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MEETING DOCUMENT

From: Presidency

To: Working Party on Genetic Resources and Innovation in Agriculture (Seeds, Propagating and Planting Materials)

Subject: Meeting of the Working Party on Genetic Resources and Innovation in Agriculture (Seeds, Propagating and Planting Materials) on 17 and 19 April 2024 - Revised Presidency Flash

In view of the meetings of the Working Party on Genetic Resources and Innovation in Agriculture (Seeds, Propagating and Planting Materials) on 17 April (organised as VTC) and on 19 April 2024 (in physical presence), delegations will find in annex the revised Presidency Flash.

The Flash has been updated with regard to the reference to the revised Notice of Meeting for 19 April, and with regard to the new agenda item 2.



Presidency Flash

Meeting of the Working Party on Genetic Resources and Innovation in
Agriculture (Seeds, propagating and planting materials)
Plant Reproductive Material (PRM)

Brussels, 17 & 19 April 2024

17 April 2024	10.00-13.00 & 14.30-18.30	VTC (online)
19 April 2024	10:00-13.00 & 14.30-18.30	Physical -JL 20.2

The notices to the meetings have been published as CM 2291/24 for 17 April and CM 2292/1/24 REV 1 for 19 April.

Member State's attendance will be limited to 1+1 for the informal VTC on 17 April and 1+2 for meeting in physical presence in Brussels on 19 April.

1. Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the production and marketing of plant reproductive material in the Union, amending Regulations (EU) 2016/2031, 2017/625 and 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Council Directives 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC, 68/193/EEC, 2002/53/EC, 2002/54/EC, 2002/55/EC, 2002/56/EC, 2002/57/EC, 2008/72/EC and 2008/90/EC (Regulation on plant reproductive material)

The Presidency will present redrafted Articles of the following parts of the proposal:

Chapter II:

- Section 6:
 - Articles 23-25 (repackaging, re-labelling and control plot tests);
- Section 7: Derogations from the requirements of Articles 5 to 25:
 - Article 26, combined with the definition in Article 3 (29);
 - Article 27, combined with the definition in Article 3 (27), Annex VI, Annex VIa (new) and, Article 81;
 - Article 28, combined with the definition in Article 3 (28);
 - Article 29, combined with a proposed new definition in Article 3 (35a);
 - Articles 30 -38;

Chapter III: Requirements for professional operators:

- Articles 41-43.

Delegations will have the opportunity to signal their eventual comments on the redrafted texts. The Presidency intends to identify the remaining concerns on these articles and to further explore those points.

The redrafted text on the above-mentioned articles will be available a few days in advance of the meeting on the Delegates Portal.

2. Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Decision 2003/17/EC as regards the equivalence of field inspections carried out in the Republic of Moldova on fodder plant seed producing crops and on the equivalence of fodder plant seed produced in the Republic of Moldova, and as regards the equivalence of field inspections carried out in Ukraine on beet seed-producing crops and oil plant seed-producing crops and on the equivalence of beet seed and oil plant seed produced in Ukraine

This agenda item will be taken on 19 April.

The Presidency will invite the delegations that did not provide comments on the proposal, through the request for comments on the Delegates Portal, to indicate their positions during the meeting.

3. Any other business

Delegations are invited to inform the Presidency ([REDACTED]) and the General Secretariat of the Council (life.3@consilium.europa.eu) of any other business that they would like to raise in advance of the meeting.

Belgian heritage

Fruit Genetic Resources & Agrobiodiversity collection in Gembloux

Wallonia, the southern part of Belgium, has a fruit heritage of a rare diversity. Since 1975 onwards, a research program in the Walloon Agricultural research Centre (CRA-W) aims to safeguard, characterise, evaluate and valorise this regional fruit heritage.

The CRA-W collections in Gembloux contain an huge number of old varieties and varieties subtypes : 1535 for apples, 1333 for pears, 363 for plums, 265 for cherries, 70 for peaches and 83 for grapes. Belgium is historically known as one of the most important country which improved substantially the pear dessert quality. CRA-W is currently chairing the ECPGR – European Cooperative Program for Plant Genetic Resources - Malus/Pyrus Genetic Resources Working Group.

These old varieties are issued from several generations of enlightened enthusiastic historical amateur breeders or of many anonymous farmers. They are evaluated in experimental orchards without any treatment in order to select the best agronomic performing ones, the most robust ones and the most tolerant to biotic (pests & diseases) and abiotic (climatic) stresses..

Through ‘Public-Private-Partnerships’ and collaborative approaches, CRA-W is developing several channels of use of such genetic resources such as (1) direct release of best robust varieties through a network of professional SME nurseries under label “RGF-GBLX” (Ressources Génétiques Fruitières-Gembloux) and the fruit tree quality charter ‘CERTIFRUIT’; (2) use of such valuable varieties for commercial alternative production models and differential fruit quality (Agroforestry, orchard meadows,...) and finally, (3) use of local genetic resources in a participatory breeding programme involving organic and lower input IPM fruit growers for selecting more robust varieties (better adaptation to biotic & abiotic stresses, better nitrogen efficiency) and higher differential quality.



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BE PRM Team
