



**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
“SEEDS AND PROPAGATING MATERIAL FOR AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE AND
FORESTRY” HELD ON 27 JUNE 2007**

Chairman: Mr. Flueh item 7.a, Mr. Foletto other items.

All Member States were present.

The CPVO, Norway and EFTA Surveillance Authority participated as observers.

**1. CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS OF COUNCIL DIRECTIVES
66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC AND 2002/57/EC IN RESPECT OF THE SPECIES TO BE
DELETED FROM OR ADDED TO THE SCOPE OF DIRECTIVES**

1.1 Fodder species, proposal of Portugal

1.2 *Galega officinalis*, proposal of Estonia

The discussion took place as a follow-up of the Standing Committee meeting held on 29th May 2007 about two possible proposals: a) inclusion of new species to the lists of species of the relevant directives, b) organisation of a temporary experiment in order to establish conditions to be satisfied by the seed mixtures of different fodder plant species. All delegates agreed that a proposal for conditions according to which the experiment shall be implemented may be prepared by a Group of Rapporteurs (BG, DE, EE, FR and PT). The third week of July was foreseen as the most appropriate period for this meeting.

**2. POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS OF COUNCIL DIRECTIVES 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC AND
2002/57/EC IN RESPECT OF NOMENCLATURE OF THE SPECIES**

The Committee was informed about the results of the Working Party held on 8 May. At this meeting the experts discussed about the list of species to be deleted or added. As agreed at the SC meeting held on 26 February, the list should be based on the following criteria: (1) the production of the plants (whether as individual species or in mixture) occupies an important place in the agriculture of the Community, and (2) the satisfactory results in the cultivation depends to a large extent on the use of appropriate seed. A Rapporteur (DK) will prepare a summary of the discussion. This summary will include the contributions provided by Member States as a follow-up of the meeting of 8 May. It was suggested to organise in September a group of Rapporteurs to cooperate for the preparation of a draft proposal based on such summary. This proposal will be submitted to the SC in autumn.

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE OPINION 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 (DOC. SANCO/1144/07)

Commission Directive 2003/91/EC lays down implementing measures based on Council Directive 2002/55/EC on the marketing of vegetable seed. The Directive determines the characteristics and minimum conditions for examining vegetable varieties which need to be met before a variety can be inscribed in the national and the common catalogue.

New test guidelines related to the above have recently been issued in respect of certain species by the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) in the framework of Community plant variety rights. Other test guidelines have been updated, both by CPVO and by the International Union for Protection of new Varieties of Plants (UPOV).

The draft prepared by the Commission services amending Commission Directive 2003/91/EC was discussed.

Voting: unanimity.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE OPINION ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DIRECTIVE AMENDING DIRECTIVE 2003/90/EC SETTING OUT IMPLEMENTING MEASURES FOR THE PURPOSES OF ARTICLE 7 OF COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2002/53/EC AS REGARDS THE CHARACTERISTICS TO BE COVERED AS A MINIMUM BY THE EXAMINATION AND THE MINIMUM CONDITIONS FOR EXAMINING CERTAIN VARIETIES OF AGRICULTURAL PLANT SPECIES (DOC. SANCO/1145/07)

Commission Directive 2003/90/EC lays down implementing measures based on Council Directive 2002/53/EC on the Common Catalogue of Varieties of Agricultural Plants Species. The Directive determines the characteristics and minimum conditions for examining agricultural varieties which need to be met before a variety can be inscribed in the national and the common catalogue.

New test guidelines related to the above have recently been issued in respect of certain species by the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) in the framework of Community plant variety rights. Other test guidelines have been updated, both by CPVO and by the International Union for Protection of new Varieties of Plants (UPOV).

The draft prepared by the Commission services amending Commission Directive 2003/90/EC was discussed. To increase the transparency, Member States suggested that the scientific names of the species should be indicated by the next amendment in addition/replacement of the common names of the species.

Voting: unanimity.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE OPINION ON A DRAFT COMMISSION REGULATION AMENDING COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) NO 930/2000 ESTABLISHING

IMPLEMENTING RULES AS TO THE SUITABILITY OF THE DENOMINATION OF VARIETIES OF AGRICULTURAL PLANT SPECIES AND VEGETABLE SPECIES (DOC. SANCO/1147/07)

Due to international developments at the level of UPOV as regards the definition of the term 'closely related species', the detailed rules established by Regulation (EC) No 930/2000 should be updated accordingly.

The draft prepared by the Commission services amending Commission Regulation (EC) No 930/2000 was discussed. Member States agreed to replace the title "Botanical names" of the second column of point 1 and 2 of the Annex to the draft Regulation with "Scientific names". This proposal is in line with the most recent scientific approach to the taxonomy and to the EU legislation recently adopted.

Voting: unanimity.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE OPINION ON A DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION AUTHORISING BULGARIA AND ROMANIA TO DEROGATE FROM COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 1999/105/EC ON THE MARKETING OF FOREST REPRODUCTIVE MATERIAL WITH REGARD TO THE STOCKS ACCUMULATED BETWEEN 1 JANUARY 2003 AND 1 JANUARY 2007 (DOC. SANCO/1618/2007)

Article 42 of the Treaty of Accession of Bulgaria and Romania authorises the Commission to adopt in accordance with the relevant procedures, where necessary, "transitional measures to facilitate the transition from the existing regime in Bulgaria and Romania to that resulting from the application of the Union veterinary, phytosanitary and food safety rules.

Bulgaria and Romania submitted a request to be authorised to derogate from Council Directive 1999/105/EC on the marketing of forest reproductive material with regard to the stocks accumulated between 1 January 2003 and 1 January 2007.

Voting: qualified majority. 1 MS not present and not represented.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

a) The Commission (SANCO E1) provided information:

- o about the future planning of the activities in the area of seed and propagating material.
- o About the dossier "conservation varieties", in particular as regards the draft "Commission Directive providing for certain derogations for acceptance of agricultural landraces and varieties which are naturally adapted to the local and regional conditions and threatened by genetic erosion and for marketing of seed and seed potatoes of those landraces and varieties" submitted to the opinion of the SCS at the meeting held on 17 April and about three other drafts.

b) The BG delegation informed that the summary of the Annual Meeting of the EU Certifying Bodies will be circulated as soon as possible.

c) The Committee noted that all Member States have a clear position as regards the draft agenda of the OECD Annual Meeting of the Representative of National Designated Authorities to be held in Paris on 11-12 July 2007 and there was no

need for a specific coordination meeting at Council level. An exchange of points of view about the isolation distance for hybrid of cotton seed was agreed by BG, EL and ES in cooperation with the Commission Services (SANCO E1).

- d) Member States were informed by Mr. Valvassori about his impending retirement. They expressed their most grateful thanks to him for all he had done managing the legislation on the marketing of seed and propagating material and chairing the meetings of the SC for a long period.