

**SEEDS**

*446.45*

*446.63 (Newel feeds)*

The Council reached a political agreement by a qualified majority on the basis of a draft Presidency compromise on a package of seven proposals for Directives (amending Directives 66/400/EEC, 66/401/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 seed and on the common catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant.

These Directives aim to amend or repeal certain provisions in the existing legislation so as to remove any actual or potential barriers to the free movement of seed in the Community and also to broaden the scope of the existing Directives.

During the debate, the French delegation, supported by several delegations, expressed its concerns with regard to the new farming context which would be brought about by the use of genetically modified plants and asked for comprehensive consideration of the matter. It took the view that this would enable lines of development to be mapped out for the marketing of GMOs and plant protection products linked with them. It would also serve to promote the instruments required in order for consumers to exercise freedom of choice regarding GMOs, in particular through the establishment of GMO and non-GMO production chains, and to develop workable regulatory solutions for that purpose.

