



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
“SEEDS AND PROPAGATING MATERIAL FOR AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE
AND FORESTRY” HELD ON 17 MARCH 2009**

Chairperson: Ms Päivi Mannerkorpi

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

1. Discussion on conservation varieties

The Commission gave an update on the proposal on vegetable seed. Consultation with the Legal Service is under way. The Member States were asked to give comments on possible quantitative restrictions by 31 March 2009. The Commission asked to provide necessary technical input for a proposal on grass mixtures.

2. Discussion on the authorisation of MS to permit temporarily the marketing of seed not satisfying the requirements in respect of the minimum germination (Reg. 217/2006)

The specificity of requests to cover the need of seed varieties by varieties from other Member States, requests made before major holiday periods as well as the sending of information on non-availability of seed was discussed. After discussion it was concluded that the requests should rather cover a group of suitable varieties. It should be avoided to make requests immediately before major holidays. The information about non-availability of suitable seed should only be sent to the requesting Member State and the Commission.

3. Discussion on the implementation of Commission Decision 2004/842/EC on the placing on the market of seed of not yet listed varieties

The Commission presented statistics about the use of the possibility of the Member States to authorise producers of seed to place on the market seed belonging to a variety for which an application for entry in the catalogue has been lodged. The sole purpose is that producers are able to carry out tests and trials at agricultural enterprises in order to gather information prior to registration of agricultural crops and vegetables. It is used to a different degree for different plant species and in different Member States. The use of this possibility, calculation of allowed maximum quantities of each of the varieties and labelling were discussed. The Commission took note of the discussion.

4. **Discussion and a possible opinion on a draft Commission Decision providing for the temporary marketing of seed potatoes not satisfying the requirements of Council Directive 2002/56/EC (doc. SANCO/4568/09)**

After a short discussion a reference to the normal virus tolerance was inserted into one of the recitals.

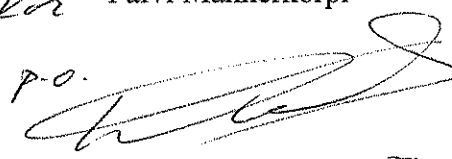
Vote: favourable opinion by qualified majority (in favour: 316 votes, abstentions: 29 votes).

5. **Discussion and possible opinion on a draft Commission Directive amending Council Directives 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC, 2002/55/EC, 2002/56/EC and 2002/57/EC as regards the botanical names of plants, the scientific names of other organisms and some conditions laid down in their annexes (doc. SANCO/4760/09)**

The Committee discussed the amendments proposed to the legislation on the marketing of seed as regards updating of the names of species of cultivated plants, splitting of some species into new independent species, updating of the names of some harmful organisms against which there are specific measures and updating of some conditions to be fulfilled by seed to be marketed. The Committee proposed to introduce some amendments as regards some technical conditions. UK submitted a request to be released from the application of the new measures as regards the new species *Avena strigosa* L.

The Committee gave a favourable opinion on the draft Commission Decision by unanimity.

Vote: favourable opinion by unanimity.

for Päivi Mannerkorpi
P.O.

W. DE BACKER