



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

## **SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON PLANT REPRODUCTIVE MATERIAL LEGISLATION - WORKING GROUP ON "PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES" held on 12 February 2013**

Chairperson: Ms I. Clement-Nissou

Expert from the Commission: T. Weber (DG Sanco)

Experts from the following Member States were present: AT, BE, DE, DK, EE, ES, FR, HU, IE, IT, LT, NL, PL, UK. Experts from CH were also present.

### **1. Feedback from the inter-sessional works 2011-2013**

#### *a - Ad-hoc working groups and committees:*

ES and FR presented a brief summary of the discussion in the sMTA committee. The following points were under discussions: rules for affiliates, geographical extension, hybrids, use of GR for direct production.

NL described the scope of the next call of proposals for the ITPGRFA, also emphasizing the 5 million € received from the COM. NL also noted that the funds available are far from the target of 116 million \$ (in 5 year 20 millions \$ have been collected). Few contributions are coming from the private sector.

CH explained that the questionnaire on sustainable use was online; it has been developed to collect country experiences. The experts' group prepared a provisional draft program on sustainable use to be revised by the Governing Body. New submissions on the implementation of farmers' rights are possible.

NL explained that the ITPGRFA Secretariat has developed an E-learning module on the Treaty and the part on farmers' rights was still missing. The treaty was in contact with NL on this issue.

The first meeting of the compliance committee is foreseen for April 2013. Taking into account that the experts in the compliance committee serve in their personal capacities, the rules concerning the funding of the experts for their participation in the meeting(s) are not clear and need further clarification.

#### *b - Meetings of the bureau (ERG Official representative: C. Huffler, Substitute: Th. Meier)*

The previous bureau meeting was one year ago. The next one is organised 8-9 March 2013.

#### *c - Meeting on the establishment of a platform for the co-development and transfer of technologies*

NL described an initiative from Brazil and Indonesia on the establishment of such platform. The two countries want to extend the scope in terms of countries and partners. They do not focus only on contracting parties but also on various organisations (research institutions, NGOs). A debate took place on the role and implication of the establishment of such platform as well as on the Syngenta licensing platform (patent on plants in the vegetable sector).

## **2. First preparation of the positions for the next meeting of the governing body**

*SMTA:* The ERG was opposed to any changes in the sMTA. Nevertheless some clarifications and updates were needed. The ERG position was to include them in an explanatory note (Easier and more practical).

*Benefit sharing fund:* The points under discussion in the funding strategy group are the increased contribution in term of GR to the MLS and regular incomes to the BSF. All combinations of options may be explored. The advantage of the crop based payment is to reduce the need for a tracking system.

*Nomination of executive board members of the Global Crop Diversity Trust:* DE recalled that 4 members of the Trust are nominated by the Governing Body of the Treaty. The bureau had prepared simplified procedure for nomination in order to have decision on the 4 names at the next governing body meeting. (2 experts from G77 and 2 from developed countries). They may come from governmental sector as well as *intuitu personae*. The appointment is for 2 years. For this round, 3 persons shall be appointed.

*Contribution of the EU in the MLS and update of the list of the number of sMTA signed.:* ES will prepare the document based on contribution from MS and others.

## **3. Miscellaneous**

A brief exchange took place on the preparation of the next meeting of the CGRFA in April 2013.