

Stimati colegi,

in calitate de membrii Asociatiei Europene al Semintelor-ESA va transmitem procesul verbal al ultimei sedinte al Conducerii ESA (Consiliul director) si temele discutate pentru pregatirea Adunarii Generale din 10-12 oct.2010. Asteptam opinii care sa fie prezentate de delegatul nostru la intalnirile de la Bruxelles dl. presedinte Gheorghe Nedelcu.

Cu stima,

Gheorghe Hedesan

Presedinte executiv AMSEM

European Seed Association

20.09.2010

ESA_10.0848

**Meeting of the ESA Board of 09.09.2010
10h00 – 15h30
ESA Office**

**DRAFT MINUTES
Minuted in order of the Agenda**

Participants:

Amberger (Chair); Backx; Brauer; Breukink; Castaing; Ceccarelli; Chobot; Goig; Gohn; Gouache; Herrlinger; Mrs Maplestone; Marciniak; Remijnse; Schäfer; Segonds; Mrs Suelmann; van Elsen; van Straalen

ESA:

v. Essen; Mrs Csorgo; Scholte

ESA_10.0297.1

ESA_10.0752

I. Opening and welcome

President Amberger welcomes all participants and opens the meeting.

II. Minutes from the last meeting and actions resulting – report from the Secretary General

ESA_10.0753

The SG informs that comments were received and incorporated into the final version of the Minutes which thus have been adopted in line with the ESA procedure.

The SG points to the annotated action list from the last Board meeting and informs that all actions have been carried out in accordance with the decisions taken by the Board. He underlines that accordingly, some points have been taken forward to this Board meeting for further discussion and decision (Code

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of Conduct, communication policy etc.).

III. Rules of Procedure and Terms of Reference for Committees and Working Groups

- i. Information on progress**
- ii. Proposal for addition to ESA Rules of Procedure**

The SG informs that a final version of the internal Rules of Procedure of Committees had been agreed with the Chairs and adopted by the CRLA at its last meeting (CIPR to decide at its next meeting of November). The Terms of Reference for CRLA and its Working Groups were equally adopted.

The President recalls that members had expressed the wish for a more formal procedure for the nomination and selection of candidates for horizontal Committees to improve transparency and assure a proper representation of the membership. This wish had been taken up by the Executive Committee and the Committees and a respective proposal was developed which had already been included in the Committee Rules. For formal reasons, the specifications should be added to the ESA Rules of procedure and thus be put to the General Assembly for approval.

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Board Members accept the proposal with the following amendments:

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Under 1., a paragraph shall be added that specifies that Committee Membership is lost automatically when the Member in question changes company or association.

Under 2., it shall be specified that attendance of Associate Members in these Rules refers solely to Committees and Committee Working Groups (and not other organs of ESA).

ESA_10.0756

ESA_10.0757

As Chairman of STAT, J.W.Breukink inquires if the Committee Rules are also applicable to STAT. In view of the complexity and number of participants in STAT meetings, he considers some formal rules to be beneficial for the future work of the group.

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ESA_10.0759

As STAT is a Board Working Group, the Committee Rules do not apply to it. The President states that STAT may develop its own internal rules (in line with the ESA Statutes and Rules) and put these to the ESA Board for formal

ESA_10.0760

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approval.

In this context, the SG confirms again that all ESA Members or groups of members may request to the Secretariat to make use of the ESA Office for (pre-) meetings or other reasons. Wherever possible, the Secretariat will try to accommodate such wishes.

ESA_10.0761

Finances

ESA_10.0762 –
ESA_10.0772

IV. Formal adoption of proposal for new ESA Membership fees

ESA_10.0774

The President invites the Treasurer to introduce the final proposal. Treasurer A. van Elsen recalls that the WG Finances had developed two alternative proposals (strict scaling of increases of contributions and voting rights and a gliding scale, limiting increases for lower as well as higher classes) which both were based on the principle to give equal voting rights to associations and individual members in the organisation and to increase ESA's financial capacity to balance the budget and to have sufficient means available for defined projects. In line with the discussion at the last Board meeting, the final proposal put forward now is the one based on a gliding scale of increases for individual members. While the overall result of such an increase may go even beyond the intended increase of means, it remains to be seen if all members accept the new fees.

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ESA_10.0743.2
ESA_10.0776
ESA_10.0744.2
ESA_10.0777
ESA_10.0778

ESA_10.0779

Board Members agree to the principle approach taken by the WG and contained in the proposal. Following a request for clarification of classification by the Czech Seed Association, it is also agreed to combine the two classes 6 and 6a in a single class 6 with a fee level of 10.000 EUR.

