

**ESA Section Potatoes- SPO**

**April 9, 2013  
10.30 – 15.30**

**ESA Office – Brussels**

**Draft Minutes**

(in order of the agenda)

Participants: Renatus (Chairman), Mrs. Zimnoch-Guzowska, Arn, Backx, Bitsch, Bohm, v. Hoogen, Bonnel, Guillery, Henriksson, Jansen-Klomp, Otten, Richter, v.d. Werff

Special Guest: Staring (Breeders Trust)

Excused: Mrs de Roos, Fallou, Harley, Naested, Spill

ESA: Mrs Csörgö (PoA V c, VI), Mrs Kafka ( PoA VIII), von Essen (PoA VIII), Judson (PoA IV a), Scholte

**I. Opening, welcome and approval of the agenda**

J.Renatus, SPO Chairman, welcomes all participants and opens the meeting. The absentees are noted and the agenda is approved as circulated in adding:

- Problems in relation to applications of PVP in the USA: to be discussed under PoA V
- Consultation organic production: to be discussed under PoA XI

**II. ESA Anti-Trust Guidelines**

**ESA\_11.0246.1**

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

**III. Minutes last meeting**

**ESA\_12.0938.1**

Comments were received on the draft minutes from Per Henriksson which were taken up. According to the ESA internal communication policy the minutes are considered to be finalized and approved. B.Scholte reports on the status of the items on the action list of the meeting of 12-12-2012 and informs that items 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 12, 13, and 16 have been dealt with or come back on the agenda of today's meeting. In relation to the remaining items the following is noted:

4	IV a	<b>ESA_10.0528.1</b>	Uniform EU classification Scheme - Spain Address with Spanish delegate during OECD meetings	Secretariat	January
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As the Spanish delegate had not attended the OECD meeting in January this year the Secretariat did not have the possibility to discuss the issue.

7	IV b		FSS – Portugal Contact Anseme and recirculate conditions of membership.	Secretariat	Next meeting
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The Secretariat has contacted ANSEME, the Portuguese Seed Association, on this point as agreed. Anseme came back with quite some questions on royalty collection. On proposal of the Secretariat the participants

agree to assist Anseme in the possible set up of a royalty collection system on FSS. It is noted that the ESA Board has decided to have the 2014 ESA Annual Meeting in Lisbon. The period until then will be used to find a solution for the situation in this country.

8	IV b		FSS – Baltic states Contact Estonian Seed association regarding FSS royalty collection systems in place.	Secretariat	Next meeting
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The Secretariat has contacted the Estonian Seed Association which has provided detailed information on the royalty collection system in Estonia. EstSA will visit Lithuania next month and will address the issue. EstSA will be invited for the October meetings to give a presentation on FSS in the Baltic States.

9	IV b		FSS – Spain Contact Anove regarding possibility to re-start discussion on a FSS royalty collection system for potatoes.	Secretariat	Next meeting
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The Secretariat has contacted ANOVE on this issue. In reply ANOVE has informed that one of the two potato breeding companies (Apacale) had closed their business. Neither the remaining company is not a member of the Spanish Seed Association. Therefore there is little use to address a FSS royalty collection system for potatoes in Spain.

The participants agree that the main problems in Spain are related with black market activities and not with FSS. Therefore involvement of Breeders Trust is more logic. It is agreed that for the moment ESA will not take the issue further.

10	IV b		FSS – Italy Contact Sicasov regarding possibility for FSS royalty collection in Italy	SPO companies	Next meeting
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So far no information was received from SPO companies. It is agreed to invite a representative from Sicasov for the next SPO meeting in Mlochow to give a presentation on Sicasov activities in cereals in Italy and their views on the possible extension of these activities to potatoes.

14	VI		BT – case Saudi-Arabia / Egypt Consider providing details for general discussion in the CIPR	BT	Next meeting
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G.Staring informs that the case was settled out of court. Therefore further discussion by the CIPR would not be appropriate. The item will be taken from the action list.

