



# ESA NEWSLETTER

September 2010

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## ESA Meetings (selected)

- **10.-12.10.2010**  
**ESA Annual Meeting**
- **13.10.2010**  
**SVOWic Meeting**
- **27.10.2010**  
**SOF WG Testing Method GLS Conference Call**
- **28.10.2010**  
**SPO WG Uniform Classification Scheme Conference Call**
- **3.11.2010**  
**ESA STAT**
- **16.11.2010**  
**CIPR Meeting**

Dear Members,

strengthening public awareness and involvement of stakeholder will be crucial for future improvement of EU policy on plant health were the main messages from the high level EU Conference "Towards a new EU Plant Health Law" which was held on 28.09.2010 in Brussels. And hosted by the European Commission, represented by Commissioner John Dalli, and the Belgian EU Presidency, represented by Minister Sabine Laruelle. The Conference marked the end of the first step of the evaluation of the existing legislation and presented the conclusions as well as options and recommendations for a future revision.

In his opening address, Commissioner Dalli underlined the main objective of EU plant health legislation, the protection of the safety of food derived from plants and to secure the health and quality status of crops in all Member States by regulating the trade of plants and plant products within the EU as well as imports from the rest of the world in accordance with international plant health standards and obligations. Both, Commissioner and Minister Laruelle stressed the importance of this policy and the fact that in view of climate change and increasing world trade, more will need to be done in the future. At the same time, both pointed to the limited resources available and to the importance to involve all capacities on European and national level to achieve the objectives.

As ESA, we certainly welcome the acknowledgement of the Commission that the ideas for a new plant health law must not centre solely around proper classification of pests or appropriate control or eradication measures but that the stronger involvement of stakeholders in general and industry in particular will be instrumental for success. And we specifically suggested the creation of a horizontal Advisory Group on Plant Health as well as Technical Expert Groups to support Commission and Member States in the implementation of phytosanitary measures. The industry is looking for a modern legislation that is fit for purpose and for a modern governance that involves stakeholders such as the seed industry in all phases of policy development, decision making and implementation.

During the conference, we underlined the specificity of the sector and the high level of expertise and commitment to an efficient and effective plant health regime. As an industry, we are ready and able to take on additional responsibilities. This could free resources in public administrations to address those issues that are specifically linked to the public good character of this issue, like e.g. the phytosanitary status of public green. More public-private-partnership in this policy can be based on the seed industry's proven track record in ensuring quality conditions for the sale of seeds and propagating material within the EU under official supervision. This approach has proven to be a recipe for success that we wish to see taken on for the plant health legislation.

The Commission invited public authorities and stakeholders to supply further input to the process in the coming weeks and months during which an Action Plan and, finally, a legislative proposal will be developed then will be placed before European Parliament and Member States for final discussion and decision. The ESA Working Group Plant Health will continue to work specifically with national associations in the coming months to further prepare the ground for a successful revision of this important legislation.

With best regards, yours

Garlich v. Essen, Secretary General



## Visits to ESA Members – Enza Zaden, September 20, 2010

On September 20, 2010 Sz. Csörgő visited Enza Zaden in Enkhuizen, in the Netherlands. The whole-day visit was organized by Mr. Rob Keene, director of exports division. The visit started with a discussion session where Sz. Csörgő met Mr. Rob Keene, Mrs. Katherine Dutmer, manager legal affairs and registration and Mr. Oleg Gladouniak, sales manager for Eastern Europe. In the morning the discussion mainly focussed on ESA's activities related to IP protection in third countries and more specifically the IPR dialogue discussions with the European Commission regarding Ukraine and Russia in which ESA participates regularly. In that respect the two parties exchanged views and experiences regarding possible problems in the respective countries. In the afternoon the discussions continued with Mrs. Dutmer and Mr. Keene and focussed on topics relating to seed marketing legislation and plant variety protection and the evaluation of both regimes on the European level. The visit ended with a comprehensive tour over the laboratories and various facilities of the company. It provided a nice occasion for fruitful personal exchanges and a practical insight. (SzCs)

### External meetings

(selected)

- **06.10.2010**  
**CPVO Open Day**  
**DUS Vegetables**  
**Angers (F)**
- **07.-08.10.2010**  
**CPVO Annual**  
**Meeting DUS**  
**Vegetable experts**  
**Angers (F)**
- **14.10.2010**  
**ESA Meeting with**  
**Commission (DG**  
**RTD)**  
**Brussels (BE)**
- **19.10.2010**  
**UPOV CAJ**  
**Geneva (CH)**
- **22.10.2010**  
**CIOPORA – CPVO**  
**Meeting**  
**Brussels (BE)**
- **25.10.2010**  
**DG AGRI WP**  
**statistics**

