

ESA_13.0210.1

**ESA Section Board Oil & Fiber Plants – SOF
(open to SOF section members)**

**Tuesday, 16st April 2013
13.30h – 18.00h**

Lantmännen Lantbruk
Boplatsgatan 8
213 76 Malmö
Sweden

Annotated Agenda

I. Opening, welcome and approval of the agenda

II. ESA Anti-trust guidelines

ESA_11.0246.1

The participants are invited to take note of the ESA Anti-Trust Guidelines and to act accordingly.

III. Minutes

a. SOF Board meeting 24-04-2012

ESA_12.0281.4

Comments were received on the draft from Mrs Nilsson, Matrai, Rousseau, Segonds and UFS, which have been taken up. The items on the action list have been taken up.

b. SOF Section 15-10-2012

ESA_12.0795.1

There were no comments on the draft minutes of the SOF meeting held on October 15 which therefore were finalized and approved according to the ESA internal communication policy. After finalization comments were made by P.Rousseau on his contribution in October. These comments were not addressed last year but can be taken upon in the minutes of today's meeting. The Secretariat will inform on the state of play regarding the items on the action list during the meeting.

IV. Seed Treatment

- a. Update on ESTA
- b. Neonicotinoids

**ESA_13.0119
ESA_13.0263**

The Secretariat will give a presentation on the state of affairs regarding the implementation of the ESTA scheme and the developments in relation to a possible ban on neonicotinoids.

c. Procedure for the registration of seed treatment products.

This item has been placed on the agenda on request of BDP. D. Ruecker will give a presentation during the meeting to explain the background.

V. Evaluation of the EU legal framework

ESA_13.0210.1**a. Plant Reproductive Material package**

- General update

ESA_13.0132

The background document describes the state of play in relation to the PRM package and the time lines. A compromise paper from DG SANCO is expected in the next few weeks. Possible additional information will be presented during the meeting.

- Possible re-classification of plant pathogens

ESA_12.0226.3-SOF

The ESA Working Group Plant Health (WGPH) has met on March 8 and has addressed the evaluation of the EU legal framework on Plant Health and the possible re-classification of pathogens. The recommendations of the WGPH are listed in document.

The participants are invited to analyse and approve the recommendations of the WGPH.

b. A technical solution for GMOs in seed

The Secretariat will give an up-date on the latest developments as elaborated by the ESA Working Group Biotech.

VI. OECD matters**ESA_13.0109**

The background document (ESA_13.0109) contains a report of the recent meeting of the OECD Standing Working Group. The Secretariat will report in particular on the items of special interest for SOF which are:

- how to resolve issues in relation with the implementation of the OECD Seed Schemes
- The possible role of chemical and molecular techniques in identifying varieties
- identification of seed not yet listed

SOF members are invited to study the conclusions in the report in particular in relation to the possible deletion of the requirement for maximum seed lot sizes.

VII. EU implementation Nagoya**ESA_13.0121**

The background document provides information on the state of play regarding the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the EU. The Secretariat will give a presentation on this topic and inform on its impact on the day-to-day business of seed companies.

VIII. Implementation ESA IP position paper**ESA_13.0122**

The background document ESA_13.0122 identifies the main issues in relation to the implementation of the ESA position paper on Intellectual Property Rights. The Secretariat will inform during the meeting on the state of affairs regarding the ESA patent database.

IX. Issues related to Oil crops**a. iLUC****esa_13.0258**

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esa_13.0259

The background documents provide information on Oilseed rape in relation to the discussion on iLuc. The Chairman will give an up-date on recent developments, including recent discussions within the European Oilseed Alliance.

b. Oilseed Rape

- DUS testing of components and hybrids of Oilseed rape

ESA_13.0107

The SOF WG DUS has addressed in its Conference Call on February 11 issues in relation to the obligatory testing of so-called “grandmother lines” in Oilseed rape and the consequences of the one-key-several-doors approach on DUS testing of hybrids. Concerns were raised by some participants on both issues as well as on the adopted ESA SOF position on testing of hybrids of OSR. The Secretariat will present the concerns raised for further discussion.

The participants are invited to discuss the issues and decide on the way forward.

- Purity level in spring oilseed rape

The different purity levels (90 % compared to 80%) for spring oilseed rape in the EU compared to Canada were for the first time discussed in 2009. In 2010 the Commission was requested by letter to lower the purity level for OSR to 85%. The issue was discussed by the Standing Committee on Seeds which turned down the proposal because of concerns on the possible effect of such a change to the levels of Glucosinolate in the harvested product. In 2011 the SOF Board decided to set up a technical experiment with the aim to prove the opposite. The experiment, including samples of 5 companies, was conducted in 2012 on 7 sites. The results will be presented during the meeting.

The participants are invited to analyse the results and decide on further actions towards the Commission.

- Glucosinolate standard for oilseed rape- Implementation in the Common Catalogue

This issue was tabled in the October meeting but postponed due to time constraints. In 2011 the Commission has taken over the ESA proposal to re-define the definition of OSR varieties and has introduced additional footnotes in the Common Catalogue for different the Glucosinolate levels. On proposal of Mrs Malin Nilsson the SOF Board has discussed the implementation by EU Member States in spring this year and agreed that the approaches in different countries are still quite different. It was decided to carry out a survey on the implementation on National level to verify the situation. The Secretariat will present the results of the survey during the meeting.

The SOF members are requested to analyse the results and decide on further steps to improve harmonisation.

c. Sunflower

- market update

Philippe Rousseau will present an up-date regarding the sunflower market in Europe.

X. Issue related to Fibre crops

ESA_13.0210.1

a. Cotton – Market update

Charles Grange has volunteered to give an up-date during the meeting on the market of cotton in the EU.

b. Flax

SOF members active in flax have been asked to provide an up-date on the market situation for flax.

XI. Miscellaneous

a. CPVO matters

- on-line application

Since two years the CPVO offers the possibility to file applications for Community Plant Variety Rights on-line. On request of CPVO the Secretariat will present during the meeting statistics on the use of this tool.

- Proposal for a CPVO R&D project in Winter Oilseed rape

ESA_13.0260

Geves proposes to start a research project on WOSR as indicated in doc ESA_13.0260 and has asked the Secretariat for support. The proposal was received only recently and has been forwarded to the SOF WG DUS for an opinion, which will be communicated during the meeting.

The participants are invited to discuss and approve the opinion of the WG regarding the proposal.

b. Trade related issues

- Turkey

In 2012 Turkey introduced more stringent import restrictions in particular for hybrid crops. Recently the 2013 import requirements have been published without significant changes. The Secretariat has contributed to the Turked Annual Meeting and will report on the developments.

c. ESA Position paper “Breeding for the bioeconomy”**ESA_13.0151.2**

ESA adopted a position on “**Breeding for the bioeconomy**” that outlines why plant breeding is the underpinning science and technology for ensuring the sustainable supply of biomass, which is the basis for the transition towards a bio-based economy. A **survey** was carried out among the different ESA Sections including SOF, where valuable insight was provided on how breeding companies in specific crops see their role and their collaboration with the rest of the bioeconomy value chain. The survey confirmed that although it is difficult to separate breeding research for specific bio-based products and agricultural production (all breeding is biobased), breeding companies do nevertheless work in collaboration with downstream industries on developing varieties with specific characteristics.

XII. Closure and confirmation of next meeting

The next SOF section meeting will take place in the framework of the ESA Annual Meeting 2013 on October 14, 2013 in Warsaw. A Conference Call of the SOF Board might be organised in September to prepare the October meeting.