



**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
21 April 2017**

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 2016 presented by France

France, who is coordinating the experiment, presented the 2016 results for the crop groups forage, cereals, sugar beet and oil and fibre plants. Altogether 10 Member States (AT, BE, DE, DK, ES, FR, IT, NL, PT and UK) and Norway participated in the experiment. The results showed only an overall 0,14 % deviation to official check testing (8119 crops and 2458 official inspections with average of 30 % official check testing). However, the levels of official check testing should be further decreased down to 5% to have more results of this level.

3. Discussion on results and intentions of participation for 2017-2018

The delegate from France presented the plans of the participating Member States for 2017-2018. A number of Member States are still keeping a high level of official check testing while other are decreasing the levels. The level also depends on e.g. the need to keep the expertise of the official field inspectors. Discussion also took place on the extent in which seed companies are participating in this experiment. It seems that in some Member States participation is compulsory, while in others big companies participate or a range of different companies. It was decided to make a more detailed survey on the issue for presentation in the next Standing Committee meeting.

It was decided to collect and exchange information on official post-control procedures more systematically. The questionnaire to collect the results for 2017 will be sent out by France. The Member State should send their input before 31 January 2018. The expert group will meet before end of March 2018.

4. Licensing procedures for field inspectors – guidelines in ESCAA framework

The delegate from the NL informed that an ESCAA working group is preparing guidelines with the view to harmonise the procedures. A presentation will be given in the upcoming ESCAA meeting 17-19 May 2017 in Venlo.

5. Post-control results of 2016 and follow-up

Results of post-controls (forage and oil and fibre plants) for 7 Member States (AT, BE, DK, FR, IT, NL, UK) and Norway were presented. In some cases significant non-compliance in purity and in particular in varietal purity was found. A discussion took place on how the post-control results are used in decision making on seed certification. Most of the Member States reject the seed lot if the requirements for varietal identity are not met.