COUNCIL DECISION

of 16 February 1998

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

(98/162/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)(b) 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)(b) 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)(b) 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)(b) 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 expired on 31 December 1997; whereas a new decision is therefore necessary;

Whereas in Decision 95/514/EC, 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, under this Decision, to a further two years,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

In Article 6 of Decision 95/514/EC '31 December 1997' shall be replaced by '31 December 1999'.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 16 February 1998.

For the Council

The President

J. CUNNINGHAM

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[1] OJ 125, 11. 7. 1966, p. 2290/66. Directive as last amended by Directive 96/72/EC (OJ L 304, 27. 11. 1996, p. 10).
[2] OJ 125, 11. 7. 1996, p. 2298/66. Directive as last amended by Directive 96/72/EC (OJ L 304, 27. 11. 1996, p. 10).
[3] OJ 125, 11. 7. 1996, p. 2309/66. Directive as last amended by Directive 96/72/EC (OJ L 304, 27. 11. 1996, p. 10).
[4] OJ L 169, 10. 7. 1996, p. 3. Directive as last amended by Directive 96/72/EC (OJ L 304, 27. 11. 1996, p. 10).
[5] OJ L 296, 9. 12. 1995, p. 34. Decision as last amended by Decision 97/33/EC (OJ L 13, 16. 1. 1997, p. 31).