

## ESA priorities 2012

At its fall meeting, the Board regularly decides on the priorities for the association for the coming year to be presented to the General Assembly in October.

These priorities are published in a small flyer that is made available to ESA members and also sent to decision makers in European Parliament, Commission, Council and Member States as well as to selected third parties.

For 2012, the following priorities are proposed to the Board for consideration:

- Promoting ESA's vision of a new regulatory framework for seed

The European Commission will forward its legislative proposal for a new regulatory framework for variety registration, seed marketing and plant health and the respective national and EU controls to the European Parliament and Council in mid 2012. ESA will strongly engage with the competent Parliamentary Committees, individual members of Parliament and national administrations as well as interested third parties to promote its vision of efficient and effective rules that will promote the competitiveness of the European seed sector.

- Working for the implementation of the ESA Position on IP

Following the adoption of its new Position on Intellectual Property Protection for plants and seed, ESA will start to work for the implementation of this position, both within the upcoming preparation of proposals for a revision of the EU's Plant Breeders Rights legislation and by developing practical approaches and proposals that will further enhance clarity, certainty and practicality of IP tools and procedures for European breeders.

- New Breeding Techniques

Further innovation in plant breeding is a precondition for addressing the grand challenges of a competitive agriculture that assures food security and at the same time preserves our environment by sustainable use of scarce resources. European breeders continuously develop new varieties with improved genetics that provide the base for the greening of our economy and deliver new plant based products for food, feed and industrial uses. For this, access to new breeding technologies is crucial. ESA will work for a practical and non-discriminatory approach to these new technologies that shall promote their further development and practical use.