

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TBT/Notif.89.311

20 December 1989

Special Distribution

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.4.

1. Party to Agreement notifying: <u>FINLAND</u>
2. Agency responsible: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
3. Notified under Article 2.5.2 [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> , 2.6.1 [<input type="checkbox"/> , 7.3.2 [<input type="checkbox"/> , 7.4.1 [<input type="checkbox"/> , Other:
4. Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading): Planting material for horticultural plants (HS: mainly 06.02)
5. Title: Act Concerning Planting Material for Horticultural Plants (available in Finnish, 13 pages)
6. Description of content: The draft concerns the production, import and sale of bulbs, young plants and other planting material (except seeds) for horticultural plants, namely, for fruit trees and berry-bearing plants, for biennial and perennial ornamental plants to be grown in the open and also for vegetable species. Planting material would have to meet certain minimum requirements laid down in the law. The requirements would be basically the same as those already applicable as laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Planting material could also be produced and sold as controlled products or graded plant material. Control and grading could be applied only to such material, which is tested and known to be suitable for Finnish conditions of growth. The labelling of the planting material is intended to be improved. On the label there would have to be the following information: species and variety, class (if graded), name of the seller, country where grown, recommendations as to the raising of the plant and its suitability for Finland's northern conditions and in certain cases also the provenance of the plant. It should be noted that the suitability in itself is not a prerequisite for import.

6. (cont'd)

The methods of inspection and control relating to production, import and sale would not be changed. Actual performance of inspection is, however, in need of improvement. Therefore the production and sale would be subject to a permit from the authority.

7. Objective and rationale: Quality control

8. Relevant documents: The Act will be published in the Statutes of Finland.

9. Proposed dates of adoption and entry into force: 1 January 1991

10. Final date for comments: 15 March 1990

11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [x] or address of other body: