


Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Directive	1997/0217(CNS)	Procedure completed
Marketing of beet seed, fodder plant and cereal seed... Common catalogue of agricultural plant species		
Subject 3.10.06 Crop products in general, floriculture		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development		24/09/1997
		V GRAEFE ZU BARINGDORF Friedrich-Wilhelm	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2151	14/12/1998
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2137	23/11/1998

Key events			
25/07/1997	Legislative proposal published	COM(1997)0403	Summary
19/09/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
16/04/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
16/04/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0128/1998	
14/05/1998	Debate in Parliament		
15/05/1998	Decision by Parliament	T4-0302/1998	Summary
07/08/1998	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1998)0499	Summary
14/12/1998	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
14/12/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
01/02/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1997/0217(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Directive
Legal basis	EC before Amsterdam E 043
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AGRI/4/09282

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		COM(1997)0403 OJ C 289 24.09.1997, p. 0006	25/07/1997	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES1385/1997 OJ C 073 09.03.1998, p. 0045	10/12/1997	ESC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0128/1998 OJ C 152 18.05.1998, p. 0004	16/04/1998	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0302/1998 OJ C 167 01.06.1998, p. 0289-0302	15/05/1998	EP	Summary
Modified legislative proposal		COM(1998)0499 OJ C 305 03.10.1998, p. 0008	07/08/1998	EC	Summary

Additional information	
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act
Directive 1998/96 OJ L 025 01.02.1999, p. 0027 Summary

Marketing of beet seed, fodder plant and cereal seed... Common catalogue of agricultural plant species

OBJECTIVE: to amend Directives 66/400/EEC, 66/402/EEC, 66/403/EEC, 69/208/EEC, 70/457/EEC and 70/458/EEC on the marketing of beet seed, fodder plant seed, cereal seed, seed potatoes, seed of oil and fibre plants and vegetable seeds and on the common catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species. CONTENT: the directives to be amended provide for the organization of temporary experiments at Community level with a view to finding the best solution for replacing certain aspects of the certification systems adopted. The results of one experiment organized by the European Commission in 1989 demonstrated that, in certain cases, official certification procedures could be simplified if examinations were carried out by inspectors other than those instructed to conduct official inspections by the seed certification authority. This proposal therefore amends the directives in question by stipulating that examinations may be carried out officially or under official control. It also widens the scope of the organization of temporary experiments by stipulating that experiments may be conducted with a view to finding the best solution for replacing certain provisions of the directives in question. It introduces a legal basis for these experiments in Directive 66/403/EEC and facilitates the addition of new species to the list of species contained in the directives. It also introduces rules relating to the eligibility of variety denominations in directives 70/457/EEC and 70/458/EEC. ?

Marketing of beet seed, fodder plant and cereal seed... Common catalogue of agricultural plant species

The Committee supports the Commission proposal. Inspection in the field is one of the key monitoring procedures in the certification system. Such inspection on both an official and unofficial basis must operate under objective, independent conditions that ensure consistently reliable results. The findings of inspections carried out by unofficial inspectors must be confirmed by the competent authorities. ?

Marketing of beet seed, fodder plant and cereal seed... Common catalogue of agricultural plant species

The Committee adopted the report by Mr Graefe zu BARINGDORF (Greens, DE). The report, which is more technical in character, concerns the marketing of a number of types of seed (beet, cereal, vegetable, etc), and introduces an important amendment, relating to the random sampling of seeds by official inspectors for purposes of checking and certification and stating that future sampling checks should involve between 10% and 20% of the production of a species. ?

Marketing of beet seed, fodder plant and cereal seed... Common catalogue of agricultural plant species

In adopting the report by Mr Graefe zu BARINGDORF (Green Group, D) Parliament approved the Commission proposal while introducing a significant amendment concerning the sampling to be carried out by official inspectors for the examination and certification of seed. The official inspections should be maintained at the current level, namely 10% for self-pollinated crops and 20% for cross-pollinated crops. Parliament provided that the inspectors should be sworn in. In the event of contraventions, whether deliberately or through negligence, of the rules governing official examinations, inspectors should immediately have their recognition as officially licensed inspectors withdrawn by the seed certification authority. Parliament also called for the Commission to undertake, after not more than five years, a detailed evaluation of the simplifications of the certification procedures introduced by the Directive. This evaluation should focus in particular on the possible effects on the quality of the seed. ?

Marketing of beet seed, fodder plant and cereal seed... Common catalogue of agricultural plant species

Following the opinion delivered by the European Parliament on 15.05.1998, the Commission presented an amended proposal incorporating, in a slightly modified form, all the amendments adopted by Parliament. The amendments concerned: -the qualifications of the inspectors carrying out examinations, -the type of examination to be carried out and the means to be used, -the procedures to be adopted where certification is inadequate (i.e. has been performed by inspectors who did not respect the rules governing official inspections).?

Marketing of beet seed, fodder plant and cereal seed... Common catalogue of agricultural plant species

PURPOSE: to simplify the official certification procedures for seeds. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Directive 98/96/EC amending, inter alia, as regards unofficial field inspections under Directives §§/400/EEC, 66/401/EEC, 69/208/EEC and 70/458/EEC on the marketing of beet seed, fodder plant seed, cereal seed, seed potatoes, seed of oil and fibre plants and vegetable seed and on the common catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species. CONTENT: The Council adopted a modification - among other things with respect to unofficial field inspections - under Directives 66/400/EEC, 66/402/EEC, 66/403/EEC, 69/208/EEC, 70/457/EEC and 70/458/EEC concerning the marketing of beet seed, fodder plant seed, cereal seed, seed potatoes, seed of oil and fibre plants and vegetable seed and on the common catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species. This modification simplifies the official certification procedures and updates these Directives in the light of new scientific and technical progress in the field.?