

26/08/2009

PRESS RELEASE

The Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) will host the annual meeting of the Technical Working Party for ornamental plants and forest trees (TWO) organized by the "International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants" (UPOV), an intergovernmental organization based in Geneva. This event will take place **in Angers from the 14th to the 18th September 2009**.

50 participants with an interest in DUS testing (Distinction, Uniformity, Stability) of ornamental plants and forest trees for plant breeders' rights purposes are expected to attend. They originate from around 20 UPOV Member states and organizations, from all over the world. The mission of the UPOV is to provide and promote an effective system of plant variety protection, with the aim of encouraging the development of new varieties of plants, for the benefit of society.

This meeting is organized every year and hosted by a different UPOV Member state or a member organization. The European Community is a member of UPOV since 2005. The Community Plant Variety Office has participated in the TWO on behalf of the European Community since 1996, first as an observer, later as a member.

The meeting will be held in the Congress Centre of Angers. The following subjects are on the Agenda:

- presentation of each member state or organization about the developments in the ornamental sector and within UPOV during the past year;
- general discussions on technical matters related to the technical examination of ornamental plants and forest trees;
- discussion on draft DUS test guidelines for ornamental species.

During this week's meeting, the participating experts are invited to visit some ornamental breeding companies in the Anjou region: Sicamus (*Hydrangea*) and Challet Herault Creations (*Chrysanthemum*). An official dinner will be organized by the CPVO in the Castle of Angers.

Approval by UPOV of the CPVO invitation to host the TWO annual meeting in Angers underlines the importance of the CPVO for the protection of new plant varieties worldwide. Since its creation in 1995, the CPVO has grown to be the largest plant breeders' rights system in the world. Currently, around 16.700 varieties are protected by the CPVO for the European community territory, of which 9.400 are ornamental varieties. The visit of so many ornamental experts, coming from all over the world, gives an excellent opportunity to show the work that is done by the CPVO and the ornamental industry in the Anjou region.