



ESA NEWSLETTER

April 2011

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ESA Meetings (selected)

- **02.-03.05.2011**
SCP Meeting
- **06.05.2011**
STAT Steering
Group
Conference Call
- **10.05.2011**
GM Expert WG
- **18.05.2011**
WGBR
Meeting
- **27.05.2011**
WG FSS
Conference Call
- **30.05.2011**
SFG WG Monitoring
Meeting

Dear Members,

as you have been informed on earlier occasions, ESA decided to place the role of plant breeding for innovation in farming high on its policy agenda for 2011. It seems we could not have found a more suitable time to do so. Around the world, soaring commodity and consequently food prices have been noted. In some regions, they are believed to be at the very heart of political unrest and even revolution, like e.g. in the North of Africa and parts of Asia. Surely, there is more to current situation in Libya, Tunisia or Egypt (to name but a few) than just the single factor of access to affordable food; but meanwhile it has been confirmed from numerous sources that this issue played an important role. I think it is fair to say that people around the world consider this access to affordable food to be one of the fundamental and principal tasks for any government and its institutions. Governments and institutions that fail to deliver on respective promises or announced guarantees loose credibility and support way beyond ideological boundaries. And the more fragile (and often questionable as regards the rule of law and democratic principles) such governments are, the more likely developments as the recent ones may become.

Irrespective our sympathy or position for such movements, it is fair to state that with them, the importance of food security has come back to the very top of the international policy agenda with a vengeance. A good three years ago, EU food retailers and producers mauled the rising commodity prices and criticised the support for bioenergy production as a decisive factor for the corresponding rise in food prices. Meanwhile, it has been proven over and again that this simplified explanation may have served as a valuable argument in a political campaign; but we also know that it has been a flawed argument, and serving at best those that for long have opposed any support for the European farming sector. Almost inevitably, this debate seems to be coming back now that the EU is preparing the post 2013 Common Agricultural Policy and its financing. At this critical point in time, it also seems that the agri-food sector, including its top representatives and head organisations, still lack a common vision on how to improve competitiveness, contribute more to overall societal goals such as greening the economy and preserving natural resources. While there is constant reiteration of the need of innovation, there is no clarity, let alone a common understanding, of what that should encompass in policy making, development and use of new technologies and a future structure of agricultural and food production. The recent collapse of the revision of the EU's Novel Food Regulation over the fierce discussion on bans on cloning and labelling of derived products as well as the still on-going debate about the need for approval procedures and conditions for the use of modern (plant) breeding technologies provide proof of the lack of understanding of policy makers, lack of communication of developers and consequent lack of support by consumers.

It is high time to beef up the sector's outreach and advocacy if this situation is to be improved still in time before fundamental decisions are taken, from seed marketing to intellectual property protection and from GMOs to new breeding techniques,.

With best regards, yours

Garlich v. Essen, Secretary General



Conference on plant innovation for agriculture on 17 May 2011

How to Improve the Flow of Plant Innovation to the European Agriculture

17 May 2011, Brussels



External Meetings (selected)

- 04.-05.05.2011
UPOV Seminar
Geneva (CH)
- 09.-13.05.2011
OECD Annual
Meeting
Istanbul (TR)
- 11.05.2011
CPVO
Denomination
Meeting
Brussels (B)
- 11.05.2011
EU Workshop on
Seed Protection
Paris (F)
- 17.05.2011
ETP Plants for the
Future Conference
Brussels (B)
- 17.05.2011
BSPB Annual
Meeting
London (UK)
- 25.05.2011
CPVO Enforcement
seminar
Hamburg (D)

The European Technology Platform 'Plants for the Future' (Plant ETP) is organizing a high-level conference 'How to Improve the Flow of Plant Innovation to the European Agriculture' which will take place in Brussels on 17 May 2011.

Major stakeholders of the technology platform are EPSO (European Plant Science organisation), COPA-COGECA (European farmers' organization) and ESA (European Seed Association) as well as a number of individual plant breeding companies.

European agriculture needs research and innovation in order to produce more and better while reducing its environmental footprint. The European plant breeding industry must play a key role to help to solve the major challenges that we face such as food security and renewable energy supply.

The purpose of the conference is to identify key areas for improvements such as the key hurdles to innovation and how to overcome them, how on-going and future research programs may contribute to promote market driven solutions and which objectives should be fixed to boost innovation in the plant sector.

