

**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST  
FOR THE SELECTION OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS PARTICIPATING IN ASSESSMENT  
MISSIONS FOR THE QUALITY AUDIT SERVICE OF THE COMMUNITY PLANT VARIETY OFFICE**

**DESCRIPTION OF THE OFFICE AND THE QUALITY AUDIT SERVICE**

The Community Plant Variety Office, hereinafter called 'the Office', was established by Council Regulation (EC) No 2100/94 of 27 July 1995 on Community plant variety rights (OJ L 227, 1.9.1994, p.1).

The purpose of the Office, a body with legal personality which has legal, administrative and financial autonomy, is to administer the Community system of plant variety rights, a specific type of industrial property rights for new plant varieties. In particular, the Office has to take decisions on applications for the grant of such rights, which guarantee uniform protection throughout the European Union. The Office is based in Angers, France.

With the approval of the *Entrustment Requirements for CPVO Examination Offices* and of the related assessment model by the Administrative Council during its meeting in March 2009, a system for regularly assessing entrusted Examination Offices was launched. Each assessment cycle last three years, with each entrusted Examination Office being assessed at least once within that cycle.

So far, the assessments have been conducted by teams consisting of a Team Leader from the Quality Audit Service (QAS) of the Office and Technical Expert(s) (M/F) selected from a pool of experts, established with approval by the Administrative Council.

The current assessment cycle finalises at the end of 2018. A new three-year assessment cycle will commence in 2019, for which a list of Technical Experts covering the period 2019-2021 needs to be established.

**DESCRIPTION OF TASKS**

The Technical Expert (M/F) assigned to an assessment mission by the QAS Team Leader is chosen on the basis of his/her expertise with regards to the sample selected within the scope of entrustment of the Examination Office visited. In compliance with current policy of changing teams from one regular assessment to another, the QAS Team Leader ensures a rotation between Technical Experts for any Examination Office visited.

When appointed, Technical Expert (M/F) are required to prepare for the assessments they are commissioned to conduct, to carry out the assessment under the supervision of the Team Leader, to participate with the Team Leader in preparing the assessment report in a timely manner and possibly to evaluate the actions taken by the assessed examination office in response to the assessment findings.

**APPOINTMENT**

The Technical Experts (M/F) appointed shall be included in a list from 1 January 2019 on a proposal from the Quality Audit Service **until the end of 2021**. The number of Technical Experts and their expertise shall cover adequately all crop sectors. In an attempt to achieve geographical balance, individuals from all Member States are encouraged to present themselves as candidates.

The Technical Expert (M/F) are part of the QAS assessment team and, in making their assessment, they are not bound by any instructions other than those of the QAS Team Leader. They shall be bound by professional integrity and confidentiality. Duties of CPVO employees and members of the CPVO Administrative Council are not compatible with the appointment as Technical Expert.

## CONDITIONS FOR ACTING AS TECHNICAL EXPERT

The Technical Experts (M/F) may continue his/her professional activities.

The Technical Experts (M/F) will be chosen from the established list by the QAS Team Leader, as and when necessary, so that the audit team consists of the two to three members, as the case may be.

The Technical Experts (M/F) chosen will perform his/her duties on a part-time basis. Typical assessment missions last between one and three days, plus travelling and time for preparation and follow-up.

For participation in assessment missions, travel expenses and daily allowances will be reimbursed in accordance with the rules applicable to CPVO external experts. In addition, Technical Experts (M/F) will be provided with a honorarium. The amount of honorarium is a standard rate of 500 € per assignment. No additional honorarium will apply for follow-up activities directly related to an assessment.

## QUALIFICATIONS

- the candidate (M/F) must be a national of one of the Member States of the European Union.
- the candidate (M/F) must have a thorough knowledge of one of the Community languages and a working knowledge of English. He/she must be able to communicate effectively, also in an environment where English is not the primary language and where cultural aspects need to be taken into account.
- the candidate (M/F) must not have any affiliation with applicants for CPVRs with the CPVO.
- the candidate (M/F) must also:
  - o be a qualified, active or retired, professional in the area of agronomy or horticulture, with proven experience in the field of DUS testing (breeding, testing and/or administering plant varieties) of at least five years; retirement from active service shall not date back more than 3 years;
  - o be familiar with the UPOV system;
  - o have good knowledge in plant variety testing and variety rights in at least one major crop group; knowledge in several crop groups would be an asset;
  - o have good knowledge of common knowledge varieties for the crops within his/her field(s) of expertise;
  - o have basic knowledge in conformity assessment principles; experience in internal or other auditing activities would be an asset.

## APPLICATIONS

Completed application forms (see enclosed) accompanied by a detailed curriculum vitae (of which a translation into English, where applicable, would be appreciated), must be sent by post or e-mail to the CPVO Quality Audit Service.

In order to be eligible for approval by the Administrative Council at the meeting of 19 September 2018, application forms should be sent **by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018 at the latest** (date as postmark/reception of e-mail). Any applications received after this date can only be considered for approval by the Administrative Council at its subsequent meetings in 2019.

Applications must be sent to the following address:

**Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO)/ Quality Audit Service**  
**Att to Mrs V. DE CAESTECKER**  
**C.S. 10212**  
**FR – 49101 Angers cédex 02**  
**FRANCE**  
[QAS-candidature@cpvo.europa.eu](mailto:QAS-candidature@cpvo.europa.eu)

Further information may be obtained from the same address by e-mail ([semon@cpvo.europa.eu](mailto:semon@cpvo.europa.eu)).

