



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

Brussels, 03 September 2024

**Interinstitutional files:
2023/0227 (COD)**

WK 10901/2024 INIT

LIMITE

**AGRI
AGRILEG
SEMENCES
PHYTOSAN
FORETS
CODEC**

This is a paper intended for a specific community of recipients. Handling and further distribution are under the sole responsibility of community members.

MEETING DOCUMENT

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Party on Genetic Resources and Innovation in Agriculture (Seeds, Propagating and Planting Materials)
Subject:	Meeting of the Working Party on Genetic Resources and Innovation in Agriculture (Seeds, Propagating and Planting Materials; PRM) on 3 and 4 September 2024 - Commission presentation on Value for Sustainable Cultivation and Use (VSCU): Article 52 and related articles of the proposal for a Regulation on plant reproductive material

Delegations will find in Annex the presentation by the Commission services for the meeting of the Working Party on Genetic Resources and Innovation in Agriculture (Seeds, Propagating and Planting Materials; PRM) on 3 and 4 September 2024 on the above mentioned subject.

WK 10901/2024 INIT

LIMITE

EN



PUBLIC

Value for Sustainable Cultivation and Use (VSCU)

Article 52 and related articles of the proposal for a Regulation on plant reproductive material

PRM WP 3-4 September 2024

Policy objectives

The general objective of this initiative is to ensure, for all types of users, PRM of high quality and diversity of choice, adapted to current and future projected climatic conditions that will in turn contribute to food security, protection of biodiversity and restoration of forest ecosystems.

The availability and access to varieties with strengthened sustainability characteristics are essential to improve sustainability by ensuring the stability of yield of agricultural production and of the productivity of forest ecosystems.

Current situation



- Current breeding programmes and variety selection practices do not sufficiently prepare for climatic uncertainty and variability.
- Crop losses already significant.

Options considered

1. Strengthened sustainability requirements but voluntary for fruit plants and vegetables
2. Strengthened sustainability requirements, mandatory for all but flexible
3. Strengthened sustainability requirements, mandatory for all and harmonised

Issues examined in the impact assessment and solutions given in the proposal

COSTS

1. Increased capacity of competent authorities to carry out VSCU
2. Increased cost of registration of new varieties
3. In short term potential reduction of registered varieties
4. Transfer of costs to the price of PRM of farmers

BENEFITS

- Farmers: reduced crop losses
- Society: increased food security

SOLUTIONS IN THE PROPOSAL

- Possibility to carry out VSCU under official supervision
- Establishing collaboration between Member States
- Delayed applicability for fruit plants and vegetables
- Coherence with the proposal on NGTs

Article 47

Requirements for registration in national variety registers

VSCU as set out in Article 52 is a requirement for the registration of varieties [other than conservation varieties] for all crop categories

- An evolution of current requirements for
 - Agricultural crops (VCU under Directive 2002/53 on the common catalogue)
 - Vine (minimum conditions for inspecting vine varieties under Directive 2004/29)
- New requirement for
 - Vegetables
 - Fruit plants

Art. 52(1) VSCU



Satisfactory VSCU:

1. Compared to other varieties registered in the national variety register of the respective Member State
2. Characteristics, **taken as a whole**, offer a clear improvement for the sustainable cultivation and the uses which can be made of
 - the crops
 - other plants or
 - the products derived therefrom.

Art. 52(1) - VSCU characteristics

As appropriate for the species, regions, agro-ecological conditions and uses concerned:

- a) yield, including yield stability and yield under low-input conditions;
- b) tolerance/resistance to biotic stresses;
- c) tolerance/resistance to abiotic stresses, including adaptation to climate change conditions;
- d) more efficient use of natural resources;
- e) reduced need for external inputs;
- f) characteristics that enhance the sustainability of storage, processing and distribution;
- g) quality or nutritional characteristics.

Art. 52(2) – Possibility for collaboration between Member States

PUBLIC

Member States may collaborate with other Member States with similar agro-ecological conditions.

Those Member States may establish shared facilities for carrying out the examination for VSCU.

Art.52(3) - VSCU requirements (COM Delegated Act)

Commission Delegated Act for setting:

- minimum requirements for carrying out the VSCU examination
- methodologies for assessing the VSCU characteristics;
- standards for the evaluation and the reporting of the results of the VSCU examination.

National rules until COM DA is adopted.

Art.52(4) – VSCU for organic varieties

- Organic varieties suitable for organic production (Article 3(19) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848)
- VSCU examination shall be conducted under organic conditions
- If not possible, testing may be carried out
 - under low-input conditions and
 - with only the absolutely necessary for the completion of the testing treatments with pesticides and other external inputs.

Art. 61 - VSCU Under official supervision

Applicants may carry out the VSCU examination if:

- Applicant is authorised by the competent authority
- VSCU examination carried out under the official supervision of the competent authority
- VSCU carried out in premises dedicated to that purpose.

Authorisation subject to audit by the competent authority.

Art. 83 – Date of applicability

- Article 52 (VSCU requirements) shall apply from 60 months from the date of the entry into force of this Regulation for vegetable and fruit plant species.

Thank you

PUBLIC



© European Union 2024

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.