correction of this Implementing Directive is needed to reintroduce a table heading which was erroneously deleted.

The Commission informed the Member States that it will conduct a survey on the use of bio-molecular techniques (BMT) in seed certification. The aim is to get an overview about the use of BMT for considering the necessary changes to the Annexes of the Marketing Directives following the recent changes in OECD Seed Schemes rules.