

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
“SEEDS AND PROPAGATING MATERIAL FOR AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE AND  
FORESTRY” HELD ON 16 MAY 2006**

Chairman: Mr. Valvassori for the items 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Mrs. André for item 2.

All Member States were present.

Bulgaria, Romania, 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. The following critical points were identified:

- a) 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,
- b) The structure of the document, split into three parts (reproductive material of agriculture plants, vegetables, fodder mixtures), appears to be quite difficult to understand,
- c) The inclusion of certain definitions needs further consideration,
- d) 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,
- e) The 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,
- f) 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),
- g) Official certification of seed potatoes (seed crop and seed potatoes harvested) should not be required,

- h) The colour of the official label of seed potatoes of conservation varieties should be pink,
- i) The quantitative restriction for seed of conservation varieties should be revised (quantity to be increased),
- j) The obligation for post control of seed of conservation varieties should exclude seed potatoes,
- k) The size of the seed packages of amateur varieties of cabbages should be increased to 50 gr,
- l) Post control of vegetable seed, at least in the case of amateur varieties, should not be required,
- m) Requirements regarding the collection of preservation seed mixtures should be established,
- n) The quantitative restriction for seed of preservation mixtures should be revised (quantity to be increased).

**2. DISCUSSION ON A PROHIBITION TAKEN BY GREECE IN RESPECT OF MARKETING OF SEED OF 31 VARIETIES OF MAIZE WITH THE GENETIC MODIFICATION ON MON 810 INCLUDED IN THE COMMON CATALOGUE**

Greece sent on 29 March 2006 to the Commission a notification requesting authorisation to prohibit the marketing of seeds of maize hybrids with the genetic modification MON 810, based in particular on article 18 of Directive 2002/53/EC on the common catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species. This request was briefly discussed in the previous Standing Committee on 20 April.

The Committee has been informed of the question sent by the Commission to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). EFSA is requested to give an opinion by mid of September 2006 on whether the scientific report and the scientific publications submitted by Greece show that there is an imminent danger for human health and the environment due to the cultivation of the MON 810 maize varieties.

Greece has presented the scientific justification for its safeguard measure in great detail. It has provided the publications and translations to all delegations.

Member States will be informed of the opinion of EFSA once available. The Commission will, on the basis of this opinion, submit an appropriate measure for opinion to the Standing Committee in due time.

**3. 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 - PROVENIENCE 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.

Related to the health conditions (the fungus pitch *Fusarium circinatum*) ES stated that, according to the Authorities in New Zealand, it does not occur in this country.

On the contrary, the position regarding quality other than plant health has not yet been clarified.

**4. DRAFT COMMISSION DIRECTIVE AMENDING COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/33/EEC ON THE MARKETING OF VEGETABLE PROPAGATING AND PLANTING MATERIAL OTHER THAN SEED AND COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2002/55/EC ON THE MARKETING OF VEGETABLE SEED**

Not discussed due to lack of time.

**5. CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DIRECTIVE AMENDING DIRECTIVE 2003/91/EC SETTING OUT IMPLEMENTING MEASURES FOR THE PURPOSES OF ARTICLE 7 OF COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2002/55/EC AS REGARDS THE CHARACTERISTICS TO BE COVERED AS A MINIMUM BY THE EXAMINATION AND THE MINIMUM CONDITIONS FOR EXAMINING CERTAIN VARIETIES OF VEGETABLE SPECIES**

Not discussed due to lack of time.

**6. MISCELLANEOUS**

The Committee noted:

- a) On 5 May 2006, 10 tons of seed of Sorghum subject to less stringent requirements were authorised (request from SK),
- b) The Austrian Presidency announced a meeting of the Council Working Party to be held on 7 June 2006 dealing with the equivalence of the official examination of varieties carried out in Croatia.

M. Valvassori

## List of participants to be joined to the Summary Report

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

Date 16 May 2006

<b>Member State</b>	<b>Ministry or organism</b>	<b>Number of participants</b>
BE	Ministère de la Région Wallonne	1
	Ministerie van de Vlaamse gemeenschap	1
CZ	Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture (ÚKZÚZ)	1
DK	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries	1
DE	Bundessortenamt	1
	Ministry for Consumer	1
EE	Ministry of Agriculture	1
EL	Ministry of Rural Development and Food	2
	Permanent Representation of Greece	1
ES	Ministerio de Agricultura Pesca y Alimentacion	1
FR	Ministère de l'Agriculture	1
	Ministère de l'Economie des Finances et de l'Industrie	1
IE	Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development	1
IT	Ministero Politiche Agricole e Forestale	2
CY	Department of Agriculture	1
LV	Ministry of Agriculture	1
LT	Ministry of Agriculture	1
LU	Ministère de l'Agriculture	1
HU	National Institute for Agricultural Quality Control	1

MT	Ministry for Rural Affairs and Environment	1
NL	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	1
	Naktuinbouw	1
AT	AGES	1
PL	Research Center for Cultivar Testing (COBORU)	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 Slovakia	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	Ministry of Agriculture and Food	1
IS		
RO	National Inspection for Quality of Seeds	1
CPVO	Community Plant Variety Office	1
COM	European Commission	4