EU LEGISLATION ON SEED AND PROPAGATING MATERIAL

- Agriculture
- Vegetables
- Vine
- Forestry
- Ornamentals
- Fruit

REASONS FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE LEGISLATION

The adoption of rigorous conditions in selecting those varieties which can be placed on the market will bring profitable results in terms of productivity

The use of good seed will lead to satisfactory results in cultivation

Free marketing of seed and propagating material within the EU

Member States have the right to implement additional or stricter measures on the domestic production

Marketing Directives do not apply to seed and propagating material shown to be intended for export to third countries

IMPORT FROM COUNTRIES NOT BELONGING TO THE COMMUNITY

Under the Community Directives on the marketing of seed and propagating material, the material produced in non-member countries may, in principle, be marketed within the Community only when Community equivalence has been established

Recognition of equivalence is accorded in principle by Council Decisions

Agriculture - Vegetables

SEED MARKETING DIRECTIVES

Council Directive 66/401/EEC of 14 June 1966 on the marketing of fodder plant species

Council Directive 66/402/EEC of 14 June 1966 on the marketing of cereal seed

Council Directive 2002/53/EC of 13 June 2002 on the common catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species

Council Directive 2002/54/EC of 13 June 2002 on the marketing of beet seed

Council Directive 2002/55/EC of 13 June 2002 on the marketing of vegetable seed

Council Directive 92/33/EEC of 28 April 1992 on the marketing of vegetable propagating and planting material, other than seed

Council Directive 2002/56/EC of 13 June 2002 on the marketing of seed potatoes

Council Directive 2002/57/EC of 13 June 2002 on the marketing of seed of oil and fibre plants

SPECIFIC REASONS FOR THE ADOPTION OF SEED DIRECTIVES

Implementation of a unified system of certification will give the user of seed guarantees in respect of varietal identity and purity, germination capacity and specific purity as well as guaranteeing the seed bought from a plant health point of view

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE SEED MARKETING DIRECTIVES

- Listing of varieties
- Seed certification

PARENT DIRECTIVES

Council Directive 2002/53/EC of 13 June 2002 on the Common Catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species

Council Directive 2002/55/EC of 13 June 2002 on the marketing of vegetable seed

IMPLEMENTING MEASURES

Commission Directive 2003/90/EC
(Agricultural species)

Commission Directive 2003/91/EC (Vegetables)

Commission Regulation 930/2000/EC
(Denomination)

LISTING OF VARIETIES AND COMMON CATALOGUE

Member States must ensure that a variety is accepted only if it is distinct, stable and sufficiently uniform

In the case of agricultural plant species, the variety must be of satisfactory value for cultivation and use

GM Plant varieties

Free marketing

Seed of GM plant varieties can be marketed freely in the EU if the GM variety is included in the Common Catalogue of Agricultural Plant Species (Directive 2002/53/EC) or of Vegetable Plant Species (Directive 2002/55/EC).

GM – Plant Varieties

Labelling

GM varieties are clearly indicated in the Common Catalogue.

Seeds of GM varieties have to be labelled as belonging to a genetically modified variety, with the unique identifier of the GMO event.

Conditions to be met by a GM variety to be included in the Common Catalogue of Agricultural Plant Species

- Release of the GMO into the environment must be authorised under the relevant EU GMO legislation (Directive 2001/18/EC or Regulation EC N° 1829/2003).

- In the case the variety will be further used for GM food/GM feed use: the GM food/feed must be authorised in accordance with Regulation
  EC N° 1829/2003.

- 31 GM maize varieties derived from the maize line MON 810 have been included in the Common Catalogue of Agricultural Plant Species.

GM – Plant Varieties

- Several Member States have applied prohibitions or requests for prohibition of GM varieties by making use of provisions of the Common Catalogue Directive

- Greece has not been authorised to prohibit GM varieties, while Poland has been authorised.

COEXISTENCE

- Coexistence refers to the ability of farmers to make a practical choice between conventional, organic and genetically modified (GM) crop production. It is also a precondition for consumer choice.
- It is considered that coexistence is best addressed at the level of individual MS, due to the very diverse conditions under which crops are produced in the MS. Recommendation 2003/556/EC of 23 July 2003 provides for guidelines for the development of national strategies and best practices to ensure the coexistence of genetically modified crops with conventional and organic farming.

COEXISTENCE

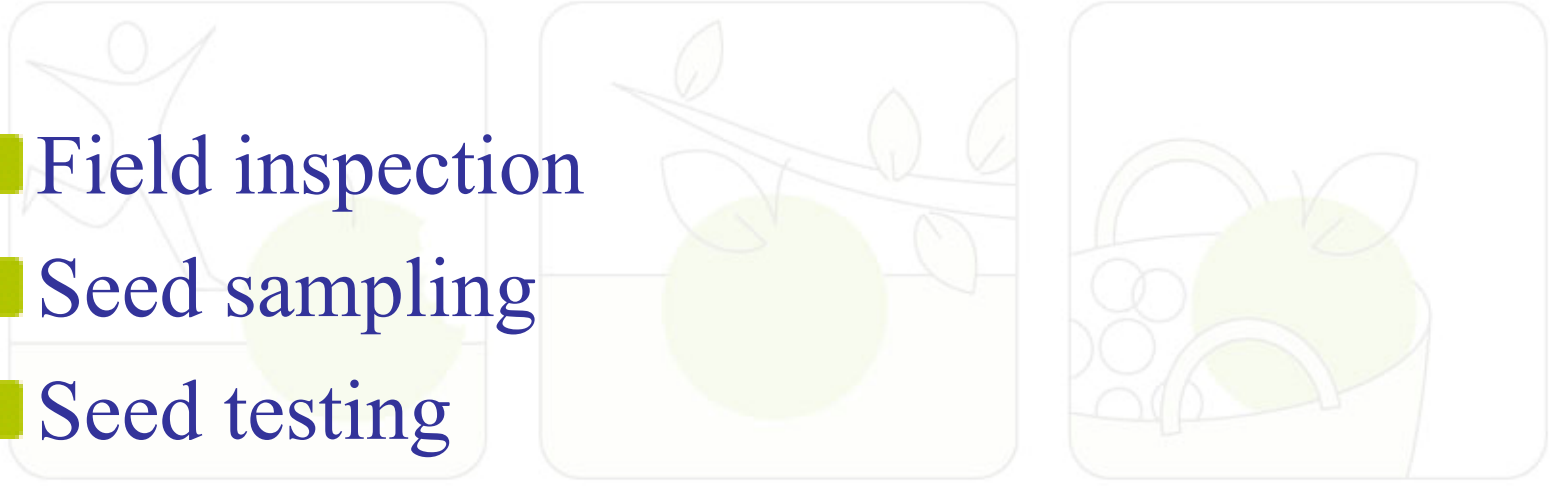
- The Recommendation intends to help Member States develop national legislative or other strategies for coexistence.

