



**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
“SEEDS AND PROPAGATING MATERIAL FOR AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE AND
FORESTRY” HELD ON 5 FEBRUARY 2007**

Chairman: Mr. Valvassori.

All Member States were present except Luxembourg.

The CPVO and Norway 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 recalled that according to the current agenda, the subject is now split into four Draft Directives covering:

- Agricultural seed,
- Vegetable seed,
- Vegetable planting and propagating material other than seeds, and
- Fodder seed mixture.

As a discussion already took place on agricultural seed and seed potatoes (see summary record of the Committee meeting held on 20 December 2006), the Committee considered the other three components of the package. However, the need to ensure coherence with the provisions related to similar situations in the area of the material for reproduction of agricultural plants was recognised. The concerns previously expressed were reiterated, in particular, those in respect of more subsidiary, and the introduction of administrative burdens.

The Committee noted contributions in writing from several Member States. The following suggestions were made:

a) Common also to reproductive material of agricultural plants:

- the role of plant genetic resource Authorities/Organisations should be reinforced,
- the common minimum conditions to be utilized for the assessment of distinctness, uniformity and stability should be improved,

- In the case of regions of origin where Member States other than those where the variety was applied for acceptance are involved, the administrative assistance between Member States should also cover the formal agreement of the countries in which the part of regions are located.
 - "known provenance" refers to "region of origin",
 - The figures on the quantitative restrictions should be discussed (certain Member States propose increasing, others propose decreasing).
- b) *Seed of Vegetable plants:*
- The concept of 'landraces and varieties which have been traditionally grown' should be emphasised,
 - The term "amateurs" should be defined.
- c) *Propagating and planting material other than seed of vegetable plants,*
- The reproductive material other than seed of "amateurs" varieties should be marketed in small packages (maximum weight to be defined at Community level),
- d) *Fodder seed mixtures:*
- The text should ensure that the species covered by the current EU legislation are those listed in the Council Directives 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC, 2002/55/EC and 2002/57/EC,
 - For the label provided for the packages of preservation fodder seed mixtures, it should not be required the information on the percentage by weight of the various components.

2. MISCELLANEOUS

The Committee noted:

- a) A meeting of Rapporteurs (BG, ES, FR, IT and RO) took place on 30 January 2007 on 'Sunflower and Orobanche'. A possible compromise was envisaged: zero tolerance for seed of Orobanche, authorisation to Bulgaria to postpone Directive 2003/53/EC in the case of seeds of varieties of sunflower non resistant to Orobanche, development in Bulgaria of a system of "recommended varieties".
- b) A Sweden's written request dated 25 January 2007 in respect of less stringent requirements of seed potatoes. On the same subject Finland announced a possible request.
- c) Recent requests from Member States regarding permission to market seed not satisfying the requirements in respect of the minimum germination.

- (aa) SE, red clover, date of the request 16 January, quantity requested 15.3 tons, deadline 31 January, quantity authorised 15.3 tons.
- (bb) CZ, cereals - 3 species, fodder - 3 species, oil plants - 2 species, date of request 29 January 2007, quantity requested 14.125 tons cereals, 1.795 tons fodder, 1.153 tons oil plants, deadline 13 February.
- (cc) DK, oats, date of request 5 February 2007, quantity requested 3.500 tons, deadline 20 February.
- d) The Commission Services will convene meetings of Rapporteurs:
- Plant Genetic Resources (CZ, DE, FR, IT, NL and SE) on 6 February.
 - Structure of the Common Catalogue of Vegetables (CZ, DE, ES, FR, NL and PL) on 7 March.
 - Isolation of seed crops of cotton (BG, EL and ES) first week of April.
- e) An information supplied by Mr. Bianchi (IT) on the meeting UNECE Special Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes scheduled in Geneva on 19-21 March.
- f) An invitation from Mrs. Pavlovska (BG) for the annual meeting of the EU/EEA Seed Certification Agencies scheduled in Varna on 5-8 June.

Marcantonio Valvassori
Head of Section
Material for Plant Reproduction