



ESA

European Seed Association

**Better Regulation –
State of Play of the Evaluation & Upcoming
Co-ordinated ESA Activities**

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Better Regulation in a Nutshell

Carried out by: DG SANCO

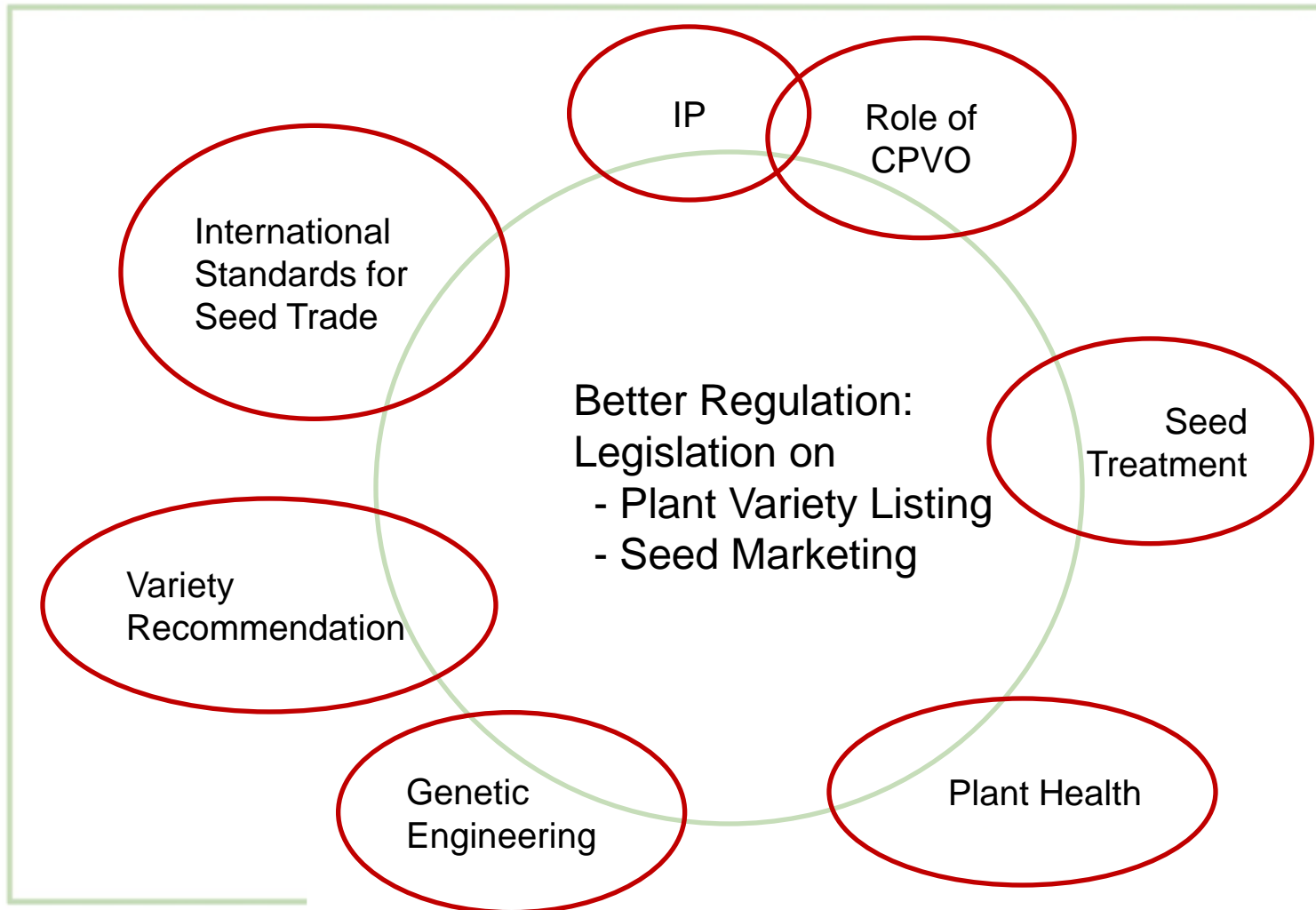
Subject: 12 EU Directives on Listing and Marketing of Seed/Propagating Material

Objectives:

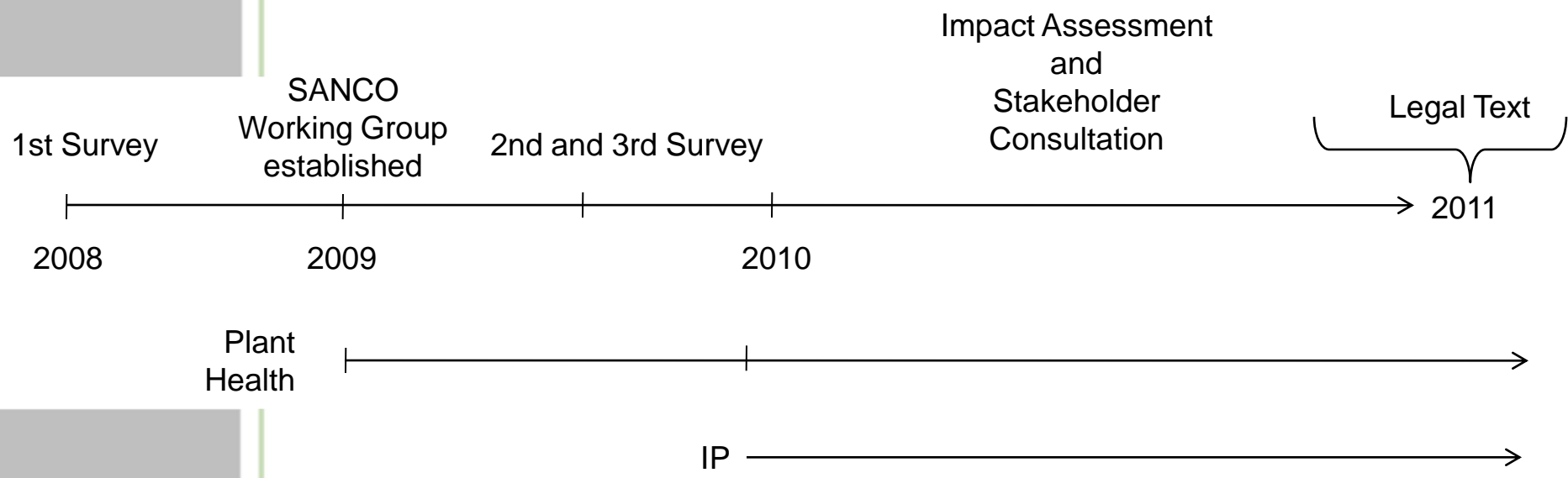
- evaluate need for revision
- propose improvements
- enhance competitiveness