## General Assembly of the Hungarian Seed Association – September 23

The Hungarian Seed Association held its General Assembly on September 23, 2010 in Tata where Sz. Csörgő, representing ESA, also participated. Following the statutory part of the assembly the focus was turned to the work and the role of the Hungarian Central Agricultural Office (responsible for conducting DUS and VCU tests and for variety listing in Hungary) in the implementation of the national, and with that the European, seed marketing legislation in Hungary. Mrs. Katalin Ertsey, director of the Plant Production and Horticulture division of the Office and president of ISTA, addressed this topic and reflected on recent political developments in her speech. Related to that, Sz. Csörgő gave a presentation on the Better Regulation exercise and the changes that are likely to come in the European seed marketing legislation. The meeting concluded with a round table discussion with Mrs. Ertsey, Mrs. Csörgő, Mr. Zsolt Feldmann, state secretary responsible for the seed sector and Mr. Géza Takács, president of the Hungarian Seed Association in which questions related to the plans of the new government regarding the sector as well as FSS were thoroughly discussed. A very interesting meeting and nice opportunity to meet the representatives of the Hungarian seed industry. Many thanks once again for the whole staff of the Hungarian seed association for the invitation! (SzCs)

## Commission Directive 2010/60/EC on fodder plant preservation seed mixtures

On August 30 a new piece of implementing legislation was adopted by the European Commission in the context of conservation of genetic resources. This new Directive provides for certain derogations for the marketing of fodder plant seed mixtures which are intended for use in the preservation of the natural environment and which can be marketed under the specific geographic and quantitative limitations defined in the Directive. ESA has had the opportunity to provide comments to the Commission on the draft version of the Directive. It was done on two occasions however, many of ESA's comments were not followed in the final version of the text. The Directive is available on the ESA website. (SzCs)



## Meeting on definition of 00 Varieties in Winter Oilseed rape

On September 8 a meeting was organised between ESA, COPA, FEDIOL, FEFAC and UFOP on Glucosinolate levels in Winter Oilseed rape.

- Definition of 00 varieties of Winter Oilseed rape. Following the discussion on the Fediol position it was agreed already that the definition of WOR varieties in relation to their listing in the Common Catalogue should be revised from max 25  $\mu\text{mol}$  to max 18  $\mu\text{mol}$ . ESA has sent a letter to the Commission requesting such a change in January this year. Until today no formal answer was received but the Commission has indicated that such a change would be difficult due to the lack of an international standard. After discussion it has been agreed that the organisations as mentioned will write a joint letter to the Commission re-stating the ESA request for change of definition by the end of September.
- FSS in Oilseed rape. On request of COPA Fediol has decided to revise its position in order to indicate explicitly that FSS will be allowed for one generation and that the farmer should be able to provide proof that the crop the year before was produced using certified seed of a variety having max 18  $\mu\text{mol}$  GLS, tested at the moment of registration of the respective variety. Such proof should consist of the corresponding blue tags and the related invoice. On proposal of ESA Fediol will indicate in its position paper that FSS is only allowed for open pollinated varieties.
- The representative of the NFU has indicated that until information is available in the Common Catalogue UK farmers need information if varieties are in the category below 18  $\mu\text{mol}$  to enable farmers to choose the right variety. Such information is needed before the publication of the new Recommended List, which will be published in November of this year. It was agreed that the issue would be discussed in ESA SOF but that it should be possible to find an interim solution.

In the mean time an ad-hoc Working Group in SOF has started the discussion on the methodology for GLS and is in the process of collecting information in the testing methods currently being used in different Member States. (BS)

## UFS maize section meeting in Pau (F), 08.09.2010

The UFS Maize group met for its annual meeting in Pau, France, on 08. September 2010. The meeting concentrated on the achievements of the new French seed industry organisation during its first year and specifically focussed on the issues of seed treatment quality assurance and on the future policy of renationalisation of GMO authorisation and the consequences for the seed industry. On the latter, G.v.Essen provided a contribution on the current state of affairs in the areas of breeding techniques, evaluation of the EU legal framework and the ongoing preparation of the legislative process between Council and Parliament for the national authorisations to ban the planting of GM crops on specified territory. (vE)

**Next ESA Newsletter to be published on 01.11.2010**