

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(79) 652 final

Brussels, 16 November 1979

Proposal for a
COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

amending Directive 66/403/EEC on the marketing of seed potatoes

(presented by the Commission to the Council)

COM(79) 652 final

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Imports of seed potatoes to the Community from non-member countries are subject to

- the Community plant health arrangements,
- the equivalence of the system for classifying seed potatoes, in accordance with Council Directive 66/403/EEC on the marketing of seed potatoes.

Under present circumstances there are plant health objections to seed potatoes from Canada.

The Community plant health arrangements forbid such seed potatoes from being imported into the Community except by way of exception, under strict conditions and for a limited period.

However, in order to allow use to be made of the limited period referred to above, it is necessary to adapt the period of validity of the equivalence records made in this respect. Seed potatoes introduced under these rules may accordingly be marketed only in the Member States which do make use of it.

Proposal for a
COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

amending Directive 66/403/EEC on the marketing of seed potatoes

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,
and in particular Article 43 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Whereas, pursuant to Article 15 of Council Directive 66/403/EEC of 14 June 1966 on the marketing of seed potatoes⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Directive 78/816/EEC⁽²⁾, in principle after 1 July 1975 Member States may no longer themselves establish the equivalence of inspections and checks carried out in third countries;

Whereas, however, Member States were authorized to extend the validity of decisions on equivalence already taken by them, since the work intended to enable such equivalence to be established at Community level had not yet been completed; whereas such an extension has been operated in practice only as regards Canada;

Whereas the use of this power of extension is subject to the Community rules on plant health;

Whereas by virtue of these rules seed potatoes originating from Canada can only, at this stage, be introduced into the Community by way of derogation, subject to stringent conditions and for a limited period.

¹ OJ No 125, 11.7.1966, p. 2320/66.

² OJ No L 281, 6.10.1978, 6.10.1978, p. 18

Whereas to establish equivalence at Community level would at this stage be pointless;

Whereas, however, provision should be made to enable the abovementioned limited period to be used, whereas it is consequently necessary to extend the validity of decisions on equivalence already taken by Member States.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

Article 1

Without prejudice to the provisions of Council Directive 77/93/EEC of 21 December 1976 on protective measures against the introduction into the Member States of harmful organisms of plant or plant products (3) the date '30 June 1979' in Article 15(2)a of Directive 66/403/EEC is replaced by '31 March 1980'.

Article 2

Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive with effect from 1 July 1979 and shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof.

Article 3

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels,

(3) OJ No 26, 31.1.1977, p. 20.

