

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/TBT/N/EEC/54

10 February 2004

(04-0519)

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6.

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: <u>EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Articles 3.2 and 7.2):
2.	Agency responsible: European Commission Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, e-mail and web-site addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above: European Commission, EC-TBT Enquiry Point, Fax: 0032 2 299 80 43, E-mail: ec-tbt@cec.eu.int
3.	Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [], 5.6.2 [], 5.7.1 [], other:
4.	Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable):) Fodder plant seed
5.	Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Draft Commission Directive amending Council Directive 66/401/EC on the marketing of fodder plant seed (2 pages, in English)
6.	Description of content: This Directive extends the scope of Directive 66/401/EC to cover crossings of <i>Festuca spp.</i> with <i>Lolium spp.</i> , and amends the minimum germination of seed of field beans.
7.	Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable: Directive 66/401/EEC contains a list of the genera and species of plants which are considered as fodder plants within the meaning of that Directive. The aim of Directive 66/401/EEC is to ensure that seeds marketed meet established quality standards and that crops harvested from such seeds are of good quality in terms of animal feed. The list includes hybrids resulting from the crossing of meadow fescue (<i>Festuca pratensis</i> Hudson) with Italian ryegrass (<i>Lolium multiflorum</i> Lam). The scope of Directive 66/401/EC should be extended to cover crossings of <i>Festuca spp.</i> with <i>Lolium spp.</i> , as the marketing of seed of such a crossing has become a current practice. The above-mentioned directive, within the conditions to be satisfied by the seed, has established the minimum germination (% of pure seed) of seed of field bean (<i>Vicia faba</i> L). The minimum germination of seed of field beans (<i>Vicia faba</i> L) currently achieved in the Community is lower than that required by Directive 66/401/EC. Directive 66/401/EEC should therefore be amended accordingly, in order to allow the marketing of seed otherwise prohibited.

8.	Relevant documents: Doc. SANCO/5026/03fin
9.	Proposed date of adoption: Proposed date of entry into force: } End March 2004
10.	Final date for comments: 50 days from the date of notification
11.	Texts available from: National enquiry point [] or address, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail and web-site addresses, if available of the other body: European Commission, EC-TBT Enquiry Point, Fax: 0032 2 299 80 43, E-mail: ec-tbt@cec.eu.int