Basic information

2017/0297(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	Procedure completed
Equivalence of field inspections carried out and equivalence of seed produced: in Brazil (on fodder plant and cereal seed-producing crops, and of fodder plant and cereal seed); in Moldova (on cereal, vegetable and oil and fibre plant seed-producing crops, and of cereal seed, vegetable seed and oil and fibre plant seed) **Subject** 3.10.03 Marketing and trade of agricultural products and livestock 3.10.06.02 Vegetables 3.10.06.03 Cereals, rice 3.10.06.04 Fodder plants 3.10.06.05 Textile plants, cotton 3.10.06.06 Oleaginous plants **Geographical area** Brazil Moldova	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	SIEKIERSKI Czesław Adam (PPE)	22/11/2017
	Shadow rapporteur HUITEMA Jan (ALDE) VIEGAS Miguel (GUE/NGL)	

Committee for opinion on the legal basis	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
JURI Legal Affairs	VOSS Axel (PPE)	15/05/2018

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Environment	3640	2018-10-09

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Health and Food Safety	ANDRIUKAITIS Vytenis Povilas

European Economic and Social Committee
European Committee of the Regions

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
14/11/2017	Legislative proposal published	COM(2017)0643	Summary
16/11/2017	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
10/07/2018	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
12/07/2018	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A8-0253/2018	Summary
11/09/2018	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T8-0318/2018	Summary
11/09/2018	Results of vote in Parliament		
09/10/2018	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
23/10/2018	Final act signed		
23/10/2018	End of procedure in Parliament		
12/11/2018	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2017/0297(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee European Committee of the Regions
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AGRI/8/11522

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Specific opinion	JURI	PE623.837	22/06/2018	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A8-0253/2018	12/07/2018	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0318/2018	11/09/2018	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Draft final act	00032/2018/LEX	24/10/2018	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2017)0643	14/11/2017	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2018)724	13/11/2018	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0043/2018	14/02/2018	

Additional information		
Source	**Document**	**Date**
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Decision 2018/1674 OJ L 284 12.11.2018, p. 0031	Summary

Equivalence of field inspections carried out and equivalence of seed produced: in Brazil (on fodder plant and cereal seed-producing crops, and of fodder plant and cereal seed); in Moldova (on cereal, vegetable and oil and fibre plant seed-producing crops, and of cereal seed, vegetable seed and oil and fibre plant seed)

2017/0297(COD) - 11/09/2018 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 543 votes to 75, with 45 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Decision 2003/17/EC as regards the equivalence of field inspections carried out in Brazil on fodder plant seed-producing crops and cereal seed-producing crops and on the equivalence of fodder plant seed and cereal seed produced in Brazil, and as regards the equivalence of field inspections carried out in Moldova on cereal seed-producing crops, vegetable seed-producing crops and oil and fibre plant seed- producing crops and on the equivalence of cereal seed, vegetable seed and oil and fibre plant seed produced in Moldova.

The European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure amended the Commission proposal as follows:

The Regulation aims to grant equivalence in respect of field inspections relating to:

- **fodder plant seed-producing crops and cereal seed-producing crops, and to fodder plant seed and cereal seed produced and certified in Brazil** and as regards fodder plant seed and cereal seed produced in Brazil and officially certified by its national authorities;
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cereal seed-producing crops, vegetable seed-producing crops and oil and fibre plant seed-producing crops in Moldova, and as regards cereal seed, vegetable seed and oil and fibre plant seed produced in Moldova and officially certified by its authority.

Taking into consideration the applicable rules of the **International Seed Testing Association** (ISTA), it is appropriate that the third country concerned provide an official statement that the seed has been sampled and tested in accordance with the provisions set out in the ISTA International Rules for Seed Testing ('ISTA Rules') with regard to Orange International Seed Lot Certificates, and that the seed lots be accompanied by such a certificate.

In view of the expiry of the 'Derogatory experiment on seed sampling and seed analysis' set out in Annex V(A) to the Decision adopted by the Council of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on 28 September 2000 on the OECD Schemes for the Varietal Certification of Seed Moving in International Trade, any reference to that experiment should be deleted.

Any reference to Croatia as a third country should be deleted, in view of its accession to the Union in 2013.

Equivalence of field inspections carried out and equivalence of seed produced: in Brazil (on fodder plant and cereal seed-producing crops, and of fodder plant and cereal seed); in Moldova (on cereal, vegetable and oil and fibre plant seed-producing crops, and of cereal seed, vegetable seed and oil and fibre plant seed)

2017/0297(COD) - 12/07/2018 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development adopted the report by Adam SIEKIERSKI (EPP, PL) on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Decision 2003/17/EC as regards the equivalence of field inspections carried out in Brazil on fodder plant seed-producing crops and cereal seed-producing crops and on the equivalence of fodder plant seed and cereal seed produced in Brazil, and as regards the equivalence of field inspections carried out in Moldova on cereal seed-producing crops, vegetable seed-producing crops and oil and fibre plant seed- producing crops and on the equivalence of cereal seed, vegetable seed and oil and fibre plant seed produced in Moldova.

The committee responsible recommended that the European Parliament’s position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the Commission proposal as follows.

