



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON “PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES” held on 28th October 2014

Chairpersons: Ms I. Clement-Nissou, M Th. Weber

Experts from all the Member States were present, except from CY, LU, PL, SE.
Experts from CH and NO were also present.

COM welcomed the participation of experts from MS, NO and CH.

1- Approval of the agenda.

No comments

2- Short feedback from the last meetings in the framework of the ITPGRFA.

2.1- Report from the bureau meeting (Th. Meier, DE)

- *Third call of proposals*: DE indicated that 188 projects were eligible according to the Treaty rules and 64 have been invited to prepare a full proposal. Three regional workshops will be organised by the Treaty Secretariat in order to provide advice to applicants. The projects will be selected by January 2015.

- *Fourth call of proposals*: The call has to be prepared before the 6th meeting of the Governing Body (GB). The Treaty has received a donation of 1 million \$ from Indonesia. DE indicated that the Treaty Secretariat is looking for funds and, in addition, for guidance for the new call of proposals (priority actions, with an emphasis on actions which will give more value to genetic resources – e.g. characterization-.).

- *Implementation of the resolution of the GB on farmers' rights*: DE explained that it will be addressed in the framework of the working group on sustainable use (ERG representatives: NL, CH).

- *Extension of the term of the Secretary (S. Batthi)*: DE explained that the Text of the Treaty is silent in this regard. The contract of the Secretary is for 4 years and was prolonged based on a decision of the Bureau. A more transparent process should be developed and agreed at the level of the GB.

2.2- Report from the first meeting of the ad-hoc working group 'to enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (F. Burgaud, FR)

FR provided a brief report on the first meeting. It was agreed this summer that Th. Meier from Germany will replace the Spanish expert as one ERG representative in the working group.

Some experts underlined the need to have proper look at the interface between the Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol.

3- ITPGRFA Studies: First analysis and exchange of views

1. A study estimating income to be expected from possible changes, consistent with the objectives of the Treaty, in the provisions governing the functioning of the Multilateral System, taking into account reports of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy and the Ad Hoc Technical Advisory Committee on the Multilateral System and SMTA;

2. A policy and legal study on the feasibility and effects of such changes (study posted on the Treaty website on 28/10/2014 and therefore not analysed);

3. A study on how to enhance mechanisms for capacity-building, technology-transfer and information-exchange;

4. An analysis of the factors that influence the willingness of stakeholder groups to make contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund and to access plant genetic resources for food and agriculture from the Multilateral System.

A presentation of the studies 1, 3 and 4 was done. A discussion took place identifying the strengths and shortcomings of the studies.

4- Global Crop Diversity Trust: Presentation

Luigi Guarino (Senior scientist) and Michael Koch (Director of Finance) presented the Global Crop Diversity Trust to the experts. A discussion took place in order to clarify the role and specific activities of the Trust.

5- Preparation of the second meeting of the ad-hoc working group 'to enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing'

Regarding the different studies, the expert group agreed to send comments in writing to the 5 European regional experts (DE, FR, NL, NO, CH) in order for them to update the draft principles to be discussed regarding:

- * Review of Benefit sharing arrangements in order to make the benefit sharing fund sustainable and predictable in the long run;

- * Better implementation of the multilateral system, including possible extension of Annex I of the ITPGRFA;

The revised principles shall be circularized to all ERG experts before the next meeting of the ad-hoc working group.

6- Miscellaneous

In the margin of the meeting, the Netherlands organised a presentation on possible options to improve the financing of the Treaty and thereof invited two representatives of the seed industry.