



The proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the production and making available on the market of plant reproductive material in the Union.

The proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the production and making available on the market of plant reproductive material in the Union, amending Regulations (EU) 2016/2031, (EU) 2017/625 and (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Directives 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC, 68/193/EEC, 2002/53/EC, 2002/54/EC, 2002/55/EC, 2002/56/EC, 2002/57/EC, 2008/72/EC and 2008/90/EC (Plant Reproductive Material Regulation) (PRM Regulation). This proposal aims to standardize the production and marketing of propagating material in line with advances in agricultural production techniques. Some of the new features of the proposed PRM Regulation are highlighted below.

The proposed Regulation introduces a simpler regime for the marketing of plant propagating material to amateur gardeners, for the purpose of conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources. It also offers professional operators the possibility to carry out certification of plant propagating material under the official supervision of the competent authorities. It also offers the possibility of conducting technical examinations for variety testing to demonstrate that varieties are of value for sustainable cultivation and use at the breeder's premises and under the official supervision of the competent authority. Both options offer professional operators more flexibility and alternatives for their business planning. In addition, the proposal introduces less stringent and adapted rules on: a) market access for organic and conservation varieties; b) plant reproductive material intended for consumers; c) plant reproductive material intended exclusively for and maintained by certain genebanks, organizations and networks; d) seed exchanged in kind between farmers.

All the measures included in the proposal aim at simplifying processes to benefit a significant number of little enterprises, which represent the majority of the sector's activity. The proposal totally excludes from its scope plant reproductive material sold or otherwise transferred, whether free of charge or not, between persons for their private use and outside their commercial activity, as well as plant reproductive material used exclusively for official experimentation, breeding, in inspections, collections or for scientific purposes. Finally, the proposal introduces new measures concerning the digitization of the plant reproductive material sector and rules on biomolecular techniques to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of variety registration and certification of plant reproductive material. This proposal for a Regulation is available at the following link: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/ES/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52023PC0414> and its evolution will have to be controlled to analyse the impact on the sector of the final text to be approved.