Related Issues



Timetable



Findings of the Evaluator

- improve definitions (e.g. import, seed)
- synchronise DUS testing for PVP and for listing
- make DUS more flexible for conservation varieties
- harmonise VCU criteria
- stronger involve private industry in seed certification
- harmonise seed certification and plant health
- strengthen role of the CPVO
- make Common Catalogue a tool for consumer information (breeding techniques etc.)



Findings of the Evaluator (II)

- set GMO thresholds for seeds
- replace seed marketing directives by a regulation



MODIFY



Ideas of DG SANCO

- check list of species
- re-define VCU
 - focus more on environment/consumer protection
 - offer module system (similar to Danish system)
- Official seed certification
 - reduce to export?
 - stronger involve private industry
- Exemptions:
 - preserve exemptions for landraces/seed mixtures
 - consider concept of small producers/local markets



Ideas of DG SANCO (II)

- strengthen role of the CPVO
 - synchronise DUS tests for PVP and for listing (“one key, several doors”)
 - in charge of variety denominations (central database)
 - in charge of Common Catalogues
 - but: no EU-centralised listing
- harmonise seed certification and plant health
- replace seed marketing directives by a regulation



Position of EU Seed Industry - Principles

Future EU Legislation on Seeds & Plant Propagating Material

- better harmonised
- quicker, simpler, cheaper
- orientation on needs of the stakeholders
- innovative plant breeding for sustainable & competitive agriculture

DUS

VCU

Seed
Certification

Comprehensive list of species



Position of the EU Seed Industry – Improve Definitions

- e.g. “placing on the market”:
 - explicitly include direct imports
 - exclude from definition imports for processing and immediate re-export
- e.g. “seeds”:
 - treated seeds/plants for planting = seeds
- e.g. “under official supervision”
 - include delegation of official tasks to private entities (e.g. issue of official certificates)



Position of the EU Seed Industry – DUS

- co-ordinated and audited by CPVO (“one key, several doors”)
- envisage reduction of testing sites
- allow for private involvement in DUS testing under official supervision
- no further weakening for conservation varieties etc.



Position of the EU Seed Industry - VCU

- apply same principles in every MS (harmonisation)
- test only for what is really needed (flexibility)
- allow for private VCU testing under official supervision
- continue to focus on agronomic traits
- yield remains important also for sustainability
- include environmental related aspects as appropriate
- but no environmental or safety risk assessment



Position of the EU Seed Industry – Common Catalogue

- administered by CPVO
- web-based with online access
- real-time listing of new varieties
- for information only
- including the following information:
 - variety denomination
 - characteristic properties
 - protection status (plant variety protection/patents)?
 - breeding methods only if legally requested



Position of the EU Seed Industry – Official Seed Certification

- indispensable for agricultural species
- not only for exports, but also for Common Market
- more private involvement under official supervision
 - include pre-basic and basic seeds
 - allow for private seed certification as a service to third parties
 - include all activities: field inspections, sampling, analysis, issue of certificates



Position of the EU Seed Industry – Quality Standards

- highest possible standards wanted, not the “smallest common denominator”
- Member States shall remain free to set higher legal standards
- include seed industry in the setting of standards
- harmonize with plant health legislation
 - prioritize
 - include stakeholders
 - allow testing under official supervision



Position of the EU Seed Industry – Exemptions

- conservation varieties, amateur varieties, preservation seed mixtures
 - stricter requirements for evidence of genetic erosion
 - longer grace period
 - clear distinctiveness/variety description
 - call for official testing
 - limit the amounts
- marketing of seeds for production of agricultural raw material to be deleted
- marketing of seeds of plant varieties not yet listed to be maintained



Position of the EU Seed Industry – Structure for future EU Regulation

General Provisions										
Specific Provisions										
Annex vegetable seed	Annex fodder plant seed	Annex cereal seed	Annex beet seed	Annex seed of oil and fibre plant	Annex seed potatoe	Annex vine	Annex fruit	Annex vegetable other than seed	Annex ornamental	Annex forest reproductive material



Position of EU Seed Industry – Summary

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Further ESA activities

- position paper to be issued shortly
- meeting with DG SANCO (upcoming: 8 Dec, in context with next meeting of ESA WG BR)
- finding allies for ESA Position
 - COPA-COGECA
 - EUROPATAT
 - etc.
- outreach by ESA Members to MS representatives in Standing Committees
- ESA outreach to MEPs

