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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations

Subject: AOB item for the meeting of the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council of
22 and 23 June 2026:
Regulation on the production and marketing of plant reproductive material:
state of play
- Information from the Presidency

BACKGROUND

On 5 July 2023, the Commission adopted a legislative proposal to revise and update the rules on the production and marketing of plant reproductive material (PRM) in the Union. The proposal and the accompanying impact assessment were submitted to the Council on 6 July 2023.

Building on the Council mandate agreed under the Danish Presidency, the Cyprus Presidency began the inter-institutional negotiations with a view to reaching a provisional agreement. Since the beginning of the Cyprus Presidency, three informal political trilogues (on 3 February, 21 April and 15 June 2026) and 32 interinstitutional technical meetings were held with the European Parliament and the Commission.

AGREEMENT

The third political trilogue held on 15 June 2026, allowed the Council and the European Parliament to reach an agreement on all outstanding issues. This final trilogue resulted in a balanced compromise that preserves the core objectives of the original proposal from the Commission and a majority of the Council mandate.

The new rules aim to increase agrobiodiversity, support conservation and locally adapted varieties, and provide greater flexibility for professional operators. They also seek to ensure that plant reproductive material placed on the EU market is of high and reliable quality and adapted to the environmental and climate challenges Europe faces.

MAIN ELEMENTS

The proposal replaces several existing sector-specific directives with a single, harmonised regulation to create a more flexible, innovation-friendly and environmentally resilient system.

The new rules seek to:

- **create a simpler and clearer set of rules across the Union**, reducing divergences in implementation and ensuring a level playing field;
- **support scientific and technological progress**, enabling the use of digital tools, biomolecular techniques and production methods that were not envisaged in the original 1960s legislation;
- **reduce administrative burden for competent authorities and operators** through harmonised procedures, clearer responsibilities and digital documentation;
- **ensure the availability of high-quality PRM** adapted to evolving agricultural and environmental conditions, allowing quicker uptake of varieties suited to climate change, pests and diseases;
- **promote food and feed security**, safeguard plant genetic resources and protect biodiversity, including through lighter rules for conservation and locally adapted varieties and PRM intended for organic production; and
- **improve coherence with the EU's plant health and official controls legislation**, integrating PRM more closely into the EU's horizontal control framework and strengthening traceability.

The agreement ensures more practical and less burdensome approaches both for national authorities and professional operators. It was concluded that the examination of new varieties for their value for sustainable cultivation and use (VSCU) will remain mandatory for agricultural plants (except for turf grasses), potato and vine. It also covers balanced solution on official controls by excluding variety registration from the scope of the regulation on official controls and granting other more specific horizontal exemptions to avoid unnecessary red tape. Furthermore, it refines the rules on the derogations, keeping these areas within the scope of the regulation with lighter rules.

The provisional agreement will need to be endorsed by both the Council and the European Parliament before it can be formally adopted and enter into force. It will become applicable four years after its entry into force.
