

EU Plant Variety Rights in the 21st Century

Conference on the outcome of the evaluation of the Community Plant Variety Rights Regime

Date: 11 October 2011

Venue: Van Maerlant building, conference room VM3, rue Van Maerlant 2, 1000 Brussels
Languages: EN, ES, FR, DE, IT, NL, PL

08:30 Registration and coffee

09:30 **Welcome and Introductory session**

09:30 Opening address by Commissioner Mr John Dalli, Health and Consumer Policy

09:45 Presentation address by the Polish Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Andrzej Butra

10:00 EU Plant Variety Rights: views of COMAGRI/EP, Mr George Lyon, Member, Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, European Parliament

10:15 EU Plant Variety Rights in some figures, by Mr Martin Ekvad, President, Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO)

10:30 **First session: Current developments in Intellectual Property Rights on plants from an international perspective**

Chair: Ladislav Miko, Deputy Director-General, Directorate General Health and Consumers, European Commission

10:30 The UPOV Convention: an International standard, by Mr Peter Button, Vice-Secretary General, International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)

11:00 New developments in patenting plant species in Europe, by Ms Siobhan Yeats, Director, European Patent Office

11:30 **Second session: Current developments in Intellectual Property Rights: the stakeholders' points of view**

Chair: Eric Poudelet, Director, Directorate General Health and Consumers, European Commission

11:30 EU Intellectual Property Rights on plants: the point of view of the EU farmers and users, by Mr Thor Gunnar Kofoed, Chairman of Working Party of Seeds, Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations and General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives (COPA-COGECA)

11:50 EU Intellectual Property Rights on plants: the point of view of the EU breeders and of the seed industry on agricultural and vegetable crops, by Ms Szonja Csörgő, Manager Intellectual Property and Legal Affairs, European Seed Association (ESA)

12:10 EU Intellectual Property Rights on plants: the point of view of the breeders of ornamental and fruit plants, by Mr Edgar Krieger, Secretary General, International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Ornamental and Fruit Varieties (CIOPORA)

12:30 - 14:00 **Lunch Break**

14:00 **Third session: The Community Plant Variety Rights Regime versus National Plant Variety Rights Regimes: EU Member States' points of view**

Chair: Dana Irina Simion, Head of Unit E2, Directorate General Health and Consumers, European Commission

14:00 The views of Poland, by Mr Edward Gacek, Director General, Research Centre for Cultivar Testing, COBORU, Poland

14:20 The views of the Netherlands, by Mr Marien Valstar, Senior Policy Officer, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation, the Netherlands

14:40 **Fourth session: Outcome of the evaluation of the Community Plant Variety Rights Regime by GHK**

Chair: Päivi Mannerkorpi, Head of Sector, Unit E2, Directorate General Health and Consumers, European Commission

14:40 Outcome of the evaluation of the Community Plant Variety Rights Regime by Ms Elta Smith, Senior consultant, GHK Consulting Ltd

15:40 - 16:15 **Coffee break**

16:15 Plenary validation of recommendations from the evaluation: moderator Mr Tjeerd Overdijk, Partner Vondst Advocaten

Invited panel participants:

Mr Garlich von Essen, Secretary General, ESA

Mr Edgar Krieger, Secretary General, CIOPORA

Mr Thor Gunnar Kofoed, Chairman of Working Party of Seeds, COPA-COGECA

Mr Guy Kastler, Member of Biodiversity Commission, European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC)

Mr Joël Guiard, Deputy Director, Le Groupe d'Etude et de contrôle des Variétés et des Semences, GEVES

Mr Martin Ekvad, President, CPVO

Open discussion on recommendations

17:15 Concluding remarks by Mr Andrzej Butra, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Poland

17:30 Closure of conference by Ladislav Miko, Deputy-Director General/Eric Poudelet, Director, Health and Consumers Directorate General