

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

TARIFFS AND TRADE

TBT/Notif.91.99

26 March 1991

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 [X], 2.6.1 [], 7.3.2 [], 7.4.1 [], Other:
4. Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading): Other living plants (HS: 06.02)
5. Title: Draft Statute Amending the Appendix of the Statute on Prevention of Spread of Plant Pests and Diseases into the Country (available in Finnish and English, 1 page)
6. Description of content: It is added to the list of harmful plant pests of the Statute on New Plant Pests, Thrips palmi. The plants infected or infested with plant pests included in the list shall not be imported into Finland. Thrips palmi is included in the list of dangerous plant pests of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization.
7. Objective and rationale: Prevention of spread of plant pests and diseases into the country
8. Relevant documents: The draft will be published in the Statutes of Finland.
9. Proposed dates of adoption and entry into force: Entry into force: 3 April 1991
10. Final date for comments: See enclosure
11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address of other body:

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR ADDING ONE PLANT PEST, THRIPS PALMI,
IMMEDIATELY TO THE FINNISH PLANT PROTECTION LEGISLATION

A plant pest, Thrips palmi, was found in December 1990 and January 1991 in consignments of orchids, which were intended for import into Finland from Thailand. This thrips is included in those dangerous plant pests, which are not allowed to occur in plants or parts of plants imported to the Member States of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization and to the Member States of the European Community. This thrips does not occur in Europe.

The National Board of Agriculture prohibited temporarily the import of plants and parts of plants infected with this thrips on the basis of § 2, Clause 3 of the Plant Protection Act (127/81). According to the Plant Protection Act, the National Board of Agriculture can only temporarily decide this matter. This Decision of the National Board of Agriculture is in force until 7 April 1991. In order to prevent the spread of the thrips after this it should be added to the list of dangerous plant pests of the Statute on Prevention of Spread of Plant Pests and Diseases into the Country (173/81). The plants infected or infested with plant pests included in the list shall not be imported into Finland. Because of the plant health reasons it is absolutely necessary to put the Statute into force immediately.