The event brings together leaders of European companies and organisations active in the plant-based agri-food chain, the main players from the academic world, and policy makers and administrators with responsibility for the EU's research and innovation funding schemes. The Plant ETP plans to outline the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) action plan for the period 2011-2016 and particularly focuses on promoting a Research Action Plan and an Innovation Action Plan for the plant sector.

To register for this important conference, please contact the [ESA Secretariat](#) or [Silvia Travella](#), coordinator of the Plant ETP.

Please note that attendance is limited to 150 participants!

To view the Conference Programme, please click on [esa_11.0356](#); more information on the Plant ETP can also be found on <http://www.plantetp.org> (vE, SB)



Intellectual Property Rights: ESA Board gives further direction to the debate on the new ESA Position

The ESA Board met for the first time in 2011 on March 23. As IP, and in particular the new ESA IP position, is still very high on the ESA agenda the Board considered the proposals put forward to it by the ESA CIPR (on the conclusions of the CIPR a brief report was provided to you in the February issue of the ESA Newsletter) and thoroughly discussed all issues. The Board endorsed the proposal of the CIPR on “raising the bar for the examination of patent applications” therefore a meeting between the CIPR and examiners of the EPO is being organized for the beginning of June. The Board also endorsed the proposal of the CIPR regarding patent transparency. According to this proposal patent holder companies would publish information on their own company websites on the patent status of genetic material belonging to their varieties and access to these company websites will be ensured via a public portal. Further details on the practical functioning of the system will be elaborated in due course.

Concerning the CIPR’s proposal on the limitation of patentability the Board has only partially endorsed the proposal presented to it on March 23 since members of the Board wish to receive more clarification and explanation on the practical consequences of the proposal, in particular, as regards the patentability of so-called ‘native traits’. Therefore the Board requested the CIPR to further elaborate on this point and provide more clarity. Since this point was left open Board members felt that it was not possible to take decisions on the questions of commercialization until it is not known how many and what kind of patents could be granted under the proposed position on the limitation of patentability.

At its next meeting (June 16) the CIPR will now work on the clarification of the consequences of its proposal in respect of the patentability of ‘native traits’ and, on the request of the Board, will also consider whether other alternative solutions could lead to the same level of limitation of patentability as the level that would be reached by the proposal put before the Board on May 23. In addition, to the extent necessary and as available time allows, the CIPR will also assess what the proposed ESA position would mean in terms of potential changes to current legislative provisions. Last, but not least, the Board decided to move the questions related to compliance with regulatory issues attached to regulated traits to the ESA CRLA which will discuss this matter at its next meeting at the end of June. (SzCs)

UPOV – Technical Committee – April 4-6

The UPOV TC met in Geneva from April 4-6 chaired by Joel Guiard (France). More than 90 experts attended the meeting representing 45 countries. ESA was represented by B. Scholte. As incoming vice-Chairman Mr. Alejandro Barrientos-Priego (Mexico) was appointed. The reports from the different Technical Working Parties were for the first time presented by the respective Chairpersons in form of a power point presentation.

TGP documents

TGP 11.1 Examination of Stability – draft 10



The TC discussed draft 10 of the document and proposed to move the document forward for adoption by the UPOV Council in October.

TGP 5.6. Notification of additional characteristics and states of expression.

The TC discussed draft 2 of the document which is a revision of an existing TGP and decided to move the document forward for adoption by the Council in October.

TGP 7 Example varieties

The TC discussed the use of regional or national sets of example varieties and the possibility to use absolute measurements which could be of use in countries having the same environmental conditions. The TC decided that the draft should go back to the Technical Working Parties for further discussion.

TGP 12. Disease nomenclature/characteristics.

Mr. Sergio Semon (CPVO) is revising this document which will be discussed by the different TWP's in their up-coming meetings and will be re-discussed by the TC in 2012. This is an important document in particular for vegetables, which therefore will also be discussed in ESA SVO and SVOWic.

Improvements of the work of the TC

The TC discussed various possibilities to improve the work of the TC as suggested by the new UPOV Secretariat, consisting of Peter Button (Vice Secretary General) – replacing Mr. Jordens, Mrs. Julia Borys (Senior Councillor) – replacing Mr. Button. It is the intention of the Secretariat to allocate more time for discussion and less for reporting. UPOV will continue organising seminars on specific issues. It will also evaluate the work of the editorial committee which will start having meetings of 2 full days in January next year. Also the meeting of the TC in 2012 will be extended to a full 3 day meeting. The meeting will start with a half day discussion how to improve the effectiveness of DUS testing focussing on example varieties, management of reference varieties and the use of DNA techniques in DUS testing.

