

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) - 11/03/2021 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 621 votes to 1, with 73 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Decision 2008/971/EC as regards the equivalence of forest reproductive material produced in the United Kingdom with that produced within the Union.

The European Parliament adopted its position at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure by endorsing the Commission's proposal.

The proposal adds the United Kingdom to the list of countries for which the equivalence of field inspections, and maintenance selections, of seed producing crops of cereal species and the equivalence of the seed produced have been recognised.

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

The United Kingdom also requested recognition of equivalence in respect of checks on maintenance selections carried out in the United Kingdom.

The Commission has examined the relevant UK legislation and concluded that its requirements and the system in place offer the same guarantees as the EU system.

Following the addition of the United Kingdom to Annex I to Decision 2003/17/EC and to the Annex to Decision 2005/834/EC, imports of seed from the United Kingdom into the Union, as well as maintenance breeding of individual varieties in the United Kingdom, would be authorised.