Board members discuss in what way the self-classification of (individual) Members may be improved. Here, it is agreed to use the following definitions:

ESA_10.0781
ESA_10.0782

- Turnover: consolidated seed sales, including royalties, service fees and other seed related income

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ESA_10.0784

- Reference area: all countries which are listed in the ESA Classification of Association Members in the ESA Statutes, i.e. European Union and other European countries including Russia, Ukraine etc.

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ESA_10.0786
ESA_10.0787

- self classification shall be reassessed on a regular basis (e.g. every 3 to 5 years), starting end of 2011 for the fee 2012, based on a simple request from

ESA_10.0788
ESA_10.0789

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the Secretariat

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ESA_10.0791

- in case of doubt, the Board agrees that Members may be asked to supply a formal statement of their respective auditing company to confirm their statement and classification

The Board agrees that the President will send an explanatory document to all ESA Members to explain the background and principles of the new fee structure. Board members will support the proposal and inform their colleagues and Members on national level accordingly. The formal proposal will be introduced to the General Assembly by Honorary President A. Keeling in his capacity of Chair of the WG Finances.

V. VAT status of ESA

The SG informs that following a change of VAT legislation, invoices from non-Belgian service providers now have to be paid net and VAT has to be paid to the Belgian authorities. This has made it necessary to activate ESA's VAT number for these cases. The effect to the ESA budget is limited as VAT rates across the EU are harmonised within a defined corridor and as the number of external service providers is quite limited as well.

As regards membership fees, these remain exempt from VAT and will be invoiced accordingly.

The Board takes note of this information.

Strategic Issues

VI. New ESA Position on IPRs for plants and seed

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The President invites Mrs Suelmann to introduce the subject.

Mrs Suelmann reminds Board Members that the decision to update the ESA Position on IP had been taken in view of both, the fact that the EU had planned to evaluate the current legal framework for plant variety protection and the technical developments and related changes in breeders' use of different IP systems (PBRs and patents) and associated practical issues (specifically regarding the interface between patents and PBRs).

Following the ESA seminar of spring 2010, the CIPR had continued its work on all aspects of the new IP Position and had concluded discussions on a large number of items. However, differences of opinion persist on a limited number of fundamental issues, including on the question how to address the interface between patents and PBRs.

To facilitate the further discussion and provide a base for the deliberations of the ESA Board, a 'term sheet' had been established which contains the major area where no agreement has been reached so far, i.e. on the interface, as well as the possible options to address these points on the base of a the fundamental principle of free access to genetic variability for further breeding.

Before this background, Mrs Csorgo explains the terms sheet as well as the summarizing document (v. ESA_10.0756.1) in more detail to Board Members before the President invites Board Members for comments.

During an extensive discussion, the following main arguments are exchanged:

- **Access to genetic variability for further breeding**

Participants consider this principle to be still applicable and to constitute the guiding line for any further discussion of IP related subjects.

There are differences of opinion whether 'free access' should include 'access for free' and/or where these may or should be separated depending on either technical, legal or commercial reasons.

- **Raising the bar for patent applicants (quality of applications and examination)**

Board Members generally share the statements made by the European Patent

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Office during the ESA Seminar that an improved scrutiny of patent applications, better training of patent office staff etc. will lead to an effective raising of the bar for applicants and thus a reduction of patents granted as well as more trust of companies into the scrutiny of officials, resulting in less oppositions and therefore improved clarity for all parties. However, it is agreed that this approach alone would not be sufficient to resolve the wider issue of patentability, access and conditions of access. Still, it is agreed to continue to work for an improved quality of patent examinations, together with the officials on national as well as EU level.

- **Patentability**

In view of the current practice of patent claims, grants and opposition, it is often unclear what is/will be protected and what not. This makes R&D difficult specifically for smaller companies as their ability to market new varieties in the future may depend on (uncertain) conditions of patent holders. This fact may reduce breeding activities and thus slow down innovation.

A reduction of scope of patentability as e.g. suggested by the proposal developed by BDP would reduce the actual area of interface as there would be much less patents granted and no patents would be available in some areas. At the same time, it is stated that patents are a suitable protection tool for specific inventions and that –where they are granted- they must retain economic value for the inventor in order to guarantee a certain return and stimulate further investment.