Test Guidelines

Due to a change in the already adopted TGP 7 the Council will have to re-discuss and adopt the revised TGP 7 in its next meeting. Therefore, the adoption of the Test Guidelines is delayed until October this year. This concerns the following Technical Guidelines:

- New Guidelines – 11 in total (10 on ornamental crops + foxtail millet)
- Revised Guidelines – 8 in total; important to mention are:
 - Tomato
 - Artichoke and
 - Flax
- Partial Revised Guidelines – 2 in total:
 - Lettuce and
 - Spinach

(BS)



UPOV CAJ – April 7, 2011, Geneva

The CAJ held its 63rd session on April 7, 2011 in Geneva. The session of the CAJ was attended by around 70 delegates and a number of observers from different organizations. On behalf of ESA Szonja Csörgő attended the session. For the first time also representatives of some new observer organizations, such as the Association for Plant Breeding for the Benefit of Society (APBEBES) as well as the European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC), were present at the session.

At the meeting the information was given that the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia will become the 69th member of UPOV as of May 4, 2011.

The following issues of interest were discussed:

Molecular techniques

The CAJ noted the adoption of UPOV/INF/17/1 “UPOV Guidelines for DNA-profiling: molecular marker selection and database construction (BMT Guidelines).” Further the CAJ proposed the document BMT/DUS for adoption by the Council. This document provides guidance on the use of markers and possible models for application [(i) characteristic-specific molecular markers (as a predictor of traditional characteristics); (ii) calibrated molecular distances in the management of variety collections; (iii) use of molecular marker characteristics- development of a new system]. The models for application are given a positive or negative assessment in the document. The adoption of this document does not mean any different approach to DUS testing. The intention is only to provide for the possible use of markers as an additional tool in testing but the DUS assessment and decision remains to be based on the phenotypical characteristics. In addition to BMT/DUS a new document (TGP 15) will also be developed separately but linked to BMT/DUS in its content since TGP 15 will be aimed at providing further explanation on the models that received positive assessment and on models for which accepted examples could be provided. The next session of the UPOV BMT will take place in November 22-24 in Brasilia, Brazil where a so-called “Breeders’ Day” will be held on November 22 where more information on this subject will be provided to breeders.

Information database

The web-based version of the UPOV ‘GENIE’ database has been launched. The database contains the same information and functions as the UPOV ROM but there are also some additional functions such as the variety denomination similarity search. The CAJ discussed the policy for access to the web-based database and expressed a clear support for providing free access for all users to the database.

Development of information documents

Information documents are being prepared by the CAJ Advisory Group (AG) on: exhaustion; matters arising after the grant of the breeder’s right; definition of breeder; harvested material; EDV. In addition, on the proposal of one of the observers, the CAJ agreed to request the AG to develop explanatory notes for the notions of ‘propagation’ and ‘propagating material’.



Variety denominations

Following a request from one of the delegations UPOV provided some information on the relationship between trademarks and variety denominations. The information given confirmed that the variety denomination is the generic designation of the variety and no rights shall hamper the free use of such designation, i.e. such denominations should not be allowed for registration as trademarks. This is also true the other way around, i.e. in case a trademark exists on a name proposed as variety denomination, PVP offices should not accept it but should request the breeder to find another name.

Electronic applications

The CAJ expressed its support for the Linear Blank Form for PBR applications. ISF also expressed its willingness to financially contribute to the further development of the linear blank forms. It was also mentioned that the CPVO is looking at possibilities to make its own on-line application system applicable to other UPOV members.

Other issues

Information was given that WIPO (the World Intellectual Property Organization) is organizing a series of seminars on the role of IP with regard to agriculture / food security. The first seminar will take place on June 14, 2011. Further information is available here:

http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=22762.

