

such material within the Community, it was proposed to shift the weight of inspection and enforcement work to the exporting Member State. The main feature of the new system were as follows:

- i) All plants for propagation and other products such as wood, potatoes and certain cut flowers would be examined at the place of production and certified against agreed Community standards. The use of growing season and post harvest inspections was considered more efficient than pre-export inspections.
- ii) Material which met the standard would then circulate freely throughout the Community under a "plant passport" which would perform a similar function to the present plant health certificates. This "passport" might take the form of a certificate, a label, a stamp or a seal.
- iii) Imports from third countries would have to meet Community plant health standards; once checked, they would be permitted to move freely within the Community under their own "plant passport".
- iv) It was envisaged that arrangements would be needed to establish protected zones in order to prevent diseases prevalent in some parts of the Community from spreading to other parts where they could seriously affect crops.
- v) Controls would be enforced by national inspectorates, monitored and supplemented by a new Community Inspectorate.
- vi) There was also mention of the possibility of establishing "rules of liability" in respect of plant health, which was later explained to mean the possibility of limited compensation payments to producers affected by the spread of a disease because of the failure of the control systems.

Progress to Date

Up to the present time, little progress has been made in the field of plant health in terms of meeting the goals set down in the White Paper. One proposal has been partially adopted and a further three proposals are currently awaiting Council adoption. One of these (Com(84)288) includes the updating of the phyto-sanitary certificate, permission for the use of the emergency procedure and the extension of the area in which derogations can be granted. A second (Com(88)170) suggests a basis for eliminating the