



**Summary report of the meeting (web-conference) of the Expert group on legislation of seed and plant propagating material - Working Group on a EU temporary experiment on field inspection
27 September 2016**

Chairperson: P. Mannerkorpi

Experts from the following Member States were present: AT, BE, FR, NL and UK. NO participated too.

1. Approval of Agenda (agenda document)

The agenda was approved.

2. Results of the experiment at EU level for 2015 presented by France

France, who is coordinating the experiment, presented the 2015 results for the crop groups forage, cereals, sugar beet and oil and fibre plants. Altogether ten Member States (AT, BE, DK, FR, DE, IT, NL, PR, ES and UK) and Norway are currently participating in the experiment. The results so far are very good with an overall 0,10 % deviation to official check testing (8221 crops with average of 34 % official check testing). However, the levels of official check testing should be further decreased down to 5%. Results of post-controls (forage, cereals and oil and fibre plants) for six Member States (AT, ES, IT, NL, PT, UK) and Norway were also presented. In some cases significant non-compliance in varietal identity and purity was found. France will present the final report in the Standing Committee meeting on 30 September 2016.

3. Discussion on results and intentions of participation for 2016-2017

France presented the plans of the participating Member States for 2016. A number of Member States are still keeping a high level of official check testing while others are systematically decreasing. A discussion took place on the factors affecting the level of official check testing and whether 5 % is ideal. The level also depends on e.g. category of seed, size of the area where the fields are located and their distribution in a given Member State and the need to keep expertise of the official field inspectors.

A discussion took place on the need to extend the experiment in 2017 to the maximum allowed seven years until 2020. Without an extension a final report would need to be produced by 31 March 2018. Moreover, it was decided to collect more systematically and exchange information on official post-control procedures. The questionnaire to collect the results for 2016 will be sent out by FR. The MS should send their input before 31 January 2017. The expert group will meet before end of March 2017.

4. Presentation of licensing procedures for field inspectors in the Netherlands

The Netherlands gave a presentation on licensed field inspection for agricultural crops. Discussion took place on the licensing procedure: scope, requirements for the person and the company, process, monitoring (audits) and official check testing, action in case of non-conformities, penalties and fees. The idea to develop guidance on field inspection in the framework of the European Seed Certification Agencies Association was recalled.