

Equivalence of field inspections and equivalence of checks on practices for the maintenance of varieties of agricultural plant species carried out in the United Kingdom

2020/0379(COD) - 23/12/2020 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to amend Council Decisions 2003/17/EC and 2005/834/EC as regards the equivalence of field inspections and the equivalence of checks on practices for the maintenance of varieties of agricultural plant species carried out in the United Kingdom.

PROPOSED ACT: Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: in view of the end of the transitional period provided for in the withdrawal agreement, the United Kingdom has submitted to the Commission a request for recognition of equivalence, from 1 January 2021, of fodder plant seed, cereal seed, beet seed and seed of fibre and oil plants produced in the United Kingdom with fodder plant seed, cereal seed, beet seed and seed of oil plants produced in the Union.

The United Kingdom has also requested the recognition of the equivalence as regards the checks on practices for the maintenance of varieties carried out in the United Kingdom pursuant to those Directives.

The Commission has carried out a review of the relevant legislation in the United Kingdom. It has concluded (i) that the requirements and the system in force are equivalent to those of the Union and offer the same guarantees as the Union system; (ii) that the checks on practices for the maintenance of such varieties carried out in the United Kingdom afford the same assurances as those carried out by the Member States.

CONTENT: the proposal adds the United Kingdom to the list of countries for which the equivalence of field inspections, and of checks on practices for the maintenance of seed-producing crops of cereal species and the equivalence of the seed produced have been recognised. This recognition is based on an examination of the relevant legislation of the United Kingdom and the conclusion that its requirements and system in place offer the same guarantees as the Union's system.

Following the addition of the United Kingdom on that list, the imports of seeds from the United Kingdom into the Union, as well as the maintenance of the respective varieties in that country, should be allowed.