15	VII c		ISF section Inform National Seed Association not to support setting up a potato section in ISF	SPO companies	Asap
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It is noted that ISF did receive little support for setting up a separate potato section which therefore will not be pursued.

#### IV. Evaluation EU legal framework

##### a) Plant Reproductive Material package

- Update on the evaluation process

ESA\_13.0132

The Chairman welcomes Jean-Paul Judson and invites him to give an up-date on the state of play and the time lines of the evaluation of PRM package. In his presentation (\*) JP Judson informs that the so-called Inter-Service-Consultation of the PRM package started end of last year and that it is envisaged that the Commission will adopt the package on April 24. He then informs on the different scenarios afterwards. It is noted that the main concern at the moment seems to be the requirements on conservation and amateur varieties which are considered to be too stringent by several DG's including DG AGRI. In the next part of his presentation JP Judson informs that on content the Commission has not provided any new information since October last year. The main concerns at that time were in relation to close loop possibilities, the one-key-several-doors concept, marketing in advance of listing and the requirements of seed produced for export. ESA has provided further input on these points sent and has underlined the need for clear rules on varietal identity and plant health. In addition letters were sent to Commissioners Borg (SANCO) and Ciolos (AGRI) urging the Commission to take the file forward. It is noted that elections for the European Parliament are scheduled for in June 2014 and that the EP could decide not to take up the dossier, which could result in a further delay of 1.5 years. Currently the Secretariat is lobbying in the European Parliament to get the Agricultural Commission interested to take of the file instead of the Environmental Committee

The Chairman thanks JP Judson for his presentation. B.Scholte informs that very much will depend on the content of the final document. The Secretariat is trying to get hold of it before April 24, when it will be publicly released. The ESA membership will be informed at a later stage. Depending of the content additional input might be needed from ESA crop sections including SPO.

(\*) The Power Point presentation as presented by JP Judson is available in the folder of the respective SPO section meeting on the members' area of the ESA website under **ESA\_13.0289**.

- Uniform classification scheme on EU level

The Chairman introduces the subject and invites the Secretariat to inform on the actions since December last year. B.Scholte informs that as agreed Mrs Zimnoch-Guzowska had organised a meeting with Polish breeders and producers in Radzikov (PL). Together with Frank van der Werff (HZPC) he had participated in this meeting and discussed the issue. The Polish breeders / producers had confirmed their concerns in relation to the proposed maximum levels for virus and black leg. In relation to the proposal to limit production of a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of certified seed at the same farm where the 1<sup>st</sup> generation of certified seed has grown the opinions were differing; for certain companies the proposal was ok, for others it wasn't. In addition a meeting was organised in France with French stakeholders. Here the main concerns are the proposed disease levels in S-class. This category would be new in France but the proposed maximum levels for disease are considered to be not stringent enough. In referring to the annotated agenda B.Scholte then informs that the revised draft proposal of the Commission integrating three related pieces of legislation was heavily criticised in the Standing Committee on Seeds on March 4. The SCS has agreed to call for another meeting of the Working Group on April 18 to re-address the proposal.

The Chairman thanks B.Scholte for the up-date and opens the floor for questions in expressing his concern that some individual SPO members apparently deviate from the agreed ESA Position on a uniform classification scheme in their discussions on National level. The participants discuss the situation and agree that it is important to speak with one voice in order to be successful. In addition it is important to inform each other on specific lobbying activities in different countries. The participants agree to contact their national experts being members of the potato Working Group (\*) of the Standing Committee on Seeds as soon as possible in preparation of the meeting on April 18 and to inform them that:

- A compromise in relation to 2<sup>nd</sup> class in certified seed is NOT acceptable. The production of a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of certified seed should only be allowed at the same farm where the 1<sup>st</sup> generation of certified seed has grown.

-A compromise in relation to the tolerance levels for virus or other disease would be acceptable.

