

No L 236/14

Official Journal of the European Communities

18.10.72

COMMISSION DECISION

of 4 October 1972

setting up an Advisory Committee on Seeds

(72/350/EEC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community;

Whereas, under point V of its final resolution, the Agricultural Conference of Member States which met at Stresa from 3 to 12 July 1958 noted with satisfaction 'the intention expressed by the Commission to maintain close and continuous cooperation with... trade organizations, in particular for the implementation of the tasks provided for in this resolution';

Whereas, in its Opinion of 6 May 1960, the Economic and Social Committee requested the Commission 'to involve at Community level interested producers', traders' and employers' organizations and consumers in the work of each of these offices and funds within an Advisory Committee';

Whereas it is necessary that the Commission obtain the views of the various sections of the industry and of consumers on problems arising from the establishment of a common organization of the market in seeds;

Whereas all sections of the industry directly affected by the introduction of that common organization of the market, and also consumers, should have the possibility of participating in the formulation of opinions requested by the Commission;

Whereas the various representative agricultural bodies and consumer associations in the Member States have formed organizations at Community level;

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

1. There shall be attached to the Commission an Advisory Committee on Seeds (hereinafter called the 'Committee').

2. The following groups shall be represented on the Committee: agricultural producers, agricultural cooperatives, the seed industry, wholesale traders who grow their own seed, workers in the agricultural sector and consumers.

Article 2

1. The Committee may be consulted by the Commission on any problem concerning the implementation of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2358/71¹ of 26 October 1971 on the common organization of the market in seeds and in particular on measures adopted within the framework of that Regulation.

2. The Chairman of the Committee may, in particular at the request of any of the groups represented, indicate to the Commission the desirability of consulting the Committee on any matter within the latter's competence but on which its opinion has not been sought.

Article 3

1. The Committee shall consist of twenty-eight members.

2. Seats on the Committee shall be apportioned as follows:

- fourteen to representatives of agricultural producers and agricultural cooperatives, of whom five shall represent seed-producing cooperatives;
- nine to representatives of wholesale traders who grow their own seed, of whom four shall represent distributors growing their own seed;
- one to a representative of agricultural industries;

¹ OJ No L 246, 5.11.1971, p. 1.

- three to representatives of workers in agriculture;
- one to a consumers' representative.

Article 4

1. Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Commission on proposals from the trade or consumers' organizations set up at Community level which are most representative of the groups referred to in Article 1 (2) and whose activities come within the scope of the common organization of the market in seeds.

These organizations shall put forward the names of two candidates of different nationalities for each place to be filled.

2. The term of office for members of the Committee shall be three years. Their appointments may be renewed. The duties performed shall be unremunerated.

After expiry of the three years, members of the Committee shall remain in office until they are replaced or until their appointments are renewed.

In the event of the death or resignation of a member of the Committee or of his ceasing to belong to the organization which he represents, he shall be replaced for the remainder of his term of office in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 1.

3. The list of members shall be published by the Commission for information purposes in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

Article 5

The Committee shall, by a two-thirds majority of members present, elect a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen for a period of three years.

It may, by the same majority, elect other members as officers. In that case, the officers other than the Chairman shall include not more than one representative of each group represented on the Committee.

The officers shall prepare and organize the work of the Committee.

Article 6

At the request of any of the groups represented, the Chairman may invite a representative of the central

body of the group concerned to be present at meetings. He may in the same manner request any person with special qualifications in one of the subjects on the agenda to take part in an expert capacity in meetings of the Committee.

Experts shall be present only at the discussion in the Committee of those questions on account of which they were invited.

Article 7

The Committee may set up internal working parties.

Article 8

1. The Committee shall be convened by the Commission and shall meet at Commission headquarters. Meetings of the officers shall be convened by the Chairman in agreement with the Commission.

2. Representatives of the Commission departments concerned shall take part in meetings of the Committee, its officers and its working parties.

3. The Commission shall provide secretarial services for the Committee, its officers and its working parties.

Article 9

1. The Committee shall discuss matters on which the Commission has requested an opinion. No vote shall be taken.

2. The Commission may, when seeking the opinion of the Committee, set a time limit within which such opinion shall be given.

3. The views expressed by the groups represented shall be included in a report of the proceedings forwarded to the Commission.

In the event of unanimous agreement being reached in the Committee on the opinion to be given, the Committee shall formulate joint conclusions and attach them to the report.

The outcome of the Committee's discussions shall be communicated by the Commission to the Council or the Management Committee on request.

Article 10

Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 214 of the Treaty, where the Commission informs them that the opinion requested is on a matter of a confidential nature, members of the Committee shall not disclose information which has come to their knowledge through the work of the Committee.

In such cases, only Committee members and the representatives of the Commission departments shall be present at the meetings.

Article 11

This Decision may be amended by the Commission in the light of experience.

Done at Brussels, 4 October 1972.

For the Commission

The President

S. L. MANSHOLT