



CPVO • OCVV

Community Plant Variety Office
Office Communautaire des Variétés Végétales

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL OF THE CPVO

Angers, 10-11 March 2015

Main conclusions

1. Adoption of the draft minutes of the meeting of 9 October 2014

The members of the AC unanimously adopted the draft minutes with the modifications from UPOV and Commission.

2. 2014 Consolidated Annual Activity Report

The members of the AC analysed and assessed the report and came to the following conclusions:

- In 2014, the system encountered a 10 % increase in applications, which had consequences on the workload of the staff and on the budget of the Office. The indicators showed that the objectives set in the 2014 Work Programme were satisfactorily achieved.
- The Administrative Council took note of the results of the internal audit and especially of the BPR exercise. It will pay attention to the follow-up given by the Office. It noted that the creation of a database will allow a closer follow-up of all recommendations and actions taken or pending.
- The Administrative Council took note of the Management Report, and especially the part related to Budget and Financial Management (together with its Annex 2 – Draft/Final Accounts). It also took note of the Assessment of the Management and the Declaration of Assurance.
- The Administrative Council was satisfied with the declaration of the authorising officer that his report gave a true view and that he had reasonable assurance that the resources assigned to the activities described in his report had been used for their intended purpose and in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, and that the control procedures put in place gave the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions.
- The Administrative Council was satisfied that the President of the CPVO was unaware of any matter not reported which could harm the interests of the CPVO.

The AC members agreed that the document “Administrative Council analysis and assessment” (under Item 4, on page 4 of the report) could be signed by the Chairperson of the AC.

3. Confidential: Election of the AC Chairperson and vice Chairperson

Not available.

4. Designation of the reporting officer for the President and the Vice-President of the CPVO

Mr L. Miko and Mrs B. Pavloska were designated as reporting officers for the President of the CPVO.

Mrs D. Simion and Mrs B. Pavloska were designated as reporting officers for the Vice-President of the CPVO.

Mr A. Mitchell was designated as appeal officer.

5. Discharge of the President in respect of the implementation of the Budget 2013

The AC members unanimously adopted the discharge of the President of the CPVO in relation to the implementation of the Budget 2013.

6. Quality Audit Service : Review Report 2014

The AC members unanimously adopted the review report for 2014.

7. Quality Audit Service : Entrustment Recommendations

- **Bulgaria** (Executive Agency for Variety Testing): AC members unanimously adopted the positive recommendation from the Quality Audit Service with abstention of Bulgaria.
- **France** (GEVES): Scope extension audit for Quinoa: the AC members unanimously adopted the positive recommendation from the Quality Audit Service with abstention of France.

8. Quality Audit Service : QAS Technical Experts (TEs) 2015-2018

The AC members unanimously adopted the list of 31 QAS technical experts for 2015-2018.

9. Proposal for change of online application fees

The AC members unanimously adopted the CPVO proposal to set the application fee at 450 euros for online applications and at 650 euros for paper applications and requested the Commission to update the relevant legislative framework as from 1/1/2016.

10. New technical Liaison Officer rules

The AC members agreed to the CPVO proposal to present the paper again at next meeting after the amendments had been made. The item will be added to the October meeting agenda.

11. Revision of the R&D Strategy

The AC members unanimously adopted the CPVO R&D strategy 2015-2020. They also adopted the terms of reference of the 'CPVO-BMT group' with some amendments. The AC members were invited to send proposals for a name for the group before the end of March 2015.

12. Review of the Rose project 2011-2014

The AC members took note of the information and agreed with the postponement of the decision for 1 year.

13. Evaluation of the cooperation with KAVB in the frame of the enhanced cooperation in variety denominations

The AC members agreed to the CPVO proposal to continue the cooperation with the KAVB for an unlimited period.

14. Multiannual Staff Policy Plan (MASPP)

The AC members agreed to adopt the MASPP by written procedure after the comments received from the Commission had been included by the CPVO.

15. Provisional Accounts 2014

The AC members took note of the provisional accounts for 2014.

16. Report of the Ad-Hoc Legal Working Group

The AC members were invited to study the report and to send written comments to the CPVO. The document will be presented again at next meeting of the AC.

17. Preliminary Draft Budget 2016

The AC members took note of the preliminary draft budget for 2016.

