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PRESS RELEASE

Proposed Council directive on the marketing of material for the
vegetative propagation of grape vines

On 14 June 1966 the Council adopted the first set of directives proposed by the Commission concerning agricultural and forestry seeds and seedlings. Now the Commission has entered the second stage of harmonization in this field by proposing to the Council a directive on the marketing of material for the vegetative propagation of grape vines.

This proposal closely keeps to the directives adopted in respect of agricultural and forestry seeds and seedlings as it includes all their provisions concerning similar matters. On the other hand the proposal allows for the grape vine (*Vitis L*) being perennial, generally propagated by vegetative reproduction.

The proposed minimum standards and the definitions reflect this special feature.

As with herbage plants, it will not be possible for the time being to satisfy the demand exclusively from certified material. Apart from recognized basic reproductive materials and certified reproductive material the proposal therefore provides for the introduction of an additional category of "standard reproductive material". This type must satisfy the same criteria of varietal identity and purity as recognized material but it is not required to have been produced on the responsibility of the breeder by clonal selection.

The new category of "standard reproductive material" has only been introduced as a temporary solution and will gradually be withdrawn by the Commission or the Member States.

The directive also includes provisions concerning the sealing and marking of packages and bundles applying to those responsible for marketing.

The proposal leaves in abeyance, however, the question of approving varieties because they can be profitably grown in the territory of a Member State. For the time being the Member States can therefore continue to apply, or as the case may be establish, exhaustive lists of varieties on this basis. An EEC catalogue of varieties is to be established by 1 January 1970.