

Process of the EU Seed Marketing Legislation

Why bother reading this document?

Again and again we have talked about the fact that with the new seed marketing legislation there is a **long process** ahead of us - probably even several years. But why then is much of it so **urgent and timely**? What role do the elections next year play? And who and where are we in that time? (“we”, “us” and “you” in this text refers to all people who want to participate in the process of influencing the EU seed marketing legislation process)

The process of European legislation is long and consists of many different phases and actors. The urgency to act varies from phase to phase. This document is intended to help you find your way around, provide a few useful links and make the connections clearer.

What is the legislation and the process about (concerning the European Parliament)?

You can use [this information](#) and refer to some terms to get in touch e.g. with MEPs or Members of your national Ministries for the first time. You can also observe the process [here](#) (Basic information, Key players, Key events (from the past), etc.).

The full name of this certain procedure by the way is “Production and marketing of plant reproductive material in the Union - 2023/0227(COD) - 05/07/2023 Legislative proposal”. If you need a quick overview/refresher of the Ordinary legislative procedure (COD), you can look it up [here](#).

Actors in the European Parliament with the most influence on the topic

Rapporteur



[DORFMANN Herbert](#)

Shadow rapporteur



[CARVALHAIS Isabel](#)



[DAVID Ivan](#)



[TOLLERET Irène](#)



[RUISSSEN Bert-Jan](#)



[HÄUSLING Martin](#)



[FLANAGAN Luke Ming](#)

Further actors with influence in the European Parliament: Who are your Parliamentarians?

[Here](#) you can search for MEPs and also filter them by function. [Here](#) for example the AGRI members from all countries.

Info: When we talk about MEPs here, we are talking about those who sit on the AGRI Committee. They have the greatest influence. But the ENVI Committee (a bit more open to our concerns) also plays a role, as it produces an opinion report (even published before the AGRI report) . So when all AGRI members are contacted - Hungary, for example, has only one member - then feel free to focus on the ENVI members as well.

The (most likely and final) timelines and meaning

Timeline European Parliament

Draft opinion report ENVI: **Beginning of November**

Draft AGRI report by Rapporteur Herbert Dorfmann: **6.11**

Deadline amendments all AGRI MEPs: **30.11** (parallel ENVI)

Translation of amendments: **December**

Compromise amendments drawn up by the Rapporteur team, consulting political groups:
Negotiations start **in January** (parallel ENVI)

Envi vote on opinion report: **March**

AGRI vote on report: **March**

Plenary vote: **April**

Timeline AGRIFISH-Council

The Council consists of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Member States. While the AGRI Committee works on a common position in Parliament, the AGRIFISH-Council works at ministerial level. Sounds similar - but it is something fundamentally different. We can influence the AGRIFISH-Council on two levels:

- The **civil servant level** (technical - Working Party on Genetic Resources and Innovation in Agriculture).
 - Officials from the ministries
 - Officials from the permanent representation of a country (Brussels)
- The **politician level** (ideological - it's about their political course)

- Cabinet ministers
- Ministers

There is still a meeting of the **Working Party on Genetic Resources and Innovation in Agriculture** (WP) ahead which can be influenced: one probably mid November (no confirmed date yet) and the next **19-20th December**

So far, WP discussed articles 1-9 and Annex 1-3.

Between the two WP meetings, the ministers meet in the **AGRIFISH-Council** to discuss PRM:

- **11 – 12th December:** AGRIFISH-Council Brussels: PRM - progress report

What does it mean for our timeline?

We have to act quickly and at the same time target both groups: the Parliamentarians (that are in AGRI-Committee) and the Members of the AGRIFISH-Council.

From the two timelines we can see that we only have October and November to be effective. A lot of things will happen in parallel. But the basic aim is to meet the relevant people in good time before each meeting. That way, during the preparation, we can provide them with important information they need to understand the impact of the draft law on our work, on people who are not part of the seed industry and most important: the future!

So the most important time to still have an impact on the wording or important points is **NOW**.

MEPs have until 30. November to make amendments to Dorfmann's report - that's what we want! So: make appointments with MEPs! Be persistent - it is normal to get ignored at first.

