



**ESA Section Potatoes**  
**Position**  
**on**  
**Monitoring of Quarantine Diseases in Potato**  
**in relation to Farm Saved Seed**

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ESA is the voice of the European seed industry, representing the interests of those active in research, breeding, production and marketing of seeds of agricultural, horticultural and ornamental plant species.

The ESA Section Potatoes (SPO) represents more specifically the European potato breeders involved in research, plant breeding, production and marketing of potatoes used for planting corresponding to the need of farmers, the processing industry and consumers.

**Legal framework**

- Council Directive 2000/29/EC (general Directive on plant health)

The Directive addresses protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community. Based on this Directive, national plant protection services are charged to conduct regular surveys on the presence of certain harmful organisms in the respective Member States and to take the appropriate measures to prevent further spreading of these organisms within the Community. This Directive addresses tubers or plants of Solanum tuberosum intended for planting without making a difference between certified seed potatoes or potatoes used as Farm Saved Seed (FSS). This means that the legal instrument to address FSS potatoes with regard to phytosanitary matters within the European Union is in place.

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

According to this Directive seed potatoes certified as either basic seed potatoes or certified seed potatoes should satisfy certain minimum conditions including a number of conditions in relation to specific potato plant pathogens.

- Council Regulation 2100/94 on Community Plant Variety Rights.

Article 14 of this Regulation provides for a derogation from the Community Plant Variety Right in allowing farmers to use for propagating purposes in the field, on their own

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holding, the product of the harvest which they have obtained by planting, on their own holding, propagating material of a variety other than a hybrid or synthetic variety, which is covered by a Community plant variety right. This derogation applies to a restricted number of agricultural species including potatoes

### Present situation

Seed potatoes officially certified on the basis of Directive 2002/56/EC should satisfy minimum conditions as specified in Annex I and II of the Directive. A number of these conditions are related to certain plant diseases.

Seed potatoes used as FSS are in general not officially inspected.

The estimated use of Farm Saved Seed in potatoes in the present 25 Member States of the European Union varies between 22% and 90%, depending of the specific country.

### Monitoring of all seed potatoes

The ESA Section Potatoes (SPO) is of the opinion that due to the very significant use of farm saved seed potatoes without any control of their phytosanitary condition, the general policy objective of the European Commission and the 25 Member States to ban or restrict further spreading of specific diseases (as laid down in the respective legislation) is undermined.

The ESA SPO therefore urges the Member States of the European Union to introduce on national level a system to monitor seed potatoes with regard to potato quarantine diseases, including potatoes used as Farm Saved Seed.

### ESA Mission Statement

ESA is the voice of the European seed industry, representing the interests of those active in research, breeding, production and marketing of seeds of agricultural, horticultural and ornamental plant species.

Plants from seed are the origin of all food, provide innovative and environmentally friendly industrial products and beautify our landscape.

ESA's mission is to work for:

- ◆ effective protection of intellectual property rights relating to plants and seeds;
- ◆ fair and proportionate regulation of the European seed industry;
- ◆ freedom of choice for customers (farmers, growers, industry, consumers) in supplying seeds as a result of innovative, diverse technologies and production methods