The Secretariat will send out a priority e-mail to call upon SPO members asap.

(\*) The SCS Working Group consists of currently of experts from BE, BG, CZ, DE, ES, FI, FR, LU, NL, SE and UK)

- Use of Certificates by certain Member States in the EU

The Chairman informs the participants on the need for additional seed certificates for exports to the Czech Republic and Poland. Following a brief discussion it appears that this is a national problem which will be addressed by BDP.

b) Plant Health

- possible re-classification of plant pathogens

**ESA\_12.0226.3-SPO**

B.Scholte introduces the subject by informing on the activities of the ESA WG Plant Health which 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. In the WGPH potato expertise is assured as K.Buhr (Europlant) is member. The recommendations of the WGPH are listed in document ESA\_12.0226.3-SPO, which no longer contains the notion of Regulated Non Quarantine Pests but only a differentiation in Quarantine and Quality pests. As all plant pests will be transferred to the Plant Health legislation a possible change of classification of plant pests will be simpler than in the past.

The Chairman thanks B.Scholte for the introduction. The participants discuss the table and the situation regarding Epitrix and Chitwoodii and agree to:

- re-circulate the lists together with minutes and allow for 2 weeks for possible comments
- to contact the Commission regarding the monitoring of Epitrix in Portugal in consultation with Europlant.
- to ask the SPO WG plant health (\*) for an opinion regarding the classification of Epitrix and Chitwoodii before October this year

(\*) The current members of the SPO WG Plant Health are: Mrs Catherine Chatot (Germicopa), K.Buhr (Europlant), F.van der Werff (Hzpc) and J. Przetakiewicz (Ihar). SPO members are invited to nominate possible additional experts for this Working Group.

- Poland – Wart disease

As indicated in the Annotated Agenda according to the Act of accession in Poland a temporary regime was put in place for 10 years regarding the control of potato wart disease ending in 2014. Before the end of the 10 year period, the Commission shall, in cooperation with the Polish authorities, examine the situation in the light of developments and consider whether any further measures are necessary.

Mrs. Zimnoch-Guzowska confirms the situation. In the past decade the production soils in Poland were tested and therefore the infected areas are known. Different stakeholders in Poland have been asked by the Polish authorities to express their opinion on the situation and on possible measures for the future. The participants discuss the situation and agree that in principle the temporary regime in Poland should not be prolonged. As in other countries the cultivation of non-resistant varieties in specific regions should be allowed. The Secretariat is charged to draft a position paper on this topic to be used towards the Commission and the stakeholders in Poland. It is suggested to place the item on the agenda of the October meeting and to invite an expert from the Polish authorities.

## V. Intellectual Property Rights

- a) Community Plant Variety Rights System
  - o Extension period of protection

B. Scholte introduces the topic in referring to the discussion in December last year. In his presentation (\*) he first informs on the situation as presented last year. Following a 2<sup>nd</sup> reminder additional input was received from 2 companies regarding investment in breeding and maintenance costs. On the basis of the answers received it can be concluded that 75% of the investment in breeding and maintaining potato varieties is covered by the royalties received. This information can be used in the argumentation when requesting for an extension of the period of protection in addition to the information collected on the increased breeding costs and complexity of breeding, the increased market differentiation, the decreased life time of potato varieties and the distribution of breeding programs in the world. B.Scholte finalises his presentation in proposing to prepare a draft paper by the Secretariat for consideration of the WG Extension and adoption by the SPO section in October this year.

The Chairman thanks B.Scholte for his presentation and opens the floor for questions. The participants discuss different elements of the survey in underlining the difficulty for companies to provide such detailed information but agree with the proposed approach. In a last attempt the Secretariat will send individual e-mails to those companies in SPO not having responded to the survey.

