



**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
“SEEDS AND PROPAGATING MATERIAL FOR AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE AND
FORESTRY” HELD ON 29 MAY 2007**

Chairman: Mr. Valvassori.

All Member States were present, except Greece, Ireland and Luxemburg.

The CPVO and Norway participated as observers.

1. 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/ADDED TO THE SCOPE OF DIRECTIVES

The discussion took place on the basis of input in writing from several MS.

However, several MS insisted to postpone the exercise to the outcome of the initiation on better legislation.

However, two special cases have been acknowledged:

- the possible addition of *Fodder Calega* as proposed by Estonia in the framework of the discussion on the Accession to EU in 2003;
- the request of Portugal to regulate certain fodder species to be included in the seed mixtures

2. DISCUSSION ON DRAFT COMMISSION DIRECTIVES PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN DEROGATIONS, IN THE FRAMEWORK OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES, FOR MARKETING OF PLANT REPRODUCTIVE MATERIAL THREATENED BY GENETIC EROSION

2.1 vegetable seed (doc. SANCO/3323/06rev6, 20.4.2007)

2.2 vegetable propagating and planting material other than seed (doc. SANCO/3324/06rev6, 20.4.2007)

2.3 fodder plant seed mixtures (doc. SANCO/3325/06rev5, 13.3.2007)

The Commission services informed that the Commission is not yet in the position to submit to the Committee new texts of draft Directives.

Nevertheless on the occasion the majority of the MS disagreed on the hypothesis to link the vegetable amateur varieties to the region (localities) of adaptation of the variety or to that where the variety has been traditionally grown.

On the same occasion, as regards plant seed mixtures, the totality of the delegations stated that the conditions according to which the derogations may be implemented are clearly expressed in the draft circulated by SANCO on 13 March 2007, without prejudices to possible disagreement on certain specific conditions.

3. DISCUSSION ON

3.1 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 amends Commission Directive 2003/91/EC accordingly.

The Committee supported such amendments.

3.2 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 amends Commission Directive 2003/90/EC accordingly.

The Committee supported such amendments.

3.3 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)

Directives 2002/53/EC and 2002/55/EC lay down general rules in relation to the suitability of variety denominations, by means of a reference to Council Regulation (EC) No 2100/94 of 27 July 1994 on Community plant variety rights.

Commission Regulation (EC) No 930/2000 established detailed rules for the application of certain criteria set out by Article 63 of Regulation (EC) No 2100/94, in particular in respect of the impediments for the designation of a variety denomination.

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 amends Commission Regulation (EC) No 930/2000 accordingly.

The Committee supported such amendments.

4. MISCELLANEOUS

The Committee noted:

a) the results of the meeting of the Working Party on Seed Legislation which took place on 8 May 2007

b) requests for Member States regarding permission to market seed not satisfying the requirements in respect of minimum germination:

(ba) Hungary, *Phacelia tanacetifolia*, date of request 03.04.07, quantity requested 25 tons, deadline 18.04.07; quantity authorised 25 tons

(bb) Sweden, *Triticum durum*, date of request 25.04.07, quantity requested 31,5 tons, deadline 10.05.2007; quantity authorised 31,5 tons

c) a proposal from France to revise the layout of the official label of seeds

d) an information (supplied by Denmark) on a meeting of International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) held on 5-11.5.2007 in Brazil

e) the change of the timetable of the working group on a possible extension of seed activities of CPVO (now scheduled 28 June 2007)

Michael FLUEH

Head of Unit