18. Presentation of the draft version of the entrustment requirements for EOs

The AC members took note of the draft revised entrustment requirements and were invited to send final written comments to the CPVO by end of May 2015.

19. OAPI request for cooperation

The AC members took note of the proposal from CPVO to answer OAPI's request for cooperation. In this respect, the CPVO will prepare, together with UPOV, the European Commission and OAPI representatives, a detailed program on how to assist OAPI. The CPVO could perhaps also send an expert to make presentations in OAPI's seminar.

20. Draft Agenda Seminar on interface PVR/Patents

The AC members took note of the draft agenda for the seminar. The venue has been changed to THON hotel in Brussels.

21. State of affairs PRM

The PRM proposal has been formally withdrawn with 72 other proposals on 7 March 2015. No decision has been taken yet as regards the way forward but the Commission presented the two options that could be envisaged. The AC members took note of the state of affairs of the PRM proposal.

22. Independence policy in the AC and its state of implementation

The AC members took note that an independency policy was being drafted by the CPVO. The aim is to identify the risks in the Office and to act in order to meet those risks. This item will be added once a year to the AC agenda.

23. Commission Guidelines on Gifts and Hospitality for staff members

The AC members unanimously adopted the Commission Guidelines on Gifts and Hospitality for CPVO staff members.

24. Entrustment of examination offices, outcome of the new species procedure

The AC members entrusted the proposed examination offices for 36 new species following the new 2-steps procedure.

25. Approval of new CPVO Technical Protocols for DUS testing

The members of the AC unanimously adopted the 8 new technical protocols for CPVO-TP/089/1-*Brassica napus* L. var. *napobrassica* (L.) Rchb., CPVO-TP/106/1- *Beta vulgaris* L. var. *cicla* L. (Ulrich), CPVO-TP/116/1-*Scorzonera hispanica* L., CPVO-TP/155/1-*Cucurbita maxima* Duch., CPVO-TP/269/1-*Vriesea* Lindl., CPVO-TP/279/1-*Canna* L., CPVO-TP/298/1-*Mandevilla sanderi* (Hemsl.) Woodson ; *Mandevilla xamabilis* (Backh. & Backh. f.) Dress and CPVO-TP/299/1-*Hosta* Tratt.

The members of the AC unanimously adopted the 6 revised technical protocols for CPVO-TP/198/2-*Allium schoenoprasum* L., CPVO-TP/007/2 Rev-*Pisum sativum* L., CPVO-TP/064/2 Rev-*Raphanus sativus* L. var. *sativus*; *Raphanus sativus* L. var. *niger* (Mill.) S. Kerner, CPVO-TP/108/3- *Gladiolus* L.- CPVO-TP/053/2 Rev-*Prunus persica* (L.) Batsch. and CPVO-TP/187/2-*Prunus* L.

26. AC decision on observers

The members of the AC adopted the proposed renewal of the observer's status for 3 more years.

27. Appointment of the Internal Audit of the CPVO

The AC members took note that the CPVO will make use of the services of the OHIM's internal auditor to perform its internal audits in the future.

28. Update of takeover Fee

The AC members took note that the CPVO would look at the administrative costs.

29. Any other business:

AOB1: Decision on Working time

The AC members agreed that the CPVO could deviate from Article 4 of Commission Decision enlarging the core hours as proposed.

AOB2: Presentation of the Nagoya Protocol

The AC members took note of the information.

AOB3: Vote in the European Parliament on surpluses from self-financed agencies to be paid to the EU General Budget

The AC members took note of the information and expect to be informed of the follow-up given to this issue.

AOB4: Future of DUS testing in Northern-Ireland

The AC members received sufficient evidence that the reorganization of DUS testing in Northern Ireland would not have a negative impact on the tests currently carried out.

AOB5: Agenda of the AC and related documents

The AC members expect the CPVO to find a suitable way of displaying the agenda items and the documents in accordance with the requests expressed.

30. Date and place of next meeting (Angers, 30 September – 1st October 2015)

The next meeting will be held in Angers on 30 September 2015 (full day) and 1st October (morning). The AC will be followed by the celebration of the CPVO 20th anniversary on 1st October afternoon. A seminar is foreseen at this occasion.