(\*) The Power Point presentation as presented by B.Scholte is available in the folder of the respective SPO section meeting on the members' area of the ESA website under **ESA\_13.0.288**

- b) SPO Position Paper on Essential Derivation

In referring to the Annotated Agenda B.Scholte informs that in the December meeting it was agreed to set the threshold for the reversal of the burden of proof on 92%. The CIPR has been informed of the SPO decision and did not have any further comments. Alex Reid is working on a paragraph in relation the methodology used. It was the intention finalise paper today. However in the preparation of today's meeting it appeared that several paragraphs in the paper originally drafted in 2008 need to be updated to reflect the situation of today including references to the recently adopted ESA Position Paper on Intellectual property Rights. It is proposed that the Secretariat will redraft the paper for consideration by the SPO EDV Working Group to be adopted in October this year.

The participants agree with the proposal.

- c) Implementation ESA IP position paper

**ESA\_13.0122**

Mrs Szonja Csörgő introduces the subject and informs on the adoption of the ESA position paper on Intellectual Property by the ESA Board in 2012. According to the ESA IP position access to all commercially available biological material should be free for further breeding. In case the newly bred variety would still fall within the scope of the patent a license for commercialisation must be obtained. The ESA IP paper also contains a paragraph on patent information which should be transparent. ESA calls upon all seed companies to make patent information available. As part of the implementation of the ESA IP paper ESA has decided to set up a database on variety level to help breeders and other interested parties to verify if a certain variety is covered by a patent. In the next part of her presentation Mrs Csörgő demonstrates a demo version of the database which will be publicly available on-line. Apart from information on species, the variety denomination, the patent number and the patent title it contains a link to the respective patent. Currently the data base is limited to European patents but it is the intention to extend the database at a certain time to a global level. The database will be freely accessible on the open part of the ESA website. It is the intention to

launch the database on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2013. Mrs Csörgő finalises her presentation by calling upon all companies to provide information on possible patents they might have or use in license.

The Chairman thanks Mrs Csörgő for her presentation. In the discussion it is confirmed that according to the current patent legislation in France and Germany varieties covered by a patent can be used for further breeding. However in case the newly developed variety would contain the respective patented event prior to commercialisation a license from the patent holder is needed. B.Scholte re-confirms that the data base will be the first one linking patent information to varieties. He calls upon the SMA members having or using patents to forward the information to the ESA Secretariat.

- Problems in relation to applications of PVP in the USA

B.Scholte introduces the subject which was raised by one the SPO members. Apparently companies have difficulty in meeting the requirements when filing for a PVP application in the USA within the period of grace of 4 years after the first sale outside this country.

The participants discuss the situation but agree that the situation has improved also in relation to the completion of Exhibit C but that it is important to start the procedure early enough. It is agreed that there is no need for specific actions from ESA. However it is noted that the duration of PVP is only 20 years compared to 30 years in the EU. The Secretariat will raise this point in an upcoming discussion regarding discussion between the US and EU in relation to Intellectual Property Rights.

VI. EU implementation Nagoya protocol

ESA\_13.0121

The Chairman introduces the subject and invites Mrs Szonja Csörgő to give an update on the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the EU and its impact on the day-to-day business of seed companies. In her presentation (\*) Mrs Csörgő first informs on the background of the Nagoya protocol which was adopted in October 2010. It sets out detailed rules on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) and compliance and is expected to enter into force by mid-2014. The draft EU proposal implementing the protocol was adopted by the Commission in 2012 and will be addressed by the Council / EP also by mid-2014. Provisions on obligations for users will be adopted one year later which gives some time for preparation. A great concern is that in the current text the scope would also cover commercial varieties which would mean that for the use of commercial varieties as crossing parent the consent is needed of the respective breeder. In the next part of her presentation Mrs Csörgő informs on the obligations based on so-called "due diligence". She informs that the system is put in place to facilitate compliance mainly for Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) covering Union Trusted Collections and Best Practices. The EU decided that market approval (variety registration) will be used as checkpoint to control compliance and those practicalities are to be laid down in implementing rules by the Commission. Checks will be carried out by National authorities on a risk-based approach, on the basis of available information and on complaints by third parties. In case of non-compliance interim measures can be taken and in the end penalties can be applied including fines, suspension of activities etc. Mrs Csörgő finalises her presentation by informing that the ESA WG Biodiversity is working on the text. Bilateral talks with the Commission, Members of the European Parliament and member States are on-going to lobbying for amendments. In addition best practices are elaborated upon. The issue has been put on the agenda of all ESA crop sections in order to inform the ESA Members on these new requirements which will have to be implemented by seed companies in the next two years.

