



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON “PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES” held on 12th February 2015

Chairpersons: Ms I. Clement-Nissou, Mr T. Weber

Experts from Member States were present, except from AT, BG, CY, CZ, DK, EE, HU, LU, PL, PO, SE, SL. Experts from CH and NO were also present.

1. The German delegate informed about the next meeting of the Bureau of the ITPGRFA. Issues to be addressed are the preparation of the Governing Body in October 2015, the implementation of the second project cycle, the third and fourth calls for proposals, the funding strategy and the functional autonomy of the Treaty with regard to FAO.
2. The Dutch delegate presented the situation concerning the Working Group on the Enhancement of the Functioning of the Multilateral System. The two co-chairs of the Working Group have prepared a paper outlining the options that will be discussed in the third meeting of the group. The experts discussed issues, which will require special consideration in the upcoming discussion. Of special relevance is the fate of Article 6.8. in the Standard Material Transfer Agreement, which, if kept voluntary, may undermine other payment options, such as a subscription system. Addressing the expansion, or complete deletion, of Annex 1 is within the mandate of the Working Group, but this has not been addressed yet in depth and most likely will remain a side issue as some regions do not wish to discuss this topic before a solution for the functioning of the MLS is found.
3. The Dutch delegate briefly presented a joint initiative from Oman and NL on improving cooperation between the CBD, the Treaty and UPOV. A high level meeting will be organised in Austria in June 2015.
4. The German delegate presented the state of play concerning the Global Information System (meeting in San Diego beginning of 2015) as well as the DIVSEEK initiative gathering 50 institutions.
5. In the margin of the meeting, the UK organised a videoconference with FAO for a presentation of the new reporting tool for the State of the World on PGRFA and the second Global Plan of Action.