



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

D1(2010)

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
“SEEDS AND PROPAGATING MATERIAL FOR AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE
AND FORESTRY” HELD ON 4 OCTOBER 2010**

Chairpersons: Ms Päivi Mannerkorpi

All the Member States were present except Portugal, which mandated Spain for the purpose of the vote. CPVO, EFTA surveillance authority and Norway participated as observers.

1. Discussion on possible amendments to Annexes I and II to the Council Directive on the marketing of seed potatoes – outcome of the WG meeting of 7 September

The Commission presented the report of the Member States' expert group of 7 September 2010. The report included a comprehensive proposal covering all major aspects, such as the denomination of categories and classes, the number of generations in the classes, and the tolerances associated with these classes. The proposal discussed would bring the EU standard much closer to the United Nations – Economic Committee for Europe (UN-ECE) marketing standard and it is also supported by other stakeholders. The ambition of the Commission is to finalise the proposal before the end 2010.

2. Discussion on a Commission working document on conditions for the placing on the market of mixtures of standard seed of vegetable varieties belonging to a same species

The Commission tabled a working document that takes account of the results of earlier discussions on the issue. Some Member States would still prefer widening to multi-species mixtures, but the Commission explained that due to the lack of legal basis this would involve work at Council level, which is not foreseen at this stage. The Member States are invited to present their written comments by 13 October 2010, so as to allow the Commission to prepare a formal proposal for discussion and possible vote at the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

3. Update on the S & PM review

The Commission gave an update on the recent progress of the review work: results of the certification questionnaire, final report on the study on variety registration, problem definition and developing future options/scenarios for the impact assessment and horizontal Member States working party on the review of the legislation. A public consultation on the 'option and analysis' paper is planned for November this year. The document will be put on the DG SANCO web site. The relevant stakeholders will also be informed separately. The impact assessment report will accompany the legal proposal, which if foreseen in the Commission Legislative proposal for the end of 2011.

4. Discussion and possible opinion on a draft Commission Decision releasing certain Member States 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 (doc. SANCO/11758/2010)

The Commission presented the proposal. A short discussion on some adjustments to the text and on a general future approach took place. The Committee gave a favourable opinion on the draft Commission Decision by unanimity.

Vote: in favour 345.

Following written declaration was made:

Declaration of the Portuguese delegation

'Releasing the Member States from the obligation to apply to certain plant species the EU Directives is legally based on the fact that those plant species are not normally reproduced or marketed in certain Member States. As a consequence, seed production and marketing of the plant species covered by derogation should not be allowed in the Member States concerned.'

5. Discussion and possible opinion on a draft Commission Decision amending Commission Decision 2007/66/EC on a temporary experiment with regard to increasing the maximum weight of a lot of certain fodder plant seeds under Council Directive 66/401/EEC (doc. SANCO/12137/2010)

The Commission presented the proposal. The end date for the experiment was prolonged to 31 December 2013 to align with the ISF/ISTA experiment. The Committee gave a favourable opinion on the draft Commission Decision by unanimity.

Vote: in favour 345.

6. Discussion and possible opinion on a draft Commission Decision on the position of the European Union on the amendment to Annex 6 to the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on trade in agricultural products (doc. SANCO/10290/2010)

The Commission presented the proposal. It will include material for the vegetative propagation of vine for which legislative measures are considered to have similar effects, the list of certification bodies will be replaced by a list of national contact points and the legislation mentioned in the appendices as well as the list of third countries will be updated. The Committee gave a favourable opinion on the draft Commission Decision by unanimity.

Vote: in favour 345.

3. **Miscellaneous**

The delegate from Denmark informed about the governmental decision in Denmark to close down the official seed laboratories in order to spare costs with the effect of 1 January 2011 for vegetable crops and 1 May 2011 for agricultural crops. Solutions need to be developed to ensure official examinations and the official supervision of examinations for certification by private seed companies. The Commission will analyse the EU legislation in this regard.

The delegate from Austria informed about a working group meeting of some Member States in Vienna in June this year on developing for some crops (e.g. rape seed, wheat), harmonised criteria for testing the value for cultivation and use. The report of the meeting will be shared with the Commission and all Member States.

Päivi Mannerkorpi