The Chairman thanks Mrs Csörgő for her presentation and opens the floor for questions. In answering a question of E.Bonnell regarding the involvement of potato experts in the ESA working group on best practices it is noted that a contribution from potato seed companies would be appreciated. The next meeting of this WG is scheduled for at the ESA Office in Brussels on June 4 but participation by telephone is possible.

(\*) The Power Point presentation as presented by Mrs. Csörgő is available in the folder of the respective SPO section meeting on the members' area of the ESA website under **ESA\_13.0287**.

VII. **Cutting of seed potatoes**

- a) Position UN-ECE on Seed Cutting
- b) Proposed ban on cutting in the Netherlands

esa\_13.0255

In referring to the back ground document the Chairman informs that the UN-ECE has decided on a relative weak position on cuttings (esa\_13.0255). In this document information is missing on the interface with Intellectual Property Rights. As discussed some time ago cutting of seed potatoes of a variety protected by Plant Breeders Rights without authorization of the holder is an infringement, as confirmed by the ESA Committee on Intellectual property Rights. In addition the risks of cutting in relation to Plant Health should be underlined as confirmed by the decision in the Netherlands to ban cutting of seed potatoes for seed production.

The participants discuss the situation and agree to contact UN-ECE on this point. The Secretariat is charged to draft a letter to UN-ECE.

VIII. **European Seed Treatment Assurance scheme**

The Chairman welcome Garlich von Essen and invites him to give an up-date on the ESTA scheme and the situation regarding neonicotinoids. G. von Essen first presents Mrs Amalia Kafka, recently appointed as ESTA manager in the ESA team. In his presentation (\*) G. von Essen first informs on the state of affairs regarding the implementation of the ESTA scheme, which has been finalised in the past months. All information on the ESTA scheme and the related contracts are available on the ESA website:

<http://www.euroseeds.org/publications/codes/esta-european-seed-treatment-assurance>

By now data has been provided by maize companies representing 90% of the EU maize seed market and almost 100% for oilseed rape. The DUST levels of the samples provided demonstrate that for maize 95% of the treated seed lots are below the 0.7 g/100.000 seeds level. For Oilseed rape 95% of the treated seed lots have dust levels below the agreed standard of 0.25g / 700.000 seeds. In using the ESTA scheme the seed industry stands for quality, reliability and sustainability, risk mitigation, commitment and continuous improvement. In the second part of the presentation information is provided on the proposed ban for neonicotinoids as from April 30 2013 for a period of two years with exemptions for sugar beet, winter cereals and potatoes. In a Standing Committee meeting on March 15 no qualified majority could be reached. Therefore the Commission will enter into an appeal procedure. An additional meeting of the Standing Committee is foreseen at the end of April. If again no qualified majority is reached the Commission is entitled to decide on its own which is considered to be the worst case scenario for breeders and farmers. ESA will continue lobbying for a proper scientific base and will try to reach a period of grace in order to be able to use treated seed of winter oilseed rape for sowing 2013.

