



**CPVO • OCVV**

Community Plant Variety Office  
Office Communautaire des Variétés Végétales

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL OF THE CPVO

2 October 2013, Brussels

### Main conclusions

*I. Approval of the draft minutes of the meeting of 27 February 2013*

The members of the AC with voting rights adopted the draft minutes including the comment made by the Commission.

*II. President's reports*

The members of the AC took note of the President's report and the statistics presented.

*III. Estimates of the receipts and expenditure for the financial year 2013 (Doc-CA/13/02/02)*

The members of the AC adopted the second supplementary amending budget for 2013.

*IV. Financial situation of the CPVO and projections for the end of 2013 (Doc-CA/13/02/03)*

The members of the AC took note of the provisional accounts. The net result was significantly down (-55%) as at the end of August 2013. At the end of the year, the budget result should be considerably lower than in 2012 but remain on the plus side. The free reserve should fall and stand at around EUR 8 million.

*V. Current situation: calculation of costs and fees (Doc-CA/13/02/04)*

The members of the AC took note of the report. The change to the annual fees will come into force on 1 January 2014. In March of next year, the CPVO will present a proposal to recover 100% of the costs on the basis of the new costs calculated in October. In parallel, the CPVO might also present a new reduction of the fees, again with the objective of reducing the reserve.

*VI. Study produced by the European Parliament on the 'income of fully self-financed agencies and the EU budget' (oral presentation, available on the CPVO's website)*

The members of the AC took note of this study.

*VII. Draft strategy for the CPVO's activities beyond the EU's borders (Doc-CA/13/02/05)*

The members of the AC requested that the draft be amended to include the comments which the Commission was to send in and then be discussed again at the next meeting.

*VIII. 2014 annual Work Programme (Doc-CA/13/02/06 + annex)*

The members of the AC took note of the Work Programme, which listed the 'main' activities carried out by the CPVO. That programme was integrated into the 2010-2015 strategic plan. In 2014, the CPVO would focus on three challenges, namely the revision of processes through the carrying out of a "Business Process Review", which will also serve as a basis for future IT developments, the implementation of the Commission general policy of staff reduction and the structure of fees.

*IX. Conclusions of the inter-institutional working group – 'Road map' – State of affairs (oral presentation available on the CPVO's website)*

The members of the AC took note of the conclusions of the inter-institutional working group. The joint approach had culminated in a 'road map' presented at the end of 2012 by the Commission, which brought together 90 action points. A list of priorities had been drawn up, from 2013 and for the following years. The CPVO had acted in line with the requests made. The members of the AC also took note that, as from 1 January 2014 it will be the AC and not the CPVO President that will adopt CPVO Implementing Rules to the Staff Regulations.

*X. PRM Regulation – State of affairs (oral presentation)*

The members of the AC took note of the situation regarding the proposal for a PRM regulation. Discussions were now underway within the Council and the Parliament. The discussions were largely constructive but many points remained to be clarified. The Commission hoped to be able to present a progress report in December.

*XI. Outcomes of the half-yearly meeting of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – PGRFA International Treaty (oral presentation available on the CPVO's website)*

The members of the AC took note of the situation. The outcomes of the meeting were satisfactory. Significant inter-regional work still needed to be carried out. International representation alone was not enough; regional coordination was also required.

*XII. Presentation of the unitary patent (oral presentation available on the CPVO's website)*

The members of the AC took note of the situation.

*XIII. The CPVO's policy regarding the status of plant material; clarification concerning the material presented for reference purposes (Doc-CA/13/02/07 + annex)*

The members of the AC deferred the adoption of the CPVO's proposal clarifying the status of plant material until March 2014. Comments were to be made to the CPVO by the end of October. The text would be re-examined at the annual meeting with the Examination Offices in December.

*XIV. Situation regarding the agricultural and vegetable species covered not by the CPVO's technical protocols but by the European directives on seeds (Doc-CA/13/02/08 + annex)*

The members of the AC wanted to move towards maximum coverage of vegetable and agricultural species by adopting new CPVO protocols. The CPVO would put the item on the agenda of the following week's meeting with the agricultural technical experts and in December with the vegetable experts in order to adapt the working programme accordingly.

*XV. Centralisation of DUS-testing for small species in the ornamental sector (Doc-CA/13/02/09 + annexes)*

The members of the AC took note of the current status of the project to centralise DUS-testing for small species. This item would be put on the agenda of the annual meeting with the Examination Offices in order to allow the experts to discuss it. In that context the AC members agreed to the CPVO proposal that species for which the CPVO has not received applications should be removed from the scope of entrustment of Examination offices. The CPVO is invited to undertake the necessary steps in order to achieve this.

*XVI. Disease resistance characteristics in the CPVO's technical protocols for vegetable species (Doc-CA/13/02/10)*

The majority of the members of the AC stated that they were in favour of maintaining the moratorium. This item would be put on the agenda for discussion by the technical experts, who would meet in December.

*XVII. Increased co-operation with Member States in relation to testing of proposed variety denominations. Extension of the system to the KAVB (Doc-CA/13/02/11)*

The members of the AC took note of the pilot project and supported it. The breeders said that they were pleased that it had been possible to establish this co-operation. In the future, consideration should be given to extending this service, potentially in return for a small administrative fee.

*XVIII. Electronic technical questionnaire as an annex to the CPVO's protocols (Doc-CA/13/02/12)*

The members of the AC signalled their agreement with the CPVO's proposal, namely that in future the technical questionnaires would only be available electronically. The CPVO's technical protocols would include a reference and/or a link to the electronic version of the technical questionnaire. This would make it possible to make any updates available immediately.

*XIX. Designation of the examination offices: results of the questionnaire of August 2013 on new species (Doc-CA/13/02/13)*

The members of the AC unanimously adopted the list presented by the CPVO.

*XX. Designation of the Bundessortenamt [German Federal Plant Variety Office] for bicoloured varieties of Hydrangea (Doc-CA/13/02/14)*

The members of the AC unanimously adopted the CPVO's proposal to entrust the testing of bicoloured Hydrangea varieties to the *Bundessortenamt*.

*XXI. Accreditation recommendations (documents on the QAS website – EN only)*

The members of the AC with voting rights unanimously declared themselves to be in favour of the 5 entrustment recommendations, with the complete or amended scope, made by the Quality Audit Service for the following offices:

- IT (CRA VIT):
- BE (CRA-W)
- PL (COBORU):
- UK (NIAB)
- HU (NEBIH)

In addition, they noted that Romania (ISTIS) had withdrawn its application for entrustment and would make a new application at a later stage, and that Greece's entrustment had been confirmed following a surveillance visit which had verified that remedial measures had indeed been implemented.

*XXII. Proposal to establish an 'Audit Fees' working group (Doc-CA/13/02/16)*

The members of the AC adopted the proposal of the CPVO President to establish an 'Audit Fees' working group, which would be made up of Ms Pavlovska and Ms Batorova as well as Mr Mitchell, Mr van Ettehoven, Mr Scholte, Mr Moran and Mr Schuon. The President of the CPVO will act as chairman of that group. The group will propose options which would be submitted to the AC for discussion at the meeting in the spring and then for a vote in autumn 2014.

*XXIII. Any other business*

The members of the AC took note of the Commission's presentation of the situation regarding the *Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation in the Union*.