This proposal is therefore fundamentally different from the approach advocated e.g. by Plantum, where it is not so much the availability of a patent but more the practical effect of a patent towards companies that would use this material is at the centre of attention. Here, breeders would be principally free to use the material for further breeding, market the resulting varieties and would not fall under the scope of the patent (and thus need to agreement nor pay any compensation to the holder).

On this point, it is underlined that a future ESA Position should show a high level of consistency in the argumentation and possibly instruments used for PBRs as well as patents. In this context, Board Members mention the issue of farm saved seed, time of protection etc. as areas that need to be taken into

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account. On the latter point, it is underlined that the actual lifetime of most varieties is getting shorter and that an extension of the time of protection may also be difficult to support by farmers (COPA) as well as many politicians.

It is stated that essentially biological processes and so-called 'native traits' should in any case fall either fully outside of the scope of patentability or should only be patentable with a defined technical step / method; this is considered to be in line with the principle 'spirit' of the biotech patent legislation and thus not a reduction of scope but rather a clarification.

On the other hand, it is also stated that often massive R&D investment is needed in order to make a 'discovery' and that there should be a possibility to organise the system in a way that such investment is still creating a return for this, e.g. by a limited period of exclusivity.

- **Transparency**

Here, the issue of transparency of protection (patent) status of material is considered of specific importance and Board Members agree that improvements are required. It is also underlined that such requests may be put forward during the future policy debate by other interested parties (farmers etc.) and that these kind of requests usually are supported by a large number of MEPs.

- **Patent Pool / Code of Conduct / amendment of legislation**

In this context, Board Members discuss under what conditions the existing EU legislation would need to be amended and what may be achieved by additions to the implementing legislation on national level (see breeders exemption in French and German national law). The Board is of the opinion that the industry must work for both, a clarification and improvements within the current legal framework, either by legislative means or by industry agreements, as well as for a final clarification of the situation during a legislative process in case this should be required or beneficial.

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There is general agreement that an industry-led agreement would allow a significant change of the current practice immediately after an overall agreement on approach (e.g. a pool) has been reached. While it is not possible to force companies to take part in such a system, it is quite likely that conditions may be set out in a way that would ensure general participation and compliance in practice.

- **Regulated traits**

Regulated traits may require specific additional considerations in view of obligations (stewardship, monitoring etc.) and liabilities; however, it is also stated that these additional considerations are rather independent from the general approach to the IP status of such regulated traits. This aspect should thus be looked at in more detail by experts but not within the current CIPR discussion.

President Amberger thanks all participants and closes the discussion. He underlines that it is the task of the Board to provide guidance and principles and thus reduce complexity in the debate and concludes as follows:

The conclusions of the Board relate to

1. **Access**
2. **Patentability**
3. **Interface**

Ad 1. Access

The ESA Board confirmed as the basic principle for the new Position on IP that “Free access to all genetic material for further breeding” must be safeguarded, in line with the current position.

Ad 2. Patentability

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Today, the Board feels that the quality of assessment of patent applications, the subsequent number of patents granted as well as the broad nature of related claims threaten to hamper innovation in the area of plant breeding where access to genetic material is being limited and breeding work may thus either be slowed down or abandoned, specifically because of the lack of clarity whether a new variety may in the end be brought to the market, i.e. a license can be obtained under acceptable conditions.

The Board confirms the current position that ESA is not in favour of broad claims.

The Board confirmed the position that patents must be restricted to inventions and may not be granted for discoveries. The Board is of the opinion that this interpretation is in line with the ‘spirit’ of the Directive that aims to provide IP protection for biotechnological inventions, not mere biological material without a defined inventive technical step.

The Board agrees that a limitation of patentability as set out by the BDP proposal is required and charges the CIPR to continue its respective discussion on the issue of limitation of patentability on this basis.

Further comments and suggestions:

- **Limiting the scope of patentable subject matter (excluding defined areas from patentability)**

By this, the actual area of ‘interface’ between the two available protection tools/systems of PBRs and patents will be limited by reducing patents by an exclusion of defined subject matter from patentability.

The Board is of the opinion that the conclusions from the current patent cases pending before the Enlarged Board of Appeal of the EPO, specifically on the extent of the exclusion from patentability of essentially biological processes, will already provide some clarification on the scope of patentable subject matter (decision expected before the end of the year).

- **“Broad claims”**

The CIPR may develop ideas for a guidance document developed by the

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industry itself to help establishing an accepted industry 'standard'.

- **"Native traits"**

The Board is of the opinion that native traits may be patentable only in combination with a defined technical process while in combination with a different technical process or developed independently from the patented material, the same "native trait" would still be freely available.