- Coexistence concerns only the *economic* aspects of the admixture of GM and non-GM crops, and the appropriate measures to prevent admixture, with a view to stay below the labelling thresholds.

COEXISTENCE

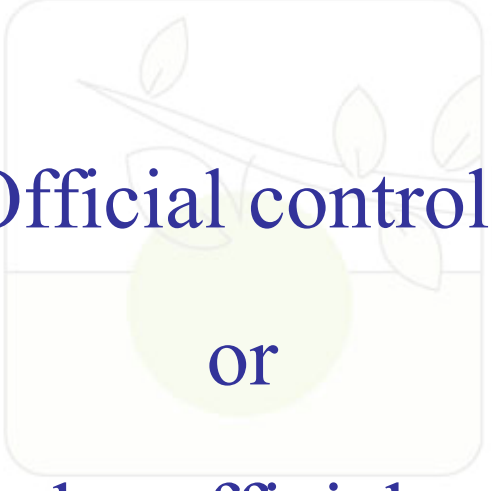
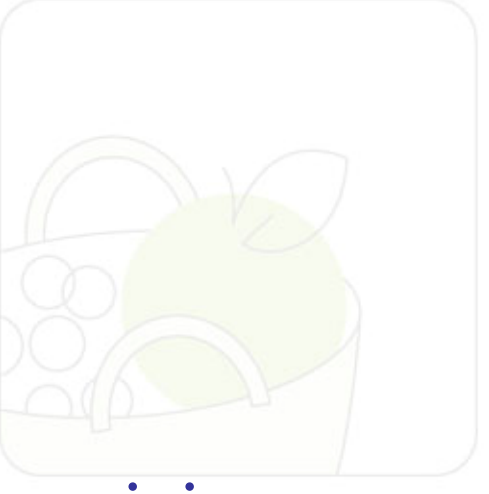
- There are no specific thresholds yet for the adventitious presence of GM seeds in seeds used for conventional or organic farming. This means that all seed lots with detectable traces of GMOs have to be labelled as GM.
- An implementation report on national measures for co-existence can be obtained at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/coexistence/index_en.htm

SEED CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES



- Field inspection
- Seed sampling
- Seed testing
- Labelling
- Post control

SEED CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES

Official controls

or

Control under official supervision

SEED CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES

Controls under official supervision

(only seed of the category certified seed)

- Conditions concerning personnel
- Conditions concerning crop (or seed testing facilities for technological component)
- Random checks (5% at least)
- Penalties

OFFICIAL LABELS

- White with purple stripe – Pre-basic
- White - Basic
- Blue - Certified seed first generation
- Red - Certified seed second generation
- Green - Seed mixture
- Brown - Commercial seed

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SEED AND PROPAGATING MATERIAL FOR AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Established by Council Directive 66/399/EEC

Vine - Forestry

MARKETING OF MATERIAL FOR THE VEGETATIVE PROPAGATION OF VINE

DEFINITIONS

A. ***Vines*:** Plant of the genus vitis (L.) intended
for the production of grapes or use as a propagation material for such plants

B. ***Variety:*** A plant grouping within a single botanical taxon of the lowest known rank

C. ***Clone***: A clone is the vegetative progeny of a variety which is true to a vine stock chosen on account of varietal identity, its phenotypic characteristics and its state of health

FOREST REPRODUCTIVE MATERIAL (COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 1999/105/EC)

For the purpose of the Directive,

basic material means any one of the following:

- **Seed source**

  Trees within an area from which seed is collected

- **Stand**

  A delineated population of trees possessing sufficient uniformity in comparison

Seed orchard

A plantation of selected clones or families which is isolated or managed so as to avoid or reduce pollination from outside sources, and managed to produce frequent, abundant and easily harvested crops of seed

Parents of family

Trees used to obtain progeny by controlled or open pollination of one identified parent used as a female, with the pollen of one parent (full-sibling) or a number of identified or unidentified parents (half siblings)

- **Clone**

  Group of individuals (ramets) derived originally from a single individual (ortet) by vegetative propagation, for example by cuttings, micropropagation, grafts, layers or divisions

- **Clonal mixture**

  A mixture of identified clones in defined proportions

Fruit - Ornamentals

STANDING COMMITTEE ORNAMENTALS/FRUIT

- Propagating material and plants of fruit genera and species
- Propagating Material of ornamental plants