

Marketing of seeds, propagating and planting materials: Community comparative tests and trials

2002/0232(CNS) - 18/06/2003 - Final act

PURPOSE : on comparative tests and trials for certain seeds and species of plants. **LEGISLATIVE ACT :** Council Directive 2003/61/EC amending Directives 66/401/EEC on the marketing of fodder plant seed, 66/402/EEC on the marketing of cereal seed, 68/193/EEC on the marketing of material for the vegetative propagation of the vine, 92/33/EEC on the marketing of vegetable propagating and planting material, other than seed, 92/34/EEC on the marketing of propagating and planting material of fruit plants, 98/56/EC on the marketing of propagating material of ornamental plants, 2002/54/EC on the marketing of beet seed, 2002/55/EC on the marketing of vegetable seed, 2002/56/EC on the marketing of seed potatoes and 2002/57/EC on the marketing of seed of oil and fibre plants as regards Community comparative tests and trials. **CONTENT :** the Commission is required to ensure that, in appropriate cases, arrangements for coordinating, carrying out and inspecting the Community comparative tests and trials are made in accordance with the procedures laid down in the above-mentioned Directives. These necessary arrangements implied in the past years that a Community contribution for the execution of the above Community comparative tests and trials had been decided. The key points of this Directive are as follows:

- this directive ensures that tests and trials are organised for species and under conditions listed by Directives irrespective whether the provisions are mandatory or discretionary. The tests and trials will cover in particular seed and propagating material harvested in third countries, seed and propagating material suitable for organic farming and seed and propagating material marketed in relation to the conservation in situ and the sustainable use of plant genetic resources.
- furthermore, the directive harmonises the drafting of the relevant articles of the above Directives.
- in the interest of transparency a clear legal basis for the Community financial contribution is needed. Provisions are therefore made here for Community financial measures for carrying out the Community comparative tests and trials, which involve compulsory Community budget expenditure.

DATE OF TRANSPOSITION : 10/10/03. **ENTRY INTO FORCE :** 10/07/03.