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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Working Party on Genetic Resources and Innovation in Agriculture (Innovation in Agriculture)
Subject:	WP Innovation in Agriculture – Meeting of 5-6 October 2023 – Presidency Flash

In view of the meeting of the Working Party on Genetic Resources and Innovation in Agriculture (Innovation in Agriculture) of 5-6 Ocotber 2023, delegations will find in annex the Presidency Flash.

WORKING PARTY ON GENETIC RESOURCES AND INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE (INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE)

Presidency Flash for WP 5 and 6 October

TIME	LOCATION
5 OCTOBER: AM: 10:00-13:00 PM: 14:30-18:00 6 OCTOBER: AM: 10:00-13:00 PM: 14:30-18:30	**BRUXELLES- JUSTUS LIPSIUS** **(FORMAT 1+2)**

Contact details: life.3@consilium.europa.eu ; bzn-es.innovation@mapa.es.

Dear colleagues,

We have secured a meeting room and interpretation for an additional meeting day of the Working Party on 31 October. This allows us to extend the meeting originally planned only for 30 October to be a two-day meeting of 30-31 October. We are confident that this will provide additional time to the Working Party to examine all relevant aspects of the file in sufficient depth.

Please find below further information on the items on the provisional agenda for the meeting of 5-6 October. We intend to take them in the order shown here, i.e. to start with the Commission's presentation on "Biotechnology patents in plant breeding" in the morning of 5 October.

1. **Biotechnology patents in plant breeding**

   The Commission will present the key provisions on patents in the area of biotechnology and provide information on the planned assessment of the impact of the patenting of plants and related licensing and transparency practices, as indicated in its Communication “Ensuring resilient and sustainable use of EU's natural resources” of 5 July 2023 (COM(2023) 410 final; ST 11664/23 INIT). Delegations will will have the opportunity to seek further clarification.

2. **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their food and feed, and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/625**

   - Further examination of the Commission proposal (Chapters I, II and Annex I)

   (ST 11592/23 INIT + ADD 1)

   Further to the comments submitted by delegations after the meeting of the Working Party on Genetic Resources and Innovation in Agriculture (Innovation in Agriculture) on 11-12 September 2023 (ST 13330/23 INIT + ADD 1-2), the Presidency will seek a better understanding of certain new comments raised by delegations, through exchanges with delegations and the Commission.

   - Discussion of the Presidency compromise text on Articles 1-11

   (ST 13725/23 INIT)

   The Presidency will present its compromise text on Articles 1-11. This excludes Article 5(3), which will be presented at a later stage, together with a compromise text on Annex I. Delegations will have the opportunity to seek further clarification.

3. **Any other business**

   Delegations are invited to inform the Presidency and the General Secretariat of the Council of any other business that they would like to raise, in advance of the meeting.


Towards plants resistance to virus
Ana Montserrat Martín Hernández is a Molecular Virologist working for the Institute of Research and Agricultural Technology at CRAG in Barcelona, where she has been working for 20 years focusing on virus resistance in melon and lately also in tomato.
Her work has contributed to deciphering the genetic basis of resistance to Cucumber mosaic virus in melon, identifying several genes involved and establishing their pivotal role in virus movement and virus entry into the phloem. As they are plant genes used by the virus for its biological cycle, they are also good targets for editions with the aim of generating CMV-resistant plants. Her group is editing two genes in melon and also in tomato, where no relevant natural resistance to CMV is known. At the same time, the group aims to extend the edition of these genes to other crops and to analyze the edited lines for resistance to other viruses that may share the same movement pathway.
Altogether, these projects aim to develop more sustainable crops that farmers can use without the enormous losses that plant viruses generate.