Next session of the CAJ

The next session of the CAJ will take place on October 17 and the meeting of the CAJ-AG on October 18, 2011. The 50 years anniversary of UPOV will also take place during that week in Geneva. (SzCs)

UPOV Seminar on Plant Variety Protection and Technology Transfer: the benefits of public-private partnerships – April 11-12, Geneva

This year the annual UPOV spring seminar concerned the topic of PVP and technology transfer. On behalf of ESA, Szonja Csörgő attended the event. Interesting presentations were given from representatives of the public sector (mainly national research institutes), private sectors as well as international research centers on how PVP is used by the different actors in the countries / regions taken as examples and, in particular, on how actors of the public and private sectors cooperate in research projects. All presentations given at the seminar are available at: <http://www.upov.int/en/news/> (it is the first item on the page). (SzCs)

CIOPORA 50 years' anniversary

During its annual meeting held in Rome on April 11-14, 2011 CIOPORA (the International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Ornamentals and Fruit Plants) celebrated its 50 years' anniversary. ESA congratulated



CIOPORA at this occasion by a short article on the collaboration of the two organisations in the “Ciopora Chronicle” and looks forward to continue this collaboration in the future. (SzCs)

EUCARPIA symposium ‘To serve and conserve’ – April 5-7, Wageningen

An important international conference was organized by the Centre for Genetic Resources of the Netherlands on the topic of PGR conservation in gene banks. The conference was aimed at exploring ways to improve services to PGR users and effectiveness of PGR conservation by gene banks and was organized over three days. Two of the speakers, Mrs. Anke van den Hurk (Plantum NL) and Mrs Tonny van den Boom (Nunhems) are also very active and knowledgeable members of the ESA working group on biodiversity. Presentations that were given at the conference can be viewed here: http://www.epgrc2011.nl/EPGRC2011_program.html. (SzCs)

European Commission publishes “Options & Analysis Paper” on Better Regulation for public consultation

After having kept all interested stakeholders waiting for months DG SANCO of the European Commission now published its “Options & Analysis Paper” and opened the respective public consultation. The documents published by the Commission are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/propagation/evaluation/index_en.htm.

The document basically contains five potential scenarios for the future seed marketing legislation as well as a detailed analysis of those scenarios with a view on their potential impacts and consequences on a number of aspects. The public consultation is open until May 30, 2011. The paper was also presented on April 19 to the members of the Advisory Group Seeds of DG Agriculture where ESA was present with 4 representatives and where the attention was also drawn to the fact that including the results of the public consultation the Commission will prepare the legislative proposal of the new seed marketing law by June 2012.

As it was done in cases of previous public consultations the ESA working group Better Regulation (WGBR) has already started elaborating the ESA position on the scenarios. At its meeting on May 18 the WGBR will finalize the ESA position which will then be provided to all ESA members as a help for the elaboration of their own replies to the consultation. (SzCs)

Interesting case before the European Court of Justice that might put the seed marketing legislation into question

The background:

A French seed company, Graines Baumaux, member of the French Seed Association (UFS), has sued an association called ‘Kokopelli’ for unfair competition in 2008. The association Kokopelli was established in 1999 and is distributing to its members and also selling seeds of a wide range of old varieties of mainly vegetables but also of agricultural crops.



The clientele of Graines Baumaux and Kokopelli are – to a certain extent – overlapping with each other however, while Graines Baumaux is following the legislation and is selling varieties which are listed on the French catalogue, this is not the case for Kokopelli, which gives a clear but unfair competitive advantage to Kokopelli. In fact, at the time when the case was initiated Kokopelli was marketing 1225 varieties out of which 356 had been listed in France by other economic operators while the remaining 869 varieties had not been listed at all. Graines Baumaux therefore sued Kokopelli for unfair competition and this latter was found by the first instance Court of Nancy to be infringing the seed marketing rules. Kokopelli appealed the decision of the first instance on February 29, 2008 and requested the Appeal Court of Nancy to seek the opinion of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) on a number of questions related to the validity of the seed marketing Directives against several basic principles of EU law. In an order of February 4, 2011 the Appeal Court of Nancy decided to follow the request of Kokopelli and referred the following question to the ECJ for preliminary ruling:

“Are Council Directives 98/95/EC, 2002/53/EC and 2002/55/EC and Commission Directive 2009/145 valid in the light of the following fundamental rights and principles of the European Union, namely, freedom to pursue an economic activity, proportionality, equal treatment or non-discrimination and the free movement of goods, and also in the light of the commitments arising from the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, particularly in so far as they impose restrictions on the production and marketing of old seed and plants?”

What is a preliminary ruling?

