II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COUNCIL

COUNCIL DECISION

of 17 December 1996

amending Decision 95/514/EC on the equivalence of field inspections carried out in third countries on seed-producing crops and on the equivalence of seed produced in third countries

(97/33/EC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 66/400/EEC of 14 June 1966 on the marketing of beet seed [1], and in particular Article 16 (1) thereof,

Having regard to Council Directive 66/401/EEC of 14 June 1966 on the marketing of fodder plant seed [2], and in particular Article 16 (1) thereof,

Having regard to Council Directive 66/402/EEC of 14 June 1966 on the marketing of cereal seed [3], and in particular Article 16 (1) thereof,

Having regard to Council Directive 69/208/EEC of 30 June 1969 on the marketing of seed of oil and fibre plants [4], and in particular Article 15 (1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas, in Decision 95/514/EC [5] it has been determined for a limited period that field inspections carried out in certain third countries on seed-producing crops of certain species satisfies the conditions laid down in Directives 66/400/EEC, 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC and 69/208/EEC; whereas in Decision 95/514/EC it has also been determined that seed of certain species produced in certain third countries was equivalent to corresponding seed produced in the Community;

Whereas Decision 95/514/EC will expire on 31 December 1996; whereas a new decision is therefore necessary;

Whereas, in this Decision, reference to the OECD schemes for the varietal certification of seed moving in international trade was made as one of the bases for Community equivalence;

Whereas in 1995 a system of alternative seed certification was included in these schemes as an experiment;

Whereas, the results of this experiment have not yet been evaluated;

Whereas, in these circumstances, it appears desirable to ensure continuation of the equivalence, but to limit it, to a further period of 12 months,

(1) OJ No 125, 11. 7. 1966, p. 2290/66. Directive as last amended by the 1994 Act of Accession.
(2) OJ No 125, 11. 7. 1966, p. 2298/66. Directive as last amended by Commission Directive 96/18/EC (OJ No L 76, 26. 3. 1996, p. 21).
(3) OJ No 125, 11. 7. 1966, p. 2309/66. Directive as last amended by Commission Directive 95/6/EC (OJ No L 67, 25. 3. 1995, p. 30).
(4) OJ No L 169, 10. 7. 1969, p. 3. Directive as last amended by Commission Directive 96/18/EC (OJ No L 76, 26. 3. 1996, p. 21).
(5) OJ No L 296, 9. 12. 1995, p. 34. Decision as last amended by Commission Decision 96/217/EC (OJ No L 72, 21. 3. 1996, p. 37).

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

In Article 6 of Decision 95/514/EC '31 December 1996' shall be replaced by '31 December 1997'.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 17 December 1996.

For the Council

The President

I. YATES