- **Raising the bar for patent applications (improve the quality of the application of current patentability criteria in examination by patent offices)**

There is consensus that some patent applications with very broad claims would not have resulted in a granted patent if a more strict application of the current patentability criteria was followed by the EPO (NPOs).

The Board confirms that the industry will continue to work with patent examiners on national and European level for a strict application of the criteria for patentability.

Ad 3: Fair organisation of access and return on investment in cases of interface

The Board agrees that (after first reducing the area of interface in line with the principles above) the interface should be dealt with in such a way that the principle of free access for further breeding is safeguarded. Here, the Board is of the opinion that the question is no longer if a patent may be granted but how the desired balance between effective protection and access to the patented material for further breeding can be achieved.

On this, the Board established the following points:

- **Once commercially available, the patented genetic material must be available for further breeding in line with the established principle**
- **Free availability in this context does not necessarily mean that**

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commercialisation should be for free.

- **Industry-led approaches to the issue should be further investigated as this could allow for a more immediate solution than a legislative initiative. This could include initiatives in the field of transparency (indication of what falls under the scope of a patent protection), or a simple predictable access system subject to FRAND (Fair, Reasonable and Non Discriminatory) conditions**

Next steps for ESA

- **The CIPR is to continue its work on the base of this guidance from the ESA Board**
- **The final CIPR proposal shall be presented to the Board meeting in March for adoption**
- **At the General Assembly, the IP positions already agreed upon as well as the state of affairs regarding the interface issue shall be presented to Members**

VII. Farm Saved Seed: discussion with the CPVO Working Group

The Board takes note of the written information supplied. It is underlined that it is important to consider the impact of ESAs position and the tone of position papers etc. in view of ongoing discussions at national level, specifically with the farming community.

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At the same time, it is criticised that ESA's position on a clear definition of 'own holding' is unlikely to be taken over by the working group. B. Scholte underlines that demands from some groups represented on the CPVO Working Group had gone much farther (general opening up for all contract farming, inclusion of hybrids etc.) and that the current approach must be seen as a minimum rather than a step forward. Still, ESA will continue to argue for its position on this issue during the upcoming evaluation of the CPVR system.

VIII. Seed Treatment

i. Status of development and implementation of the ESA QAS

The President invites J.W. Breukink as Chair of the ESA Board WG STAT to inform the Board about the current state of affairs.

J.W. Breukink gives a short update of the first phase of the QAS following the assignment of the task to Mr R. Scheffer and the acceptance of an outline of approach. It had specifically been agreed with the consultant to make use of all the already available data and expertise on Member State level, specifically in France, Germany, The Netherlands, the UK etc. where the subject is already quite advanced.

To that effect, a number of bilateral meetings had been organised and were carried out and a further fine-tuning of the approach was agreed during a number of meetings and conference calls of STAT and its Steering Group for this specific project. Currently, work is concentrating on naming and branding the industry effort and to at the same time consider what concrete measures could be taken (technical as well as regards communication) to further support the project.

A more detailed presentation on the issue shall be given to all ESA Members during the meeting of the Section Maize during the ESA Annual Meeting.

ii. Classification of treated seed as hazardous goods

J.W. Breukink and the SG inform the Board about the background of the discussion between ESA and ECPA on the issue of classification of (some) treated seed as dangerous substance in view of its transportation storage etc.. It is underlined that this would seriously affect the current practices in the

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seed industry as well as for farmers and thus should be considered a priority for the organisation to address.

The Board confirms the assessment of STAT and considers it important to make decision makers in crop protection companies aware of the fact that such approaches are neither supported by customers nor helpful in view of the overriding policy message of specific environmental safety of STs.

The Board agrees that Members with direct contacts to the Executive level of the companies in question should raise these points in direct talks.

The Board also approves of the approach to keep the discussion between the industry organisations at this point in time.

IX. GMOs

- i. EU legislation for re-nationalisation of authorisation of GMOs for cultivation and Coexistence: ESA Position and actions**

The Chairman of CRLA, C. Herrlinger, informs the Board about the recent developments in the area of GMOs and specifically about the new political approach to authorisations and coexistence which also allow for a strong lobbying effort on the setting of seed thresholds, even though this is specifically considered out of the scope of the proposal by DG SANCO. However, it has become clear that the existing position requesting a labelling threshold of up to 0.9% is not usable in the upcoming political discussions, a point confirmed in high level meetings between COM and industry.

