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NOTE D'INFORMATION

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Objet:	Proposition de Décision du Parlement européen et du Conseil concernant l'équivalence des semences produites en Bolivie – Lettre des services de la Commission européenne – Consultation publique

Les délégations trouveront en annexe, pour leur information, une lettre des services de la Commission européenne résumant les commentaires reçus lors de la consultation publique organisée sur la proposition en objet.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

The Director-General

Brussels
SANTE.DDG2.G.1/SF/MG/ (2022)2283239

Subject: Report on the public feedback on the proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and the Council to amend Council Decision 2003/17/EC (COM(2022)26)

Dear Ambassador, dear Honourable Member,

From 27 January 2022 to 24 March 2022, the Commission published for feedback the proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and the Council to amend Council Decision 2003/17/EC on EU seed equivalence (COM(2022)26).

Decision 2003/17/EC lists the third countries for which EU equivalence is recognised as regards field inspections on seed-producing crops and the seed produced in those third countries. The proposal introduces amendments to this Decision firstly by extension of the period of its application to 31 December 2029 and secondly by adding Bolivia to the list of third countries for which equivalence is recognised, in respect of sorghum, maize and sunflower.

Please find attached for your information a summary of the feedback responses received.

Yours faithfully,

[e-signed]
Sandra GALLINA

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Enclosure: Summary report on the public feedback

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Annex: Summary report of the public feedback on the proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and the Council to amend Council Decision 2003/17/EC

The public consultation ran from 27 January to 24 March 2022 with the intention to gather views concerning the extension of the period for which EU equivalence is recognised for field inspections of seed producing crops and of seed produced in certain third countries, as well as the addition of Bolivia to the list of those third countries as regards maize, sunflower and sorghum. Five replies were received, one from a business association and four from EU citizens.

The business association agreed with the proposal, as in their view the extension of the period for which EU equivalence is recognised for third countries would ensure the continuation of seed supply, while addition of Bolivia would allow EU based companies to diversify their seed production.

Out of the four citizens:

One respondent disagreed with any seed import as EU countries must be self-sufficient and that domestic firms and the domestic market need to be supported.

One respondent was concerned by potential deterioration of food quality in EU because of imports from third countries that do not comply with food safety standards and use pesticides.

Two respondents disagreed to the proposal if it meant that GMO seed could be imported.

All feedback responses are published on the "Have Your Say" web portal at https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13126-Equivalence-of-seed-certification-systems-opening-the-EU-market-to-seeds-produced-in-Bolivia_en.