At the same time, before the Council Working Party Meeting on 19.-20.12. we should also have met:

- permanent representation
- people of your ministry who are in the WP and/or cabinet of your Agricultural Minister

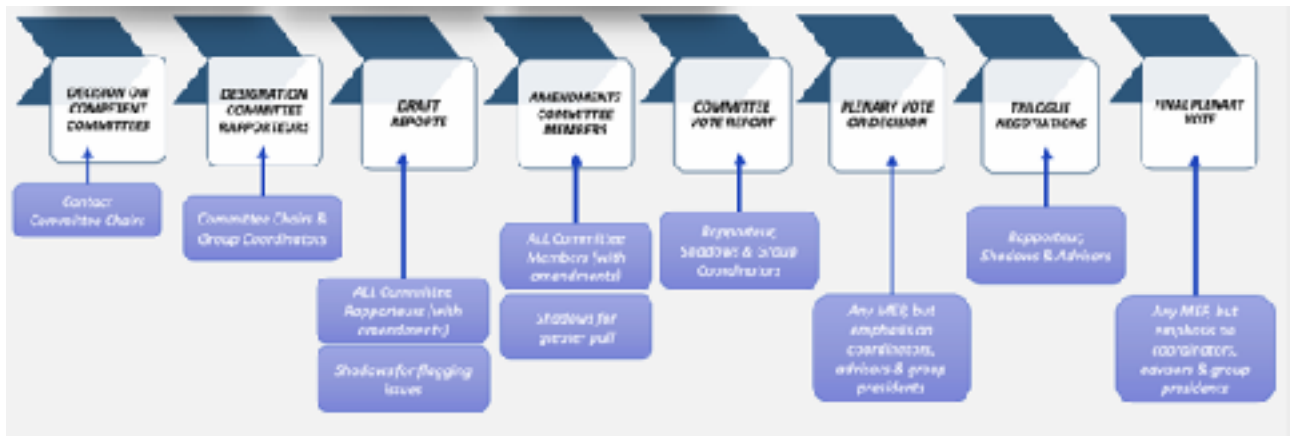
What stage of the process are we currently at? (Status: Mid October)

At each stage of the process, different actors are important for us, as they can still have influence. The Rapporteur, Herbert Dorfmann (EPP), is responsible for writing down the Parliament's position on the Commission's already published proposal. To do this, he coordinates with the shadow rapporteurs. These were sent by the other parliamentary groups to work on the document. Dorfmann will deliver this draft report on Monday, 6.11.2023. After that, all other MEPs in COM AGRI have still three weeks (until Thursday, 30.11.) to propose how the Commission proposal should be amended. Anything that is not suggested in Amendments by an MEP until 30.11 will not be discussed and is no longer part of the process.



What can WE do at this stage?

That means: We have to approach our MEPs **NOW**, especially those who sit on the AGRI Committee (see links and list above). We have to support them with our practical know-how, explain to them what is important for seed savers, gardeners and farmers and convince them to influence the report in the AGRI-Committee. In addition to the advocacy work, creating more public awareness with a campaign and public communications is important for our success (more on the public work below).



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Why is this so important?

Dorfmann's timetable provides for the report to be ready and submitted on 6 November - which means that the hot phase would then be in the three weeks after that. That is why it is important to **make appointments with the MEPs NOW**. To inform them as soon as possible of our concerns about the proposal. Because NOW we are laying the foundation for the discussion that will take place in the legislative process.

What role do the EP elections in June play?

Due to the several steps of the process (see above) having a **plenary vote before the elections means a quite fast timeline**. As both Rapporteur and the Parliaments AGRI Secretariat want the final vote to happen before the elections, there is no willingness to slow down the process, even though some translations are still missing. (Status mid-October)

In case the plenary vote happens in April, the new parliament will not renegotiate the parliaments position, but will directly start the trilogues with Council and Commission.

Otherwise, the new parliament could renegotiate the parliaments position.

Currently there is a high probability of a shift to the right in the European Parliament after the elections.

The upcoming elections are also an opportunity for us, because it makes politicians more open to criticism from civil society, especially if advocacy is paired with a campaign.

What is the timeline for the campaign/public work?

To strengthen our lobbying and increase public awareness during the most important phases of the decision making process, we also plan to **start a campaign by mid-November**. You can still join this work!

A **petition** in several languages will start mid-November to start putting pressure on the MEPs and the Agri Council.

A “public push” with activities every few weeks would be ideal, but this is still in development and open to your ideas. It could be for example (these are just ideas as “placeholders”):

- **Mid-November:** Start a petition
- **Early January:** Start an action to put pressure on Agri Ministers (or MEPs) , e.g. by sending them seed packages
- **End of February:** Start an activity to bring public awareness to the negotiations, e.g. by sending emails to MEPs (or Agri ministers) or tagging them on social media.
- **End of March:** Organise an in-person political event, e.g. a public seed exchange/ demonstration in front of the European Parliament.

The campaign is a perfect opportunity to show our work and the importance of diversity to more citizens and at the same time, make our lobby efforts easier!