The Chairman thanks G.von Essen for his presentation and opens the floor for discussion by stating that it might be worthwhile to do some brainstorming regarding best practices in relation to seed treatment as SPO companies. The participants discuss the issue and idea and agree that the practice of seed treatment in potatoes is completely different from other crops as maize and oilseed rape. Seed treatment is mostly done on farm by farmers themselves and not centrally in professional equipped seed treatment installations. It is noted that regarding communication several documents have been developed for ESTA which are available on the ESA website. However it might be useful to prepare a leaflet as SPO to be used towards the farmers to inform them on the importance of professional and responsible use of Plant Protection Products. Mr Guillery informs that in France already some work has been done and a leaflet has been prepared. He volunteers to forward the information to the Secretariat. Finally it is concluded to set up a small Working Group in SPO to address the current practices regarding the use of plant protection products in potatoes with the aim of drafting a leaflet for the user. The information will be kept internally first.

(\*) The Power Point presentation as presented by G. von Essen is available in the folder of the respective SPO section meeting on the members' area of the ESA website under **ESA\_13.0.275**

**IX. Overview membership SPO members in other organisations**

**ESA\_13.0204.1**

In referring to the Annotated Agenda the Chairman informs that as agreed in December a survey was circulated regarding membership of SPO members in other relevant organisations. ESA\_13.0204.1 contains a summary of the input received. The information will be used in relation to lobby activities on specific issues. It is noted that not all SPO members have provided details on their activities in other organisations. It is agreed to re-circulate the document together with the minutes to be completed by SPO members not having provided the information yet.

**X. Russia**

Report and recommendation SPO ad-hoc WG Russia

**ESA\_13.0154.1**

B.Scholte inform that participants that the SPO ad-hoc Working Group had a Conference Call on February 25. ESA\_13.0154.1 contains the minutes of this Conf Call. It was concluded that it appears that the issue is more of a horizontal nature linked to FSS and Plant Breeders Rights. Therefore it seems to be more appropriate to address the problem in the ESA Committee on Intellectual Property Rights. Consequently the SPO ad-hoc WG Russia could be dissolved. In the meantime the draft Russian law has been received.

The Chairman thanks B.Scholte for his introduction in stating that apart from the revision of the seed law also the possible import ban should be discussed.

The participants first discuss the proposal of the ad-hoc WG and agree with the proposed approach to involve the CIPR. The SPO will be kept informed on the progress of the discussion in the CIPR on this point. In relation to the possible ban on potatoes the Chairman informs on the high level discussions in Berlin during the Fruit Logistica. Fortunately the date of April 1<sup>st</sup> was postponed and most of the business could be finalised. It is noted however that discussions between the Russian Federation and different countries are on-going and it appears that certain countries would be willing to inform on pest free zones and even farm numbers which is contrary to the overall position taken in Europatat. The participants agree that the situation in seed potatoes is different compare to ware potatoes as in seed potatoes many checks are carried out resulting in Certification and Plant Health certificates. It is agreed that involvement of ESA is needed in relation to seed potatoes and that a Position Paper should be drafted on rather short notice which could be based on the one adopted by Europatat. J.van Hoogen and T.Richter volunteer to assist the Secretariat in drafting this paper.

**XI. Miscellaneous**

**- Consultation organic production**

B.Scholte informs that recently the Commission has started a consultation on organic farming which is open until April 10 2013. It is the intention to re-iterate the ESA position going back to 2002 confirming the importance of having specific rules for organic farming but against having the possibility for unspecified derogations for organic seed.

The participants discuss the issue and agree that organic seed remains to be important for SPO companies but that indeed the derogation system is distorting the market for organic seed.

**a) Developments on potatoes regarding FSS in different countries (tour de table)**

- Netherland: J. van Hoogen informs that the FSS royalty collection system is continuing un-changed. The way of organisation in future might be changed due to the decision of the Dutch government to terminate the so-called "Productschap" as from 2014. The activities regarding FSS and ATR might be taken over by a new "umbrella organisation".

