



Notification Number: 1997/201/F

Draft decree banning the use of *Stephania tetrandra* and *Aristolochia fangchi*.

Date received : 16/04/1997

End of Standstill : Closed

Invocation of the Emergency Procedure : Yes

Message

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REP PERMANENTE GRECE

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TELEX 002

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION - SG (97) D/50968/2



DIRECTIVES 83/189/EEC, 88/182/EEC AND 94/10/EC
TRANSLATION OF TELEX 001
NOTIFICATION 97/0201/F

- 3B1 : 9700968.EN

1. Structured Information Line

TLX 002 IND- 97 0201 F-- EN ----- 970416 --- ---

2. Member State

France

3. Department Responsible

Secrétariat général du comité interministériel pour les
questions de coopération économique européenne
2, Boulevard Diderot
75012 Paris

Délégué ministériel aux normes
22, rue Monge
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3. Originating Department

Ministère de l'économie et des finances
Direction de la Concurrence, de la consommation et de la
répression des fraudes
59, boulevard Vincent Auriol
75703 Paris CEDEX 13.

4. Notification Number

97/0201/F

5. Title

Draft decree banning the use of *Stephania tetrandra* and
Aristolochia fangchi.

6. Products Concerned

Stephania tetrandra and *Aristolochia fangchi*, and products
containing these plants.

7. Notification Under Another Act

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8. Main Content

This draft is intended to ban the production, importing,
sale, and possession with a view to sale or free distribution
of
Stephania tetrandra and *Aristolochia fangchi*, and products
containing them.

9. Brief Statement of Grounds



This measure has been prompted by serious cases of kidney failure which have been indicated to the French pharmacovigilance network and which have been attributed to long-term consumption of the Chinese plant, *Stephania tetrandra*. This plant has been confused with the plant *Aristolochia fangchi* because of its similar name in Chinese. *Aristolochia fangchi* contains aristolochic acid, which is nephrotoxic.

10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

Article L.221-3 of the Consumer Code.

11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

Yes

12. Grounds for the Emergency

The reason for urgency is the presence of aristolochic acid in the plant *Aristolochia fangchi*, as this substance has been the cause of serious cases of kidney failure.

13. Confidentiality

No

14. Fiscal measures

No

D. WILLIAMSON
COMEUR
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