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'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)
No. Cion doc.:	14720/17 + ADD 1
No. prev. doc.:	7376/18
Subject:	Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on EU seed equivalence for Brazil and Moldova *- Mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament*

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission submitted the above-mentioned proposal to the European Parliament and to the Council on 14 November 2017. The proposal is based on the TFEU and on Council Directives 66/401/EEC[1], 66/402/EEC[2], 2002/55/EC[3] and 2002/57/EC[4]. The ordinary legislative procedure is applicable.
2. The proposal amends Council Decision 2003/17/EC[5] as regards the equivalence of field inspections carried out in third countries on seed-producing crops and on the equivalence of seed produced in third countries. The proposal recognises Brazilian fodder plant seed and cereal seed and Moldovan cereal seed, vegetable seed and oil and fibre plant seed as equivalent to seed harvested, produced and controlled in the EU.

[1] OJ 125, 11.7.1966, p. 2298.
[2] OJ 125, 11.7.1966, p. 2309.
[3] OJ L 193, 20.7.2002, p. 33.
[4] OJ L 193, 20.7.2002, p. 74.
[5] OJ L 8, 14.1.2003, p. 10.

3. The European Parliament has designated the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) as the lead committee, and the Rapporteur is Mr Czesław Adam SIEKIERSKI (EPP, PL). The Committee has not started the examination of the proposal yet.

4. The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) adopted an opinion[6] on the proposal on 14 February 2018.

II. STATE OF PLAY

5. The proposal was examined by the Working Party on Agricultural Questions (Seeds and Propagating Material) (the Working Party) on two occasions. At the meeting of 16 January 2018, the Commission representative presented the proposal and informed the Working Party of the positive conclusion of the public consultation process. Delegations made a number of comments, which the Presidency took into account in the preparation of a compromise text that was discussed in the Working Party on 4 April 2018. The Working Party unanimously supported the Presidency compromise text, as amended during the meeting (see Addendum 1 to this note).

6. This compromise text includes an amendment of the legal basis to refer to Art. 43(2) TFEU (which foresees a mandatory consultation of the EESC) and to delete the reference to the Council Directives. On this basis, a new consultation of the EESC is required before the adoption of the act.

III. CONCLUSION

7. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited:

- to confirm the agreement reached at the Working Party on the text as set out in the Addendum 1 to this note, and
- to give a mandate to the Presidency to enter into informal trilogues with the representatives of the European Parliament and the Commission on the basis of the above-mentioned text, with a view to reaching, if possible, a first-reading agreement.

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[6] NAT/726 – EESC-2018-00043-00-00-AC-TRA (IT)