In a question for preliminary ruling a national court is seeking advice from the ECJ regarding questions of interpretation and/or validity of EU law whenever a case pending before that national court raises a question which requires the application of provisions of EU law. When the ECJ gives its interpretation regarding the relevant provisions of EU law the national court has to decide the underlying national case with the help of the interpretation given by the ECJ.

Issues at stake

Directives 2002/53 and 2002/55 are the ones which regulate the system of variety listing for agricultural and vegetable crops respectively. Directive 98/95 has modified both Directives – among others - in order to create a legal base for setting up specific marketing conditions for varieties threatened by genetic erosion and Directive 2009/145 is the Directive which recently created this specific listing regime for conservation varieties and varieties with no intrinsic value of vegetable species. The question is basically asking the ECJ to measure these pieces of EU law against four very important basic principles (see the question above) which are at the core of EU law by questioning (i) if the whole variety registration system which entails a market authorization based on well-defined criteria (DUS (and VCU)) has any justification and (ii) whether the restrictions which have been put on the production and marketing of conservation varieties can be objectively justified in the light of all those basic principles of EU law.



The procedure

The ECJ has registered the case as C-59/11 and has notified the parties, the Member States as well as the European Commission about it by mid-March who can submit written observations to the case within 2 months. The French Seed Association, UFS, is engaged to support Graines Baumaux in this court case which is of high importance for the whole European seed industry. For this reason ESA is also closely following the case and together with UFS is providing all the necessary assistance to Graines Baumaux and is actively collaborating with the legal representatives of Graines Baumaux. Also an ESA position regarding this Court case will be shortly made available to ESA members. For further information on this case please contact the ESA Secretariat. (SzCs)

ESA Section Potatoes (SPO) Meeting in Humpolec (CR) – April 14-15

The ESA Potato Section (SPO) has held its spring meeting this year on April 14 in Humpolec (Czech Republic) on invitation by Selektá Pakov. The meeting was attended by 18 persons from 7 countries and addressed the ongoing evaluation of the EU legal framework on Seed Marketing and Plant Health. SPO also discussed the consequences of the introduction of GM potato varieties for seed production and finalised an information paper regarding prevention and quality control in this respect. The following day the participants were received by Mr. Lastovicka from Selektá Pakov and visited the premises of Selektá Pakov in the near surrounding. (BS)



Visit to companies

In the framework of the SPO section meeting in the Czech Republic B.Scholte visited Semo seeds close to Prostějov, active in vegetable, herbs and ornamental species. In Prostějov he discussed with Mr. Prasil (SEMO) and Mr. Rosenberg (CMSSA) the issue of obligatory testing for disease resistance and possibilities to improve the cooperation between ESA and the Czech Seed Association. (BS)



CPVO DUS Expert meeting on Oilseed rape – April 14 - Cambridge

On April 14 the CPVO has organised a meeting of the DUS experts in Oilseed rape in Cambridge (UK) to continue the discussion on the DUS protocol in this crop. ESA was represented by J.P.Despeghel and Y.Devisme. An interesting compromise was discussed to allow countries not to observe all characteristics in case they would use GAYA for the organisation of the reference collection. It is the intention of CPVO to revise the Protocol on the basis of the discussions in Cambridge and to have it adopted by the CPVO Administrative Council in October. In addition the issue of DUS testing of hybrids was addressed, which as decided by SOF already two years ago should be based on the formula and the respective parental lines. Hopefully the discussion on this difficult dossier can be finalised in the course of this year. (BS)

DG Trade Market Access Group discusses how to resolve different phytosanitary requirements

The Commission's DG Trade held a meeting of the Market Access Group (which includes representatives from industry) on 15.04.2011 to discuss practical problems of market access due to defined phytosanitary requirements or issues. During the meeting, the SG confirmed the Commission's interpretation of the recent agreement between the EU and the US on phytosanitary issues as being a success and potential blueprint for similar initiatives with other trading partners; at the same time, it was underlined that there are still numerous practical problems with the implementation of the agreement, e.g. related to continuous requirements of individual official translations. Another item of discussion was a recent Brazilian regulation requiring new and additional certificates for imports from non-traditional locations and/or of respective products. As this new rule would have caused severe trade disruptions and was practically impossible to implement for companies in time, ASTA, SAA, ESA and other organisations argued for a postponement of the new rule which was later accepted by Brazilian authorities. The new rules shall now come into force only 2012 and in the meantime the seed organisations will continue their coordinated discussion with the authorities in order to work for a practical approach. (vE)

