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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	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 the Republic of Moldova on fodder plant seed producing crops and on the equivalence of fodder plant seed produced in the Republic of Moldova, and as regards the equivalence of field inspections carried out in Ukraine on beet seed producing crops and oil plant seed-producing crops and on the equivalence of beet seed and oil plant seed produced in Ukraine - Outcome of the European Parliament's first reading (Brussels, 21 to 22 May 2025)

I. INTRODUCTION

A number of informal contacts have taken place between the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission with a view to reaching an agreement on this proposal at first reading.

In this context, the Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI), Veronika VRECIONOVÁ (ECR, CZ), presented on behalf of AGRI a compromise amendment (amendments number 1 to 2) to the abovementioned proposal for a Decision, for which she had prepared a draft report. This amendment had been agreed during the informal contacts referred to above. In addition, the Patriots for Europe (Pfe) group tabled three amendments (amendments number 3 to 5).

II. VOTE

When it voted on 22 May 2025, the plenary adopted the compromise amendment (amendments number 1 to 2) to the abovementioned proposal for a Decision. No other amendments were adopted. The Commission's proposal as thus amended constitutes the Parliament's first-reading position which is contained in its legislative resolution as set out in the Annex hereto¹.

The Parliament's position reflects what had been previously agreed between the institutions. The Council should therefore be in a position to approve the Parliament's position.

The act would then be adopted in the wording which corresponds to the Parliament's position.

¹ The version of the Parliament's position in the legislative resolution has been marked up to indicate the changes made by the amendments to the Commission's proposal. Additions to the Commission's text are highlighted in ***bold and italics***. The symbol "■" indicates deleted text.

P10_TA(2025)0110

Granting equivalence to Moldova and Ukraine for field inspections and seed production

European Parliament legislative resolution of 22 May 2025 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 the Republic of Moldova on fodder plant seed-producing crops and on the equivalence of fodder plant seed produced in the Republic of Moldova, and as regards the equivalence of field inspections carried out in Ukraine on beet seed-producing crops and oil plant seed-producing crops and on the equivalence of beet seed and oil plant seed produced in Ukraine (COM(2024)0052 – C9-0026/2024 – 2024/0027(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2024)0052),
 - having regard to Article 294(2) and Article 43(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C9-0026/2024),
 - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee of 20 March 2024¹,
 - having regard to the undertaking given by the Council representative by letter of 30 April 2025 to approve Parliament's position, in accordance with Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to Rule 60 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (A10-0043/2025),
1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;
 2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;
 3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

¹ OJ C, C/2024/3386, 31.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/3386/oj>.

Position of the European Parliament adopted at first reading on 22 May 2025 with a view to the adoption of Decision (EU) 2025/... 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 Republic of Moldova on seed-producing fodder plant crops and on the equivalence of fodder plant seed produced in the Republic of Moldova, and as regards the equivalence of field inspections carried out in Ukraine on seed-producing beet crops and seed-producing oil plant crops and on the equivalence of beet seed and oil plant seed produced in Ukraine

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 43(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee¹,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure²,

¹ OJ C, C/2024/3386, 31.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/3386/oj>.

² Position of the European Parliament of 22 May 2025.

Whereas:

- (1) Council Decision 2003/17/EC³ provides that, under certain conditions, field inspections carried out on certain seed-producing crops in the third countries listed in Annex I to that Decision are to be considered equivalent to field inspections carried out in accordance with Union law and that, under certain conditions, seed of certain species produced in those third countries is to be considered equivalent to seed complying with Union law.
- (2) In 2022, the Republic of Moldova submitted a request to the Commission for the granting of equivalence to its system of field inspections of seed-producing fodder plant crops and to fodder plant seed produced and certified in the Republic of Moldova.
- (3) The Commission examined the relevant legislation of the Republic of Moldova. It also carried out, in 2016, an audit of the system of official controls and of certification of cereal, vegetable and oil and fibre plant seed in the Republic of Moldova and published its findings in a report. ***Following the receipt of additional documentation from the Republic of Moldova, the Commission considered that all recommendations made in the audit report had been addressed in a satisfactory manner.*** On the basis of the audit and the additional documentation, the Commission has concluded that the national authorities responsible for the implementation of seed certification in the Republic of Moldova are competent, have adequate facilities in place and operate appropriately. Those authorities are also responsible for field inspections of seed-producing fodder plant crops and for the certification of fodder plant seed.

³ Council Decision 2003/17/EC of 16 December 2002 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 (OJ L 8, 14.1.2003, p. 10, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2003/17\(1\)/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2003/17(1)/oj)).