The CRLA had thus started to work on new positions covering both the question of a threshold for EU approved events as well as an EU-wide sampling and testing methodology that would prescribe how to test for presence of GMOs in conventional seed and thus help to achieve legal certainty to operators.

Board Members agree that despite the reluctance of DG SANCO to address the subject of thresholds at this time, ESA should continue its work with Member States as well as MEPs on all possible levels. The need to guarantee the Internal Market for seed on the one hand and to satisfy the request for nationalisation of authorisations for GM plantings is seen as a possible tool to convince the Commission that this may only be achieved with the setting of a realistic policy for AP.

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X. European Technology Platform ‘Plants for the Future’: presentation and discussion on future involvement

The SG reminds Board members that it had been agreed to provide a presentation on the European Technology Platform ‘Plants for the Future’ (of which ESA is one of the leading members) to inform the Board about the ongoing activities and provide a better base for the decision on the continuation of support.

As the coordinator is unavailable due to the Annual Meeting of EPSO (European Plant Science Organisation), a presentation has been developed which is put to the Board by the SG (v. ESA_10.0826).

Following the presentation, the Board agrees to continue to support the ETP for another term of three years with unchanged conditions. At the same time, it is considered important to strengthen the link between ETP and ESA membership and with that to foster the input from companies to the R&D policy development. A. van Elsen suggests to set up a Working Group with interested experts from companies to accompany the work of the platform, suggest concrete input and to provide the link between Members and ETP. Furthermore, it is agreed to provide an update of the presentation given by the SG at the next Board meeting and to include information on concrete participation of companies and financial means involved.

XI. Membership applications: presentation and decisions

The SG informs Board Members that additional membership applications had been received and supplies hard copies of the respective documents (ESA_10.0821, ESA_10.0822 and ESA_10.0823).

The Board approves all membership applications as put forward, i.e.

- Swiss Seed (Association M.)**
- Solana GmbH (Individual)**
- AIB (Associate)**
- Breeders Trust (Associate)**
- Seed Quest (Associate)**

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- **Altius (Associate)**
- **Croatian Seed Association (Association)**
- **Nufarm (Associate)**
- **European Plant Breeding Academy / UC Davis (Associate)**
- **Vondst (Associate)**
- **Drummonds (Associate)**
- **Syndicat Francais des Obtenteurs de Pommes de Terre (Association)**
- **Krishidhan Seed (Individual)**

As regards the membership of Syndicat Français des Obtenteurs de Pommes de Terre, it is confirmed that it in line with the ESA Statutes, is up to UFS and SFOPDT to decide on the internal repartition of the fee set for France.

The Board also accepts the membership application of Keygene but decides that the membership must be that of an Associate Member as Keygene is not a seed company in the sense of the spirit of the ES Statutes.

The Board charges the Secretariat to inform the applicants on the decision and to place the applications to the General Assembly for formal approval.

XII. CRLA: nomination of a new Member

The President points the Board to the applications received and the Chair of the CRLA provides further an opinion on the specific needs of the Committee in view of the upcoming tasks and the respective expertise required.

Board Members underline the need to assure an appropriate representation of all ESA Members and specifically point out the need to have expertise of all relevant crops (vegetables and agricultural crops) available on the Committee.

A secret ballot is held and K. v. Kameke is elected as new member of the CRLA by absolute majority in the first ballot.

XIII. Miscellaneous

- i. Report from ESA bodies (where required)**

Stimati colegi,

in calitate de membrii Asociatiei Europene al Semintelor-ESA va transmitem procesul verbal al ultimei sedinte al Conducerii ESA (Consiliul director) si temele discutate pentru pregatirea Adunarii Generale din 10-12 oct.2010. Asteptam opinii care sa fie prezentate de delegatul nostru la intalnirile de la Bruxelles dl. presedinte Gheorghe Nedelcu.

Cu stima,

Gheorghe Hedesan

Presedinte executiv AMSEM

European Seed Association

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- **ESA Code of Conduct**

Mrs Csorgo presents the draft code of conduct which had been developed in line with the specific request from the ESA Section Forage and Grasses and the ESA Board.

Board Members are of the opinion that the draft provides a solid base for a final check with legal experts from member companies with specific experience in this area. The Secretariat is charged to continue its work with the help of such experts and to present a final proposal for adoption at the next Board meeting.

- **ESA Anti-Trust Guidelines**

Mrs Csorgo presents the draft Anti-Trust Guidelines which had been developed on the base of similar guidelines used by other organisations such as ISF or EuropaBio.

