



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

D1(2009) 411904

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
“SEEDS AND PROPAGATING MATERIAL FOR AGRICULTURE,  
HORTICULTURE AND FORESTRY” HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2009**

Chairperson: Ms Päivi Mannerkorpi

All the Member States were present. CPVO, Norway and EFTA secretariat participated as observers.

**1. Discussion on conservation varieties**

*Vegetative propagating material*

On the basis of the information from the Member States and the legal analysis it was concluded that, for the time being, there is no need for rules on conservation varieties for vegetable plant propagating material besides the rules for conservation varieties for vegetable seed.

*Grass seed mixtures*

The Commission explained its approach on the 'preservation seed mixtures' on the basis of a working document. Different points were discussed, in particular publication of authorised preservation seed mixtures, identification of the mixture by name, definition of habitat, whether there is more than one region of origin, harvesting and production methods, guidelines to ensure that the source habitat is not deteriorating, number of years allowed for multiplication and the quantitative restriction. Denmark and United Kingdom promised to share information on their experience on harvesting methods with other Member States.

**2. Discussion on rootstocks for vegetable planting material**

The Commission gave an update on the information received from the Member States, following the request made in the Committee meeting of 21 September. Currently nearly 50 varieties belonging to species that are not covered by Annex II to Directive 2008/72/EC have been reported by the Member States and the CPVO. The full list will be made available to the Member States for their final verification.

In the absence of a specific testing protocol for the species to which the rootstock varieties belong, the Commission will verify that there is sufficient uniformity of DUS (Distinctness Uniformity Stability) testing methods used, before publishing any of the concerned varieties in the Common Catalogue.

### **3. Discussion on the working programme 2010**

The Commission Services presented their working programme for the area of seed legislation for 2010. The Member States expressed their agreement. However, some Member States asked the Commission to adopt implementing measures permitting the organisation of a temporary experiment to assess whether field inspection of basic and pre basic seed crops under official supervision could ensure simplification of the procedures for official certification whilst ensuring an equivalent level of guarantee. The Commission indicated its earlier position to tackle the issue in the context of the seed review. Attention was also paid to the comparative trials.

### **4. Information on EC/Swiss Agreement**

The Commission presented for information a proposal for a Decision amending Annex 6 "on seeds" to the EU/Swiss agreement on trade in agricultural products. The amendments aim notably, to recognise the conformity of the legislation of the parties on vine plant propagating material and of the legislation authorising the placing on the market of seed belonging to varieties for which an application for entry in the national catalogue has been submitted. The appendices will also be amended with a view to updating the mentioned legislation. As regards Regulation (EC) No 930/2000, the Commission will contact the Swiss counterparts to agree on its replacement by Regulation (EC) No 637/2009. Articles 2 and 3 of the Annex will also be amended to replace the current Appendix 2 listing the control and certification bodies in the Member States and Switzerland, by a simple list of national contact points. The date of entry into force of the amendments has not yet been agreed upon but is expected to be either 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2010 or 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2010, following a vote in the next Standing Committee meetings.

### **5. Update on the S&PM (Seed and Propagating Material) review**

The Commission gave a short update on the consultation on the Action Plan, start of the impact assessment and preparatory work for legal drafting of the new legislation.

### **6. Reporting on temporary experiment**

The Commission asked which Member States are taking part in the temporary experiment with regard to increasing the maximum weight of a lot of certain fodder plant seeds under Council Directive 66/401/EEC on the marketing of fodder plants. The reports are expected to be sent to the Commission by 31 March each year. Denmark, Germany and Portugal are participating in the experiment. The request of ISTA (International Seed Trade Association) to add *Festuca ovina* in the scope of the experiment was discussed, and the Commission will explore this possibility.

As regards the temporary experiment for certain derogations for the marketing of seed mixtures intended for use as fodder plants, Portugal is taking part in the experiment.

### **7. Miscellaneous**

- 7.1 Following the recent ratification of the Lisbon Treaty, the UK asked for an explanation of any consequent changes in procedures. The Commission replied by giving its current knowledge of the changes.

- 7.2 Following the recent changes to botanical names of some plant species, France asked for information about the listing of varieties of *Avena Strigosa* in the Common Catalogue and the practical consequences on import of seed. The Commission explained that any varieties of *Avena strigosa* need to be listed in the Community before importation.
- 7.3 CPVO informed about the adoption of new or revised CPVO Technical Protocols.
- 7.4 Sweden asked about the notifications requested in the new Directives on the conservation varieties. The Commission is expecting information from the Member States on regions of origin and on the plant genetic resource authorities, or organisations recognised for this purpose. As regards the amount of seed, separate requests would be made by the Commission.
- 7.5 Denmark asked for information about comparative trials. The Commission informed about the preparation of a financial framework Regulation and its intentions to start the trials next year on wheat and barley.