The purpose of this Regulation would be to grant equivalence in respect of field inspections relating to:

- **fodder plant seed-producing crops and cereal seed-producing crops, and to fodder plant seed and cereal seed produced and certified in Brazil** and as regards fodder plant seed and cereal seed produced in Brazil and officially certified by its national authorities;
- **cereal seed-producing crops, vegetable seed-producing crops and oil and fibre plant seed-producing crops in Moldova**, and as regards cereal seed, vegetable seed and oil and fibre plant seed produced in Moldova and officially certified by its authority.

Taking into consideration the applicable rules of the **International Seed Testing Association** (ISTA), it is appropriate that the third country concerned provide an official statement that the seed has been sampled and tested in accordance with the provisions set out in the ISTA International Rules for Seed Testing ('ISTA Rules') with regard to Orange International Seed Lot Certificates, and that the seed lots be accompanied by such a certificate.

Any reference to Croatia as a third country should be deleted, in view of its accession to the Union in 2013.

Equivalence of field inspections carried out and equivalence of seed produced: in Brazil (on fodder plant and cereal seed-producing crops, and of fodder plant and cereal seed); in Moldova (on cereal, vegetable and oil and fibre plant seed-producing crops, and of cereal seed, vegetable seed and oil and fibre plant seed)

2017/0297(COD) - 12/11/2018 - Final act

PURPOSE: to recognise the equivalence of legal requirements and official controls of Brazil and Moldova for the certification of seeds.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision (EU) 2018/1674 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Decision 2003/17/EC as regards the equivalence of field inspections carried out in the Federative Republic of Brazil on fodder plant seed-producing crops and cereal seed-producing crops and on the equivalence of fodder plant seed and cereal seed produced in the Federative Republic of Brazil, and as regards the equivalence of field inspections carried out in the Republic of Moldova on cereal seed-producing crops, vegetable seed-producing crops and oil and fibre plant seed-producing crops and on the equivalence of cereal seed, vegetable seed and oil and fibre plant seed produced in the Republic of Moldova.

CONTENT: the Decision aims to grant equivalence with regard to:

- field inspections carried out in respect of fodder plant seed-producing crops and cereal seed-producing crops in Brazil;

- fodder plant seed and cereal seed produced in Brazil and officially certified by its authorities;

- field inspections carried out in respect of cereal seed-producing crops, vegetable seed-producing crops and oil and fibre plant seed-producing crops in the Republic of Moldova;

- cereal seed, vegetable seed and oil and fibre plant seed produced in the Republic of Moldova and officially certified by its authorities.

The Commission examined the relevant legislation of Brazil, and, based on an audit carried out in 2016 concerning the system of official controls and of certification of fodder plant and cereal seed in Brazil, and its equivalence with Union requirements.

Following the audit carried out in 2016 on the Brazilian and Moldovan official controls and seed certification systems for fodder plants and cereals, as well as their equivalence with EU requirements, it was concluded that field inspections of seed producing crops, sampling, testing and official post-controls of fodder plant and cereal seed are carried out correctly and that the national authorities responsible for the implementation of seed certification in Brazil and Moldova are competent and operating effectively.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 11.12.2018.

Equivalence of field inspections carried out and equivalence of seed produced: in Brazil (on fodder plant and cereal seed-producing crops, and of fodder plant and cereal seed); in Moldova (on cereal, vegetable and oil and fibre plant seed-producing crops, and of cereal seed, vegetable seed and oil and fibre plant seed)

2017/0297(COD) - 14/11/2017 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to recognise the equivalence of legal requirements and official controls of Brazil and Moldova for the certification of seeds.

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: Council Decision 2003/17/EC grants **equivalence to certain non-EU countries** as regards field inspections and production of seed of certain species that are carried out in accordance with Union law. The national provisions governing seed harvested and controlled in these countries afford the same assurances as regards the seed’s characteristics and the arrangements for examining it, for ensuring seed identification, for marking and for control as the provisions applicable to seed harvested and controlled within the European Union.

Since Brazil and Moldova are not among these non-EU countries, seed harvested there cannot be imported into the EU.

- **Brazil** submitted a request to the Commission that its fodder plant and cereal seed be covered by Council Decision 2003/17/EC as regards the equivalence of such seed.
- **Moldova** has submitted a request for the Commission to grant equivalence to its system of field inspections of cereal, vegetable and oil and fibre plant seed, and to cereal, vegetable and oil and fibre seed produced and certified in Moldova.

After audits of the field inspections and seed certification systems in Brazil and Moldova, the Commission concluded that the requirements and systems in place in these two countries are equivalent to the EU's and provide the same assurances.

CONTENT: the Commission proposes to amend Decision 2003/17/EC in order to:

- grant equivalence as regards field inspections carried out in respect of fodder plant and cereal seed in Brazil, and as regards fodder plant and cereal seed produced in Brazil and officially certified by its authorities;
- grant equivalence as regards field inspections carried out in respect of cereal, vegetable and oil and fibre plant seed in Moldova, and as regards cereal, vegetable and oil and fibre plant seed produced in Moldova and officially certified by its authorities.