# COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

## of 20 December 1979

## amending Directive 66/403/EEC on the marketing of seed potatoes

(80/52/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Articles 43 and 100 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission (1),

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament (2),

Whereas it results from Article 15 of Council Directive 66/403/EEC of 14 June 1966 on the marketing of seed potatoes (3), as last amended by Directive 79/967/EEC (4), that, after 1 July 1975, Member States may no longer, in principle, establish under their own responsibility, the equivalence of inspections and checks carried out in third countries;

Whereas, however, Member States have been authorized to extend the validity of decisions on equivalence already taken by them, since the discussions intended to enable such equivalence to be established at Community level have not yet been completed; whereas, in practice, such extension has been applied in the case of Canada only;

Whereas recourse to such extension is subject to the Community rules on plant health;

Whereas, by virtue of the aforementioned rules, seed potatoes originating in Canada may at present be introduced into the Community only by way of derogation, subject to stringent conditions and for a limited period;

Whereas, therefore, it would be pointless to establish Community equivalence with regard to Canada;

Whereas, however, the period of validity of decisions on equivalence already taken by Member States should be extended, thereby enabling recourse to be had to the abovementioned limited period,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

*Article 1*

Without prejudice to the provisions of Council Directive 77/93/EEC of 21 December 1976 on protective measures against the introduction into the Member States of harmful organisms of plant or plant products (5), the date '30 June 1979' in Article 15 (2) (a) of Directive 66/403/EEC shall be replaced by '31 March 1980'.

*Article 2*

Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive with effect from 1 July 1979. They shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof.

*Article 3*

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 20 December 1979.

*For the Council*

*The President*

J. TUNNEY

(1) OJ No C 303, 4. 12. 1979, p. 6.
(2) OJ No C 4, 7. 1. 1980, p. 76.
(3) OJ No 125, 11. 7. 1966, p. 2320/66.
(4) OJ No L 293, 20. 11. 1979, p. 16.
(5) OJ No L 26, 31. 1. 1977, p. 20.