



OECD Schemes for the Varietal Certification of Seed Moving in International Trade

**DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL DESIGNATED AUTHORITIES**

Begnins/Geneva, Switzerland, 20 October 2000

The present document was prepared by the Secretariat. It is circulated to Delegations and National Designated Authorities for COMMENTS by 10 January 2001 with a view to its adoption at the 2001 Annual Meeting.

This Extraordinary Meeting followed immediately the 2nd Meeting of the Working Group on Genetically Modified Seed Issues held in Begnins, Switzerland on 19-20 October 2000. The list of participants is shown in the Annex to the draft Summary Record of the Working Group AGR/CA/S/M(2000)8.

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**DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL DESIGNATED AUTHORITIES**

held in Begnins/Geneva (Switzerland) on 20 October 2000

1. Opening of the Meeting

Sra A. Harries, Chairman of the Annual Meeting, opened the Extraordinary Meeting which followed immediately the 2nd Meeting of the Working Group on Genetically Modified Seed Issues.

It was reminded that the present formal Meeting of the National Designated Authorities was organised with a view to examine and endorse the conclusions of the preceding Working Group meeting.

2. Adoption of Draft Agenda [AGR/CA/S/A(2000)7]

Due to the lack of agreement by the Working Group about starting an official OECD experiment on the adventitious presence of genetically modified seed in OECD certified seed lots, item 4 of the draft agenda "Statements of participation by ISTA, AOSA and FIS" was no more relevant.

No discussion on additional items being requested, item 6 of the draft Agenda "Other Business" was also cancelled

3. Adoption of Draft Summary Records

[AGR/CA/S/M(2000)6, item 11 and AGR/CA/S/M(2000)7]

Due to the lack of time, the formal adoption of the Celle/Hanover and San Antonio/USA Summary Records could not be discussed. In response to a request of the EU delegate, It was confirmed that the item will be part of the 2001 Annual Meeting Agenda.

**4. Adoption of the Conclusions of the 2nd Meeting
of the Working Group on Genetically Modified Seed Issues and the Extraordinary Meeting
of Representatives of the National Designated Authorities**

The conclusions were adopted as follows:

- Papers AGR/CA/S(2000)27 and 28 would be rewritten as a result of the present meeting;
- Argentina, Canada, Chile and USA informed the meeting that they would undertake a technical experiment between themselves along the lines of the OECD documents and using a 1 % threshold as a starting point with associated confidence levels. AOSCA offered to help with this experiment. It would be the subject of a report to the Working Group on Genetically Modified Seed Issues and the 2001 Annual Meeting.
- FIS and ISTA agreed to co-operate with this initiative and appoint experts for an interim technical committee.

- Special attention would be paid to sample size and the number of samples in respect of any threshold; it was reminded that the Schemes already permitted on some conditions voluntary additional statements on the OECD labels. The meaning of traditional varietal purity standards would be examined with respect to genetic modification-linked molecular varietal purity levels.
- The EU representatives expressed support for the OECD experiment based on the Advisory Committee proposal included as Item 8 of the OECD document AGR/CA/S(2000)27. The substantial room document circulated by the EU Commission indicated the willingness of the Commission and EU Member States to continue to discuss the important issues that were still unresolved.
- The Advisory Group would meet to take stock of the problems and to advise for the best way to pursue discussions and the best use of experimental results as they became available.
- In lieu of a proposal for endorsement of an OECD Scheme-wide experiment by the Committee for Agriculture, the Secretariat would report the current situation to the Committee for information and comments.

ANNEX I

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
WORKING GROUP MEETING AND EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
(Begnins, Switzerland, 19-20 October 2000)**

See document AGR/CA/S/M(2000)8