II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COUNCIL

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

of 11 October 1977

amending Directive 66/403/EEC on the marketing of seed potatoes

(77/648/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Articles 43 and 100 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament [1],

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee [2],

Whereas it results from Article 15 of Council Directive 66/403/EEC of 14 June 1966 on the marketing of seed potatoes [3], as last amended by Directive 76/307/EEC [4], that after 1 July 1975 Member States may no longer establish under their own responsibility the equivalence of inspections and checks carried out in third countries; whereas, however, the work intended to enable such equivalence to be determined at Community level has not yet been completed;

Whereas, therefore, in order to prevent the Member States' traditional trade patterns being disturbed, the Member States should be granted the possibility of extending the validity of decisions on equivalence already taken by them,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

Article 1

In Article 15 (2) (a) of Directive 66/403/EEC the date of 31 December 1976 shall be replaced by that of 30 June 1978.

Article 2

Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive with effect from 1 January 1977.

They shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof.

Article 3

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Luxembourg, 11 October 1977.

For the Council

The President

A. HUMBLET

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(1) OJ No C 183, 1. 8. 1977, p. 64.
(2) OJ No C 180, 28. 7. 1977, p. 29.
(3) OJ No 125, 11. 7. 1966, p. 2320/66.
(4) OJ No L 72, 18. 3. 1976, p. 16.