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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(77) 445 final.

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Amendment of the Commission proposal for a Council Directive amending Directives 66/400/EEC, 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC, 66/403/EEC, 68/193/EEC, 69/208/EEC, 70/458/EEC and 70/457/EEC on the marketing of beet seed, fodder plant seed, cereal seed, seed potatoes, material for the vegetative propagation of the vine, seed of oil and fibre plants, vegetable seed and on the common catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species

(submitted to the Council by the Commission
pursuant to the second paragraph of Article
149 of the EEC Treaty)

COM(77) 445 final.

Amendment of the Commission proposal for a Council Directive amending Directives 66/400/EEC, 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC, 66/403/EEC, 68/193/EEC, 69/208/EEC, 70/458/EEC and 70/457/EEC on the marketing of beet seed, fodder plant seed, cereal seed, seed potatoes, material for the vegetative propagation of the vine, seed of oil and fibre plants, vegetable seed and on the common catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species

2. Background :

In Accordance with Article 15 paragraph 2 sentence 2 of the Directive 66/403/EEC of 14 June 1966 (1), at last amended by Directive 76/307/EEC of 15 March 1976 (2) Italy has each year traditionally imported Canadian seed potatoes. This possibility expired on 31 December 1976 according to Article 15 paragraph 2a of the said Directive. However, on 24 March 1977 the Commission submitted for the Council in proposal Com (77) 98 final an equivalence of Canadian seed potatoes at Community level. With adoption, in time of this proposal Italy would have had the possibility to continue its imports of Canadian seed potatoes during the season 1977 which starts in September. However, it appears that the Council is not yet able to complete the examination of this proposal. Therefore, in order to avoid disturbing existing trade patterns in the mean-time, it is necessary to extend the validity of the national italian measures in a suitable way.

Therefore Article 15 paragraph 2a of the said Directive has to be amended. As other provisions of this Directive have to be amended in accordance with the Commission proposal Com (77) 162 final (3) submitted to the Council on 13 May 1977 it seems in order to complete this latter proposal.

(1) OJ N° 125, 11/7/1966, p. 2320/66

(2) OJ N° L 72, 18/3/1976, p. 16

(3) OJ N° C 130, 3/6/1977, p. 2

3. Amendment of the Directive proposal

3.1 After the 6th 'whereas' the following 'whereas' shall be added :

"Whereas, since the work intended to enable such equivalence of production and controls in third countries for seed potatoes to be determined at Community level has not yet been completed, the Member States should be granted the possibility of extending the validity of decisions on equivalence already taken by them, in order to prevent traditional trade patterns being disturbed."

3.2 In Article 4, the following shall be added:

"7a. In Article 15 (2 a), "31 December 1976" shall read "30 June 1978".