

COMMISSION DECISION

of 22 August 2002

recognising Slovakia as being free from *Erwinia amylovora* (Burr.) Winsl. et al.

(notified under document number C(2002) 3121)

(2002/674/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 2000/29/EC of 8 May 2000 on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Commission Directive 2002/36/EC ⁽²⁾, and in particular Annex III, Part B, point 1 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Under Directive 2000/29/EC, plants and live pollen for pollination of: *Chaenomeles* Lindl., *Cotoneaster* Ehrh., *Crataegus* L., *Cydonia* Mill., *Eriobotrya* Lindl., *Malus* Mill., *Mespilus* L., *Pyracantha* Roem., *Pyrus* L., *Sorbus* L. other than *Sorbus intermedia* (Ehrh.) Pers., *Stranvaesia* Lindl., other than fruit and seeds, originating in third countries other than those recognised as being free from *Erwinia amylovora* (Burr.) Winsl. et al. (hereinafter: 'the harmful organism') may not be introduced into certain protected zones of the Member States.
- (2) In 1999, Slovakia requested to be recognised as being free from the harmful organism.
- (3) It appears from official information supplied by Slovakia, and from information collected during a mission carried out there in April 2000 by the Food and Veterinary Office, that the harmful organism does not occur in Slovakia, and that Slovakia has maintained a strict control, inspection and testing procedure for the harmful organism.
- (4) It can therefore be established that there is no risk of the harmful organism spreading.

- (5) This Decision is without prejudice to any subsequent findings that may show that the harmful organism is present in Slovakia. The Commission will request Slovakia to supply on a yearly basis all technical information available that is necessary to assess the aforementioned situation.
- (6) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on Plant Health,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Slovakia is recognised as being free from *Erwinia amylovora* (Burr.) Winsl. et al.

The Commission will request Slovakia to supply on a yearly basis all technical information available that is necessary to assess the aforementioned situation.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 22 August 2002.

For the Commission

David BYRNE

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 169, 10.7.2000, p. 1.⁽²⁾ OJ L 116, 3.5.2002, p. 16.