



**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
“SEEDS AND PROPAGATING MATERIAL FOR AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE AND  
FORESTRY” HELD ON 9 MARCH 2007**

Chairman: Mr. Valvassori.

All Member States were present, except Luxemburg. This country, for the purpose of the vote, mandated Belgium.

The CPVO and Norway participated as observers.

**1. FINAL REPORTS OF THE COMMUNITY COMPARATIVE TRIALS AND TESTS ON GRASSES (BE, NL, UK).**

The final reports have been presented and discussed. The cases of samples failing or giving cause for concern with regard to the Community seed standards were underlined.

The Committee expressed its concern about the current suspension of Commission Decisions on the establishment of new trials.

The reports have been approved.

**2. DRAFT COMMISSION DIRECTIVE AMENDING ANNEX II OF COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2002/57/EC AS REGARDS CERTAIN PLANT HEALTH CONDITIONS OF SEEDS OF SUNFLOWER.**

Council Directive 2002/57/EC provides for several conditions to be satisfied by the seeds of oil and fibre plants. However, within these conditions none of them regards the content of *Orobanche* seeds in seed lots of sunflower.

In the light of the current scientific and technical knowledge the risk posed by *Orobanche* is particularly high in Bulgaria and Romania, who became Member States on 1 January 2007.

A draft Commission Directive, circulated as working document in the previous meeting of the Committee, suggested to include within the conditions to be met by seed lots of sunflower, that seed need to be free from *Orobanche*.

Three positions appeared:

- certain Member States supported the approach to require in general freedom from *Orobanche*, through an ad hoc seed test (amendment of Annex II);

- other Member States suggested to require, in general, freedom from *Orobanche* in the seed crops, to be checked in the framework of certification (amendment of Annex I);
- other Member States suggested to create in the basic Directive a legal basis to allow countries as Bulgaria and Romania which conduct an eradication programme against *Orobanche* (as it exists e.g. in cereal for wild oats) to require that seed lots comply with special conditions.

**3. DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION AUTHORIZING BULGARIA TO POSTPONE THE APPLICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2002/53/EC WITH REGARD TO THE MARKETING OF SEED OF SUNFLOWERS.**

Council Directive 2002/53/EC on the common catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species provides that seed of varieties of agricultural plant species accepted in accordance with this Directive or in accordance with principles corresponding to those of this Directive is not subject to any marketing restrictions. These varieties are published in the C-series of the Official Journal of the European Union under the title 'Common Catalogue of Varieties of Agricultural Plant Species'.

The resistance to *Orobanche* of varieties of sunflower represents an important factor for the cultivation of this species in Bulgaria and the varieties which are not resistant are not be considered suitable.

Currently in several Member States it is not known whether or not the varieties admitted in their national catalogue are resistant to *Orobanche*.

The draft Commission Directive will authorize Bulgaria to postpone the application of Directive 2002/53/EC until 31 December 2009 with regard to the marketing in its territory of seed of the varieties of sunflower that are listed in the Common Catalogue but have not been assessed as resistant to *Orobanche*. This period will enable Bulgaria to assess through tests and collection of information whether the varieties are resistant to *Orobanche*.

The Committee agreed on the text. However, it was envisaged for the future:

- to develop a detailed agreed protocol for the assessment of resistance of varieties of sunflower to *Orobanche*;
- to study the tolerance of the varieties to certain herbicides, as alternative to resistance to *Orobanche*.

Before 31 March 2007 the Member States in which the resistance to *Orobanche* was assessed in the framework of the acceptance of the varieties to the national catalogue (BG, ES, HU and RO) will notify accordingly to the other Member States and to the Commission. The Commission will ensure that the next supplement to the Common Catalogue will list those varieties which have been assessed as resistant to *Orobanche*.

Voting: unanimity.

**4. SPECIFIC CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH SEED AND PROPAGATING/PLANTING MATERIAL OF AGRICULTURAL PLANT SPECIES INCLUDING SEED MIXTURES AND VEGETABLE SPECIES MAY BE MARKETED IN RELATION TO THE CONSERVATION OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES.**

(a) Seeds of agricultural plants

The Committee discussed in detail the working paper submitted by the Commission Services. It was noted that this paper (draft Commission Directive) mentions the Acts which represent the developments at international and at Community level on biodiversity and conservation of plant genetic resources and lay down the various provisions, in particular those related to the acceptance of conservation varieties and those related to seed production and marketing. The text includes measures to ensure that the marketing of seed takes place in the context of the conservation of genetic resources. Provisions (e.g. obligation for the producers to notify the quantities of seed they intend to produce and allocation – where appropriate – of quantities to the suppliers) are also included.

The Committee examined in detail the draft and supported the texts, provided that few amendments are introduced (to ensure that all the envisaged conditions for derogation from official examination apply, that all prior rights are safeguarded in case of derogation from Community rules on denomination of varieties, that a minimum quantity of seed is allowed also in the case of species represented by few varieties, and that within the provision on sealing also the case of non-reusable sealing systems is covered).

(b) and (c) Seeds and propagating and planting material other than seed of vegetable plants

Certain Member States reserved their positions on the question whether conservation varieties may be accepted as amateur varieties.

(d) Fodder plant seed mixtures

No remarks

**5. MISCELLANEOUS.**

The Committee noted:

(a) Request from Member States regarding permission to market seed not satisfying the requirements in respect to the minimum germination.

(aa) HU, oats, date of request 13.02.07; quantity requested 40 tons, deadline 28.02.07, quantity authorized 40 tons.

(bb) AT, soybean, date of request 21.02.07, quantity requested 660 tons, deadline 08.03.07, quantity authorized 641 tons.

(cc) SE, wheat, date of request 22.02.07, quantity requested 246 tons, deadline 09.03.07, quantity authorized nil.

- (dd) SE, oats, date of request 22.02.07, quantity requested 515 tons, deadline 09.03.07, quantity authorized 515 tons.
- (b) A request from Spain to import from New Zealand 200 kg of Forest Reproductive Material of *Pinus Radiata*, as in the case of the Commission Decision 2006/665/EC which expired on 31 December 2006.
- (c) The Commission informed the Committee of the results of the meeting of Rapporteurs held on 7 March on the new structure of the Common Catalogue of Vegetable Species. The subject will be discussed in the next Standing Committee of 17 April.
- (d) The Commission confirmed that a meeting of Rapporteurs (Ivanova BG, Batzios EL and Merida ES) on isolation of seed crops of hybrids of cotton will take place on 3 April.
- (e) A progress report from DK on the development of a working paper concerning the revision of the scientific nomenclature of the agricultural plant species.
- (f) A suggestion from the Commission to communicate by 10 April the MS proposals to delete or to add agricultural plant species from/to the scope of the Directives 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC and 2002/57/EC (see Summary Report of the Committee, 26 February, point 1).
- (g) The envisaged agenda of the next Standing Committee scheduled for 17 April, in particular the items on the possible formal opinion on the Draft Commission Directives on the conservation of plant genetic resources.

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