



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Proposal for a

DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

amending Council Decision 2003/17/EC by extending its period of application and by updating the names of a third country and of the authorities responsible for the approval and control of the production

(Text with EEA relevance)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSAL

Council Directives on the marketing of fodder plant seed, cereal seed, beet seed and seed of oil and fibre plants regulate the internal marketing of seed for sowing of the plant species as listed by those Directives. To facilitate trades and to promptly respond to the marketing request, those Directives foresee the possibility for the Council to establish rules for authorising the importation of seed under an equivalence system from third countries.

2. RESULTS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH THE INTERESTED PARTIES AND IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

3. LEGAL ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSAL

Council Decision 2003/17/EC¹ provided the list of countries to be recognised for the application of the equivalence principle for importation, detailed requirements to be fulfilled, and in particular to limit the period for which equivalence is recognised to five years to be extended if all the relevant requirements are fulfilled.

That period will expire on 31 December 2012. In order to ensure the necessary supply of seed to the EU market, these rules must be prolonged by amending the deadline until 31 December 2022. Currently, the temporary extension is foreseen for only 5 years. However, the revision of the new Regulation on S&PM (under co-decision procedures) will be launched in September 2012, only, with specific implementing measures to be adopted thereafter. Therefore, a time limit of ten years seems necessary to avoid the expiration within this process.

Annex I to Decision 2003/17/EC lists Yugoslavia as a country under equivalence regime. Some new countries replace the former Yugoslavia. Slovenia is a member of the European Union, Croatia is already recognised as equivalent by Decision 2003/17/EC, Serbia should be added being a member of the OECD Scheme for the Varietal Certification of Seed moving in International Trades and member of the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) as regards the seed sampling and testing. Yugoslavia should be deleted. Other countries from the former Yugoslavia cannot be added being not member of the OECD and ISTA. In addition, the names of some authorities responsible for the approval and control of the production, as listed in Annex I to Decision 2003/17/EC have changed.

¹ OJ L 8, 14.1.2003, p. 10.

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(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 43(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national Parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,

Whereas:

- (1) Council Decision 2003/17/EC provides that for a limited period field inspections carried out in third countries on seed-producing crops of certain species are considered as equivalent to field inspections carried out in accordance with Union legislation and that seed of certain species produced in third countries is considered as equivalent to seed produced in accordance with Union legislation.
- (2) It appears that those field inspections continue to afford the same guarantees as those carried out by the Member States. Those field inspections should therefore continue to be considered as equivalent.
- (3) As Decision 2003/17/EC will expire on 31 December 2012, the period for which equivalence is recognised under that Decision should be extended. It appears desirable to extend that period to ten years.
- (4) The reference to Yugoslavia in Decision 2003/17/EC should be deleted. Serbia, as a member of the OECD Scheme for the Varietal Certification of Seed moving in International Trades and member of the International Seed Testing Association as regards the seed sampling and testing, should be added to the list of third countries in Annex I to Decision 2003/17/EC. In addition, the names of some authorities responsible for the approval and control of the production, as listed in Annex I to Decision 2003/17/EC have changed.
- (5) Decision 2003/17/EC should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Decision 2003/17/EC is amended as follows:

- (1) In Article 6, the date "31 December 2012" is replaced by the date "31 December 2022".
- (2) Annex I is replaced by the text set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the third day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 1 January 2013.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels,

*For the European Parliament
The President*

*For the Council
The President*

ANNEX

"ANNEX I

Countries, authorities and species

Country(*)	Authority	Species referred to in the following Directives
1	2	3
AR	Instituto Nacional de Semillas (INASE) Av. Paseo Colón 922, 3 Piso 1063 BUENOS AIRES	66/401/EEC 66/402/EEC 2002/57/EC
AU	Australian Seeds Authority LTD. P.O. Box 187 LINDFIELD, NSW 2070	66/401/EEC 66/402/EEC 2002/57/EC
CA	Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Seed Section, Plant Health & Biosecurity Directorate 59 Camelot Drive, Room 250, OTTAWA, ON K1A 0Y9	66/401/EEC 66/402/EEC 2002/57/EC
CL	Ministerio de Agricultura Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero, División de Semillas Casilla 1167, Paseo Bulnes 140 - SANTIAGO DE CHILE	2002/54/EC 66/401/EEC 66/402/EEC 2002/57/EC
HR	State Institute for Seed and Seedlings, Vinkovacka Cesta 63 HR-31000 OSIJEK	2002/54/EC 66/401/EEC 66/402/EEC 2002/57/EC
IL	Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development Plant Protection and Inspection Services P.O. BOX 78, BEIT-DAGAN 50250	66/401/EEC 66/402/EEC 2002/57/EC
MA	D.P.V.C.T.R.F. Service de Contrôle des Semences et des Plants, B.P. 1308 RABAT	66/401/EEC 66/402/EEC 2002/57/EC
NZ	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, 25 "THE TERRACE" P.O. BOX 2526 WELLINGTON	2002/54/EC 66/401/EEC 66/402/EEC 2002/57/EC
RS	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management Plant Protection Directorate Omladinskih brigada 1, 11070 NOVI BEOGRAD	2002/54/EC 66/401/EEC 66/402/EEC 2002/57/EC

Country(*)	Authority	Species referred to in the following Directives
1	2	3
TR	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Variety Registration and Seed Certification Centre Gayret mah. Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bulvari No:62 P.O.BOX: 30, 06172 Yenimahalle/ANKARA	2002/54/EC 66/401/EEC 66/402/EEC 2002/57/EC
US	USDA - Agricultural Marketing Service Seed Regulatory & Testing Branch 801 Summit Crossing, Suite C, GASTONIA NC 28054	2002/54/EC 66/401/EEC 66/402/EEC 2002/57/EC
UY	Instituto Nacional de Semillas (INASE) Cno. Bertolotti s/n y Ruta 8 km 29 91001 PANDO - CANELONES	66/401/EEC 66/402/EEC 2002/57/EC
ZA	National Department of Agriculture, C/O S.A.N.S.O.R. Lynnwood Ridge, P.O. BOX 72981, 0040 PRETORIA	66/401/EEC 66/402/EEC – only in respect of <i>Zea mays</i> and <i>Sorghum spp.</i> 2002/57/EC

(*) AR – Argentina, AU – Australia, CA – Canada, CL – Chile, HR – Croatia, IL – Israel, MA – Morocco, NZ – New Zealand, RS – Serbia, TR – Turkey, US – United States of America, UY – Uruguay, ZA – South Africa"