- (4) On the basis of the examination of the legislation of the Republic of Moldova and of the audit, the Commission has concluded that the field inspections of seed-producing fodder plant crops and the sampling, testing and official post-control of fodder plant seed in the Republic of Moldova are carried out appropriately and satisfy the requirements set out in Annex II to Decision 2003/17/EC and in Council Directive 66/401/EEC⁴.
- (5) In 2022, Ukraine submitted a request to the Commission for the granting of equivalence to its system of field inspections of seed-producing beet (*Beta vulgaris*), sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) and swede rape (*Brassica napus*) crops and to the beet, sunflower and swede rape seed produced and certified in Ukraine.
- (6) In 2023, Ukraine submitted a request to the Commission for the granting of equivalence to its system of field inspections of seed-producing soya bean (*Glycine max*) crops, and to the soya bean seed produced and certified in Ukraine.

⁴ Council Directive 66/401/EEC of 14 June 1966 on the marketing of fodder plant seed (OJ 125, 11.7.1966, p. 2298/66, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/1966/401/oj>).

- (7) The Commission examined the relevant legislation of Ukraine. It also carried out, in 2015, an audit of the system of official controls and of certification of cereal seed in Ukraine and published its findings in a report. ***Following the receipt of additional documentation from Ukraine, the Commission considered that all recommendations made in the audit report had been addressed in a satisfactory manner.*** On the basis of the audit and the additional documentation, the Commission has concluded that the national authorities responsible for the implementation of seed certification in Ukraine are competent, have adequate facilities in place and operate appropriately. Those authorities are also responsible for the field inspections of seed-producing beet, sunflower, swede rape and soya bean crops, and for the certification of beet, sunflower, swede rape and soya bean seed.
- (8) On the basis of the examination of the legislation of Ukraine and of the audit, the Commission has concluded that the field inspections of seed-producing beet, sunflower, swede rape and soya bean crops and the sampling, testing and official post-control of beet, sunflower, swede rape and soya bean seed in Ukraine are carried out appropriately and satisfy the requirements set out in Annex II to Decision 2003/17/EC and in Council Directives 2002/54/EC⁵ and 2002/57/EC⁶.

⁵ Council Directive 2002/54/EC of 13 June 2002 on the marketing of beet seed (OJ L 193, 20.7.2002, p. 12, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2002/54/oj>).

⁶ Council Directive 2002/57/EC of 13 June 2002 on the marketing of seed of oil and fibre plants (OJ L 193, 20.7.2002, p. 74, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2002/57/oj>).

- (9) The Republic of Moldova has been admitted, as regards fodder plants, to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Schemes for the Varietal Certification or the Control of Seed Moving in International Trade ('OECD Seed Schemes').
- (10) Ukraine has been admitted, as regards beet, sunflower, swede rape and soya bean, to the OECD Seed Schemes.
- (11) The Republic of Moldova and Ukraine have seed laboratories accredited by the International Seed Testing Association. That fact provides additional assurance as to the quality of the inspections and of the seed produced in those countries and their compliance with Union law.

- (12) It is therefore appropriate to grant equivalence as regards field inspections carried out in respect of seed-producing fodder plant crops in the Republic of Moldova, and as regards the fodder plant seed produced in the Republic of Moldova and officially certified by its authorities.
- (13) It is also appropriate to grant equivalence as regards field inspections carried out in respect of seed-producing beet, sunflower, swede rape and soya bean crops in Ukraine, and as regards the seed of beet, sunflower, swede rape and soya bean produced in Ukraine and officially certified by its authorities.
- (14) Decision 2003/17/EC should be therefore amended accordingly,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1
Amendments to Decision 2003/17/EC

Annex I to Decision 2003/17/EC is amended in accordance with the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2
Entry into force

This Decision shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Article 3
Addressees

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at ...,

For the European Parliament
The President

For the Council
The President

ANNEX

In Annex I to Decision 2003/17/EC, the table is amended as follows:

- (1) the entry 'MD' is replaced by the following:

'MD'	National Agency for Food Safety (ANSA) str. Mihail Kogălniceanu 63, MD-2009, CHIȘINĂU	66/401/EEC 66/402/EEC 2002/55/EC 2002/57/EC'
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- (2) the entry 'UA' is replaced by the following:

'UA'	Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine Khreshchatyk str. 24, 01001 KYIV	66/402/EEC 2002/54/EC 2002/57/EC – only in respect of <i>Brassica napus</i> , <i>Glycine max</i> and <i>Helianthus</i> <i>annuus</i> '
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