- Germany: D. Otten confirms that the situation is unchanged. It remains difficult to provide clues for the use of FSS.
- France: E. Guillery reports that discussions are on-going and that for the first time information is collected from different companies regarding royalty levels on FSS of their varieties which are based on an amount in Euro per hectare. Discussions on an agreement are still to come.
- Sweden: P. Henriksson informs that there are no changes compared to last year.
- Poland: Mrs E.Zimnoch – Guzowska reports that the system is continuing but that there are increased protests from farmers. It is agreed to have an item on FSS in Poland during the open section meeting in Warsaw in October this year.
- Denmark: S.Bitsch informs that a new potato organisation has been set up in Denmark. The Board of this organisation is composed of 14 persons, 7 from potato companies and 7 from farmers. He will forward the contact details of this organisation to the ESA secretariat.
- Breeders Trust: G.Staring informs that in Belgium now the cereal companies also started to collect royalties on FSS on the basis of the same system as for potatoes. A joined press release will be published soon.

## **XII. Closure and confirmation of date of next meeting**

The Chairman confirms that the next meetings in 2013 are to take place on:

- Open SPO section meeting: October 15, 2013 – Warsaw (1.5 hours)

The meeting will start at 10.00. Possible items of interest for the agenda are

- o Royalty collection on FSS in Poland
- o Trade related issues regarding Russia, Turkey and Ukraine

On October 15 the statutory and open part of the Annual Meeting will take place. It is noted that presentations on horizontal issue as Plant Reproductive Material, Plant health, ESTA etc. will be addressed in different ESA crop section meetings on October 14 and 15 which might be of interest to SPO members.

In the evening of October 15 a dinner will be organised for SPO members in the Hilton in Warsaw.

- SPO section meeting: October 16, 2013 - IHAR Młochów

Mrs. Zimnoch-Guzowska informs that Ihar will provide transportation from the Hilton to IHAR in Mlochow on Wednesday October 16 where the normal meeting will take place followed by a visit to the IHAR premises. Transportation will be provided to the airport to assure return travel on the same day.

Finally the Chairman thanks all participants for their active contributions and closes the meeting at 15.15.

Action list resulting from the SPO Section meeting of 09.04.2013

Nr	PoA	Ref.	Subject / Action	Who	Deadline
1	III	ESA_12.0938.1	FSS – Portugal Address questions Anseme	Secretariat	October 2014
2	III	ESA_12.0938.1	FSS – Baltic states Re-Contact Estonian Seed association regarding FSS royalty collection systems in place and invite for presentation in October	Secretariat	October 2013
3	III	ESA_12.0938.1	FSS – Italy Contact Sicasov regarding possibility for FSS royalty collection in Italy and invite for next meeting	Secretariat	October 2013
4	IV a		Uniform EU Classification scheme Contact experts Working Group Standing Committee on Seeds to inform on SPO opinion	All	April 18
5	IV b	ESA_12.0226-3	Re-classification of plant pathogens Re-circulate list and provide comments	Secretariat / SPO Members	Together with Minutes
6	IV b		Epitrix / Chitwoodii SPO WG to prepare recommendation for SPO	SPO WG	October 2013
7	IV b		Epitrix Contact Commission regarding monitoring in consultation with Europatat	Secretariat	Asap
8	IV b		Wart disease – Poland Prepare Position paper and place on agenda October meeting	Secretariat	Asap
9	V a		Extension period of protection Draft paper and re-send survey to companies not having answered	Secretariat	October 2013
10	V b		EDV Finalise position paper	Secretariat	October 2013
11	V c		ESA patent data base Provide information on patents	SPO Company members	July 1 <sup>st</sup>
12	VII	esa_13.0255	UN-ECE position on cuttings Send letter on interface with IP and Plant Health	Secretariat	Asap
13	VIII		ESTA Set up WG Seed Guidance use of PPP and prepare a proposal for SPO	Secretariat / ad-hoc SPO WG Guidance	Next meeting
14	IX		Overview SPO members in other organisations Re-circulate table and complete	Secretariat / SPO members	Next meeting
15	X		Russian federation – possible ban Prepare SPO position on the basis of position Europatat	Secretariat / van Hoogen / Richter	Asap