

**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN THE APPOINTMENT AS
CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF APPEAL
OF THE COMMUNITY PLANT VARIETY OFFICE**

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DESCRIPTION OF THE OFFICE AND ITS BOARD OF APPEAL

The Community Plant Variety Office, hereinafter called the Office, was established by Council Regulation (EC) No 2100/94 of 27 July 1994 on Community plant variety rights, (OJ L 227, 01.09.1994, p. 1) as last amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 873/2004 of 29 April 2004 (OJ No L 162, 30.4.2004, p. 38).

The purpose of the Office, an Agency of the European Union with legal personality, which has legal, administrative and financial autonomy, is to administer the EU system of Community plant variety rights, a specific type of industrial property rights in respect of new plant varieties. The Office takes in particular decisions on applications for the grant of such rights, which afford uniform protection throughout the European Union. The location of the Office is Angers, France; its web-site is the following: <http://www.cpvo.europa.eu>

The above mentioned regulation No 2100/94 provides for the establishment of Boards of Appeal within the Office. A Board of Appeal is established by the Commission Regulation (EC) No 874/2009 of 17 September, 2009 (OJ No L 251, 24.09.2009, p6) and is responsible for deciding on appeals against decisions of the Office, concerning, inter alia, the grant or refusal of Community plant variety rights, objections to the grant of rights, the nullity or the cancellation of Community plant variety rights or the grant or refusal of compulsory licences.

The Board of Appeal consist of a Chairperson and two other members, but may call up to two further members.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FUNCTIONS

The Chairperson shall

- select for each case the other members of the Board of Appeal and their respective alternates from a list of qualified members established by the Administrative Council of the Office;
- head the Board of Appeal of the Office and exercise the powers vested in the chairperson by Regulation (EC) No 2100/94.

The Chairperson and the other members of the Board of Appeal shall be independent. In making their decision, they shall not be bound by any instructions.

In absence of the Chairperson, the Alternate Chairperson shall perform the tasks of the Chairperson.

APPOINTMENT

The current term of office of the Chairperson of the Board of Appeal runs until 17 December 2017. Under the terms of Regulation (EC) No 2100/94, the Council of the European Union decides on the appointment of the Chairperson on the basis of a list of candidates, which shall be proposed by the European Commission after obtaining the opinion of the Administrative Council of the Community Plant Variety Office.

The purpose of this call for expression of interest is to allow the Commission to draw up a shortlist of candidates it will submit to the Council. Candidates should note that inclusion on the list does not guarantee appointment.

The European Commission will set up a selection panel which will invite applicants with the best profile for the specific requirements of the post to an interview, selected on the basis of their merits and the criteria set out above. Following these interviews, the European Commission will adopt a list of candidates, which will be submitted to the Administrative Council of the Office for opinion, before being communicated to the Council.

The appointment will be for a fixed term of five years, which is renewable in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 2100/94.

REQUIREMENTS

- The candidate must be a national of one of the EU Member States.
- The candidate shall not perform any other duties in the Office.
- The candidate must have a very good knowledge of English¹. Knowledge of other EU languages is an advantage.
- The candidate must also have
 - ✓ A university degree in law, or a qualification in law by recognised experience in the field of intellectual property or plant variety registration
 - ✓ Substantial graduate level work experience of which a significant part relates to intellectual property, plant variety rights would be an advantage; 10 years or more experience would be an advantage.
- Judicial or academic related professional experience in the field of intellectual property, preferably acquired in the public service of a Member State or of an intergovernmental organisation.

¹ The selection panel will ensure that no undue advantage is given to native speakers

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

The Chairperson is not required to suspend his/her current professional activities, but any such activities must be compatible with the requirements that members of the Boards of Appeal be independent.

The Chairperson will be required to declare any interests, which may conflict with his/her duty to the Board of Appeal.

The Chairperson will be expected to be available for these duties at least 10 days/calendar year. Information on the remuneration may be acquired on request to the secretariat of the Board of Appeal (Community Plant Variety Office, 3, boulevard Maréchal-Foch, BP 10121, F-49101 Angers Cedex 02).

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Office applies an active equal opportunities policy and particularly encourages applications from women.

APPLICATIONS

Before submitting your application, you should carefully check whether you meet all the requirements, particularly those concerning the types of diploma and professional experience required as well as your linguistic capacity. Failure to possess any of these eligibility requirements means an automatic exclusion from the selection procedure.

If you want to apply, you must register via the internet by going to the website:

<https://ec.europa.eu/dgs/human-resources/seniormanagementvacancies>

and follow the instructions there concerning the various stages of the procedure.

You must have a valid email address. This will be used to confirm your registration as well as to remain in contact with you during the different stages of the selection process. Therefore, please keep the European Commission informed about any change in your email address.

To complete your application, you will need to upload a CV in PDF format and to fill out, online, a letter of motivation (maximum 8000 characters). For functional reasons and to complete the selection procedure as quickly as possible in the interest of the candidates as well as that of the institution, the CV and motivation letter must be written in English, French or German.

Once you have finished your online registration, you will receive an electronic mail confirming that your application has been registered. The mail also contains a registration number, which will be your reference number in all matters concerning your application.

If you do not receive a confirmation mail, your application has not been registered!

Please note that it is not possible to monitor progress of your application online. The European Commission will contact you directly regarding the status of your application.

If you have a disability that prevents you from registering online, you may submit your application (CV and letter of motivation) on paper by registered mail, to the following address: European Commission, Directorate-General for Human Resources and Security, Unit for Executive Staff and CCA Secretariat, SC11 8/59, 1049 Brussels, Belgium, indicating clearly as a reference: Vacancy for the function of Chairperson of the Board of Appeal of the Community Plant Variety Office (COM/2017/20018), postmarked no later than the closing date for registration. All subsequent communication between the Commission and you will be by post. In this case, you must enclose with your application a certificate attesting your disability, issued by a recognised body. You should also set out on a separate sheet of paper any special arrangements you think are needed to make it easier for you to take part in the selection.

If you require more information and/or encounter technical problems, please send an email to: HRMANAGEMENT-ONLINE@ec.europa.eu

For functional reasons and to complete the selection procedure as quickly as possible in the interest of the candidates as well as that of the institutions, the selection procedure will be carried out in English².

CLOSING DATE

The closing date for registration is 08/03/2017. Online registration will not be possible after 12.00 noon Brussels time.

It is your responsibility to complete your online registration in time. We strongly advise you not to wait until the last few days before applying, since heavy internet traffic or a fault with your internet connection could lead to the online registration being terminated before you complete it, thereby obliging you to repeat the whole process. Once the deadline for the submission of registrations has passed, you will no longer be able to introduce any data. Late registrations are not accepted.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Applicants are reminded that the work of the selection committees is confidential. It is forbidden for applicants to make direct or indirect contact with members of these committees, or for anybody to do so, on their behalf.

PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

The Commission will ensure that candidates' personal data are processed as required by Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December

² The selection panel will ensure that no undue advantage is given to native speakers.

2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the EU institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data³.

³ OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p. 1