DG AGRI Advisory Group Seed meeting of 19.04.2011: Michael Gohn re-elected as President and Daniel Segonds as Vice-President

The Advisory Group Seed under DG AGRI re-elected Michael Gohn (Probstdorfer Saatucht; Chair of the ESA Section Cereals and Member of the ESA Board) as its President and Daniel Segonds (RAGT, Member of the ESA Board) as its Vice-President at a meeting on 19.4.2011 in Brussels. A further Vice-President was elected from the representation of farmers. During the meeting, ESA presented its position on the presence of GMOs in conventional seed and received strong support from representatives of COPA for its quest to establish workable thresholds and a uniform sampling and testing protocol. Furthermore, ESA presented an update on the setting-up of a European quality assurance scheme for seed treatment and treated



seed (ESTA). Next to these items, the Commission presented an overview of seed production data supplied by Member States. With the end of the transition towards a fully decoupled support scheme coming about in 2013, the AG confirmed the importance of such information as well as possibilities of how the supply of data from Member States to the Commission may be safeguarded in the future. Here, it was agreed that ESA and COPA will work on a common proposal for discussion with Commission as well as other relevant bodies. Other important items of discussion were the next steps in the area of Better Regulation (v. also above) as well as the see sector's legal uncertainty as regards the presence of GMOs in conventional seed. On the later point, ESA and COPA expressed their annoyance that for successive meetings, no representative of the responsible service had been available for a Q&A session and/or for information about the next steps of the COM. It was agreed to approach the Commissioners for bot SANCO (responsible for GMNOs) as well as Agriculture (responsible for the management of the AG Seeds) with the request to make the necessary resources available to the sector for such meetings. (vE)

Board Oil and Fibre Crops (SOF) – April 19-20

The Board of the Section Oil and Fibre crops (SOF) had its spring meeting on April 20 in France on the invitation of Monsanto. Last year, the meeting in France had to be cancelled due to the disturbance in air traffic following the volcano eruption in Iceland. The meeting was attended by some 20 participants from 6 countries. The participants were informed on the on-going evaluation of the EU legislation on Seed Marketing, Plant Health and GM. It paid quite some attention to the ESTA scheme and labelling of treated seed as well as New Breeding Techniques. In addition, marketing reports were given on Sunflower, Cotton and Hemp. The meeting was preceded by a visit to the Monsanto oilseed rape breeding station in Boissay where the participants were met by P. Lesigne and the Monsanto team. (BS)





Visit to ESA Members

Following the SOF meeting in Boissay, B. Scholte visited Clause Vegetable seeds in Beaucouze together with Denis Lors where he met Bruno Carette and members of his team. In addition, the facilities of Vilmorin were visited in la Méniltré. During the visit technical specificities and problems of different vegetable species were discussed and possibilities to address these issues.

Paris Workshop addresses seed treatment quality / ESA to present ESTA

As announced earlier, the European Commission is organising a workshop on seed treatment quality on 10 - 11 May 2011 in Paris, France. The workshop is an initiative of Germany and France and supported by the Netherlands which is currently looking into the development of a guidance document for seed treatment (authorisation and use). ESA together with other key stakeholder organisations such as ECPA (crop protection) and COPA (farmers) as well as bee keepers and anti-pesticide NGOs has been invited to attend and give presentations on industry activities in this area. ESA STAT is currently working on the preparations and it has already been agreed that this opportunity shall be used to present the recently agreed safe use seed bag labelling guidance, the ESA Heubach testing protocol as well as the ESTA European Seed Treatment Assurance scheme as an overarching quality assurance concept covering all treated seed in the EU. The Secretariat will come back to members with detailed information and interpretation of the result of the workshop in due course. (vE)

ESA Annual Meeting 2011 in Budapest, Hungary

We would like to remind you can still register for the early bird fee at the ESA Annual Meeting in Budapest, Hungary. As communicated in our last newsletter, the venue for this year's ESA Annual Meeting is the [Corinthia Grand Hotel Royal](#) in Budapest. Please find further information on the registration, programme and general information by clicking on the following link:

<https://esa2011.conceptum.eu/default.aspx>



The next ESA Newsletter 2011 to be published on 06.06.2011