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'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)
No. Cion doc.:	6264/24 + ADD 1
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 *- Mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament*

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 5 February 2024, the Commission submitted to the Council and the European Parliament a proposal for a Decision amending Council Decision 2003/17/EC as regards the equivalence of field inspections carried out and seed produced in the Republic of Moldova and in Ukraine[1].

[1] 6264/24 + ADD 1

2. The Republic of Moldova and Ukraine had submitted requests to extend the existing equivalences set out in Council Decision 2003/17/EC for those countries, to cover seed of additional crops. The Commission's evaluation of those requests resulted in a favourable outcome.

3. The proposal aims to grant equivalence with EU requirements for seed of certain crops produced in the Republic of Moldova and in Ukraine, following the above-mentioned requests. It further aims to allow EU-based companies to diversify their seed production areas and therefore contribute to reducing risks and to maintaining the continuous supply of high quality seed in the EU.

4. The draft Decision is based on Article 43(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) (ordinary legislative procedure).

5. The European Economic and Social Committee delivered its opinion on 20 March 2024[2].

6. The European Parliament has not yet started the examination of the proposal.

II. WORK WITHIN THE COUNCIL

7. The proposal has been examined by the Working Party on Genetic Resources and Innovation in Agriculture (Seeds, Propagating and Planting Materials) (hereafter the Working Party). At the Working Party meeting of 27 February 2024, the representative of the Commission presented the proposal. At its meeting of 19 April 2024, the Working Party finalised its discussions of the draft Decision.

[2] 8195/24

8. The proposal is not accompanied by an impact assessment, as the Commission considered that significant economic, social or environmental impacts are not expected. Two delegations commented that in their view, an impact assessment should be carried out.

9. Based on the views expressed by delegations at technical level, and following a written consultation on the Presidency text[3], which introduced limited amendments to the recitals only, the Presidency concluded that while some delegations could not support the text, there was sufficient support from delegations to submit the text to the Permanent Representatives Committee without further modifications.

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III. CONCLUSION

10. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to confirm agreement on the text of the mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament, as set out in the addendum (ADD 1) to this note, to enable the Presidency to conduct those negotiations.

11. In accordance with the approach to legislative transparency endorsed by Coreper on 14 July 2020[4], and in full consistency with Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 and the Council's Rules of Procedure, the text of the mandate thus agreed will be made public unless the Permanent Representatives Committee objects.

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[3] 9340/24
[4] 9493/20