

Welcome by Bart Kiewiet

President of the CPVO

I would like to thank Udo von Kröcher, in his capacity as president of the Bundessortenamt and as chairman of the Administrative Council of the CPVO, for his inspiring opening address and for the support given to the CPVO in the organization of this seminar.

I would like to extend my thanks to the breeders' organizations E.S.A. and CIOPORA International for their important contributions in the preparation of this event.

In the Strategic Plan of the CPVO, "Contribute to the enforcement of Community plant variety rights" is mentioned as one of the objectives of this agency. This objective is based on the conviction that breeders need support from public authorities in their endeavors to fight against infringements of their rights. This support can have many forms, such as the creation of a legislative environment giving right holders effective enforcement tools or the promotion of awareness of this type of intellectual rights in relevant governmental and professional circles. This seminar is aimed at the last objective. The lists of participants makes clear that representatives of administrations competent in this area as well as representatives of relevant professional circles are amongst us today. I hope that the audience, at the end of the day, will be better informed about the implications of the Community pvp system, the difficulties breeders encounter when trying to enforce their rights but also about the instruments available to breeders to protect their interests, in short, that the seminar will serve its purpose.

I welcome the participants to this seminar. The majority are nationals of our host country Germany, but its neighbors are also represented. It is furthermore with great pleasure that I took note of the presence of nationals of other countries. I hope that you will be an active audience; do not hesitate to raise questions, to make remarks or express criticism.

I wish you all a good seminar.