

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
“SEEDS AND PROPAGATING MATERIAL FOR AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE AND
FORESTRY” HELD ON 6 JUNE 2006**

Chairman: Mr. Valvassori.

All Member States were present except Malta; Malta was represented by UK.

At the time of the vote:

- Poland was absent and was represented by Slovakia,
- Italy was absent and not represented.

Bulgaria, Norway and CPVO participated as observers.

1. POSSIBLE SPECIFIC CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH SEED AND PROPAGATING MATERIAL OF AGRICULTURAL AND VEGETABLE SPECIES MAY BE MARKETED IN RELATION TO THE CONSERVATION IN-SITU AND THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

The Committee continued to discuss a working paper prepared by the Commission services (SANCO) at the beginning of April 2006, already discussed partially in the previous meeting held on 19 and 20 April 2006 and on 16 June 2006. The main critical points identified by one or more Member States in the three meetings were:

- Reference should be made to the existence of legal acts, at both International and Community level regarding the developments in relation to the conservation in-situ and the sustainable use of plant genetic resources,
- The structure of the document appears to be difficult to understand as it is split into three parts (reproductive material of agriculture plants, vegetables, fodder mixtures). In addition, the references to either conservation or amateur varieties, or both, appear to be difficult to understand. Furthermore, the drafting of some provisions should be improved upon,
- Certain definitions need further consideration,
- Regions of origin or adaptation of conservation varieties should be identified in accordance with Community criteria,
- The scope of derogations in respect of the official examination should be limited,
- The derogation in respect of the criteria for carrying out the examination of varieties should be revised in order to minimise the differences with the admission criteria of normal varieties,

- Admission of a conservation/amateur variety should never take place if the variety was previously rejected in the procedure for admission to a national catalogue,
- The time between the deletion of a variety from the Common Catalogue and admission as a conservation/amateur variety should be revised (extended or deleted),
- The practices for maintenance of the varieties should be defined,
- Thresholds for minimum varietal purity should be established,
- Official certification of seed potatoes (seed crop and seed potatoes harvested) should not be required,
- Seed production of conservation varieties should take place in “additional regions” only for the last generation,
- The colour of the official label of seed potatoes of conservation varieties should be pink,
- The quantitative restriction for seed should be revised to be increased or, in certain cases, decreased. The quantitative restrictions should be established at national level,
- The obligation for post control of seed of conservation varieties should exclude seed potatoes,
- The colour of the supplier’s label for amateur varieties should be distinct from that of conservation varieties,
- The size of the seed packages of amateur varieties of cabbages should be increased to 50 gr,
- Post control of vegetable propagating and planting material other than seed should not be required,
- The conditions in respect of preservation seed mixtures should be deleted,
- Requirements regarding the collection of preservation seed mixtures should be established,
- Derogations should be envisaged for the requirement in respect of size of seed potatoes,
- Conditions in respect of seed of vegetables (those currently provided for in the category ‘standard seed’) should be inserted,
- Exemptions should be provided for small producers.

2. DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION AUTHORISING MEMBER STATES TO PERMIT TEMPORARILY THE MARKETING OF SEED OF THE SPECIES *PINUS RADIATA* AND PLANTING STOCK PRODUCED FROM THIS SEED NOT SATISFYING THE

**REQUIREMENTS OF COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 1999/105/EC – SPANISH REQUEST -
PROVENENCE NEW ZEALAND**

The Committee continued to discuss the request from Spain dated 7 April 2006.

The Spanish delegation reiterated the background to its request (see Summary Report of the meeting held on 19/20 April 2006) and developed the nature of the difficulties encountered in the Basque country.

The Committee noted that the authorisation concerns a precise operation. Future requests will need to be studied carefully regarding the certification system implemented in the third country of production.

The Committee noted that its opinion is without prejudice to any procedural step necessary to comply with the TBT rules.

Voting: Favourable opinion by qualified majority (276 for, 16 abstentions and 29 not represented).

3. MISCELLANEOUS

The Committee noted:

- a) The request of the meeting of the UNECE specialised section on Standardisation of Seed Potatoes held from 20-22 March 2006,
- b) A request from France to discuss, at a future date, the Community conditions under which seed suitable for organic production may be marketed,
- c) The Finnish Presidency announced two meetings of the Council Working Party on Agricultural Questions on Seed to be held respectively on 6 and 19 July 2006 to discuss the co-ordination of the OECD meetings on Forest Reproductive Material and Agricultural Seed moving in International trade.

Michael Flueh
Head of Unit

List of participants to be joined to the Summary Report

Standing Committee on Seeds and Propagating Material for Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry

Date 6 June 2006

Member State	Ministry or organism	Number of participants
BE	Ministère de la Région Wallonne	1
	Minist. Vlaamse Gemeenschap	1
CZ	Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture (ÚKZÚZ)	1
DK	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries	1
DE	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection	1
	Federal Office of Plant Varieties	1
EE	Ministry of Agriculture	1
EL	Permanent representation of Greece to the EU	1
ES	Ministerio de Agricultura Pesca y Alimentación	1
	Oficina Española Variedades vegetales	1
FR	Ministère de l'Agriculture	1
	Ministère de l'Economie, des Finances et de l'Industrie	1
	GNIS	1
IE	Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development	1
IT	ENSE	1
CY	Department of Agriculture	1
LV	Ministry of Agriculture	1
LT	Ministry of agriculture	1
LU	Administration des Eaux et des Forêts	1
HU	Institute for Agricultural Quality Control	1

MT		
NL	Ministry for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	1
	Naktuinbouw	1
AT	AGES	1
PL	Plant Health and Seed inspection service	1
PT	Ministry of Agriculture	1
SI	Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Food	1
SK	Central Institute for Testing in Agriculture (UKSUP)	1
	Permanent representation of SK to the EU	1
FI	Finnish Food Safety Authority	1
SE	Swedish National Board of Agriculture	1
UK	DEFRA	2
BG	Executive Agency for Variety Testing and Seed Control	1
NO	Norwegian Food Safety Authority	1
IS		
RO		
CPVO	Community Plant Variety Office	1
COM	European Commission	4