The Board decides to charge the Secretariat with a similar final check with the help of some company experts and to present a final proposal for adoption to the next Board meeting.

- **Communication and Outreach: progress report**

The SG informs that following the supply of communication tools by the Secretariat (overview of MEPs and Commissioners, mailing addresses of MEPs per country), first outreach activities with national associations had included the sending over of the new biodiversity brochure, a call for action on the draft novel food regulation and a press statement and position on the new Commission approach to GMOs.

Feedback from national associations on their individual efforts varies considerably and shall be addressed again at the upcoming meeting with Secretaries General during the ESA Annual Meeting.

In addition, the Secretariat had approach a number of communication specialists to inquire about possibilities and prices for proof reading by professional journalists etc. in order to make further brochures more

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accessible to a wider audience. At recent meetings of the CRLA, it had also been underlined that more information and a better presentation of ESA's arguments will be crucial in the upcoming political debates and that respective activities should be considered a priority for the coming months.

- **ESA WGB: voluntary payments to the FAO IT fund**

C. Herrlinger as Chair of the CRLA and member of the WGB informs the Board that a more pro-active approach of the industry to the funding problems of the FAO IT is currently being discussed in order to avoid a failure of this system which in turn could lead to a much more stringent and less suitable system to be established under the CBD (currently under discussion).

The WGB is currently developing ideas for possible voluntary contributions from the seed industry that would extend to all commercial seed, i.e. not only to seed of varieties that are not available for further breeding without restrictions.

The Board takes note of the information and supports the development of policy options by the CRLA and WGB on this subject.

- ii. **Spring seminar 2011: discussion and decision on topic and location**

The Board expresses its preference for the subject no. 2, "Promoting innovation for a competitive European agri-food chain".

General Assembly 2010

XIV. ESA General Assembly 2010 – Statutory Part

- i. **DRAFT Agenda for discussion and adoption**

The Board adopts the draft agenda as proposed.

Stimati colegi,

in calitate de membrii Asociatiei Europene al Semintelor-ESA va transmitem procesul verbal al ultimei sedinte al Conducerii ESA (Consiliul director) si temele discutate pentru pregatirea Adunarii Generale din 10-12 oct.2010. Asteptam opinii care sa fie prezentate de delegatul nostru la intalnirile de la Bruxelles dl. presedinte Gheorghe Nedelcu.

Cu stima,

Gheorghe Hedesan

Presedinte executiv AMSEM

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ii. Contribution Association Members 2011 – proposal for adoption

The Board adopts the Contributions for Association members as proposed.

iii. Contribution Individual Members 2011 – proposal for adoption

The Board adopts the Contributions for Individual members as proposed.

iv. Contribution Associate Members 2011 – proposal for adoption

The Board adopts the Contributions for Associate members as proposed.

v. ESA Budget 2011 – proposal for adoption

The Board adopts the proposed budget with the following amendment:

- income from membership fees: 745.000 EUR

- result: 0 EUR

vi. ESA General Assembly 2011 location – proposal for adoption

The Board adopts the proposal to hold the 2011 General Assembly in Budapest.

vii. Auditors for ESA accounts 2011 - proposal for adoption

The Board adopts the proposal to charge EATC with the verification of ESA's accounts for the year 2011.

viii. ESA Rules of Procedure – proposal for amendment

see above under PoA III

ix. ESA Calendar of meetings 2011

**The Board takes note of the Calendar of meetings for 2011.
(v. also below under XV.)**

x. Priorities 2011

Stimati colegi,

in calitate de membrii Asociatiei Europene al Semintelor-ESA va transmitem procesul verbal al ultimei sedinte al Conducerii ESA (Consiliul director) si temele discutate pentru pregatirea Adunarii Generale din 10-12 oct.2010. Asteptam opinii care sa fie prezentate de delegatul nostru la intalnirile de la Bruxelles dl. presedinte Gheorghe Nedelcu.

Cu stima,

Gheorghe Hedesan

Presedinte executiv AMSEM

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The Board takes note and accepts the proposed priorities for the year 2011.

xi. ESA General Assembly – agenda for the open part

The Board decides to discuss both, support for R&D in plant breeding as well as the protection of IP under the common heading of support for innovation during the General Assembly 2010.

XV. Closure and confirmation of date of next meeting (24.03.2011)

The President thanks all participants for their attendance and contributions and closes the meeting.

The next meeting is confirmed for

**24.03.2011
ESA office**

As regards the September meeting, the Secretariat is charged to verify the availability of Board members for the dates 6.,7.,8. and 9.9.2011.