

European Seed Association



ESA Recommendation

on the

**Report of Mrs Danielle Auroi, MEP (Verts, F)
Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development
on
Commission proposal amending ten Directives on
Marketing of seeds, propagating material and plants:
Community comparative trials
(COM (02) 0523)**

Brussels, 17/03/2003

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ESA European Seed Association represents the entire European seed industry covering plant breeding, seed production and seed marketing. With that, ESA represents more than 400 EU based companies, many of them small and medium sized enterprises, and 29 national seed associations from all current EU Members States.

In its function as European head organisation of the seed industry, ESA is very concerned about the report drafted by Mrs Danielle Auroi, MEP for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development regarding the Commission's proposal for amending the seed marketing Directives in view of Community comparative trials.

The draft report fails to address the key legislative question posed to the European Parliament, which is the harmonisation of existing legislation in view of comparative trials and of respective funding via the EU budget.

At the same time, the draft report proposes a large number of amendments which do address issues that do not belong in this specific piece of legislation, that are already under discussion in other proper draft legislative proposals or are based on a false perception of the legal as well as practical realities of plant breeding and comparative trials of new plant varieties under EU legislation*.

ESA therefore strongly urges the Members of the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development
- to reject all amendments put forward by the rapporteur, Mrs Danielle Auroi, and
- to adopt the Commission's proposal without any of the amendments tabled.

* Traceability and Labelling of GMOs and GM food/feed – v. reports Scheele and Trakatelli: of June 2002 and Council Political Agreement on Common Position of December 2002; second reading in EP expected for spring/summer 2003: under discussion
Organic seed for organic farming – v. revision of Regulation 2092/91/EC: under discussion
Conservation of plant genetic resources in situ, amateur varieties and landraces – v. Commission Working Doc. of 11.11.2002 in preparation of a stakeholder debate in 2003: under discussion