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## Patent/PVR Seminar in brief

On 24 June 2015, the Administrative Council of the CPVO held a seminar in Brussels on the interface between plant variety rights and patents.

About 90 participants attended the seminar from the members and observers of the Administrative Council of the CPVO (AC) including the European Commission, experts from the European Patent Office and national patent offices of the EU Member States, academics and COPA-COGECA.

The main aim of the seminar was to address different questions raised in connection with the role played by different systems of intellectual property rights in the field of plant varieties and plant biotechnology.

The main themes for discussion during the seminar dealt with the scope of protection of plant related inventions within the framework of the European Patent Convention and the future European Unitary patent system and the relationship between the patent system and the plant variety right system. In this field, the potential impact that the introduction of the breeder's exemption will have in the European Unitary patent system and the scope of the research exemption under some national patent laws, has been debated.

From the users' perspective, the impact of some initiatives, such as the PINTO data-base and the International Licensing Platform, has also been considered.

COPA-COGECA has expressed its concerns regarding the constant need of farmers for better varieties and higher yields in all climates of the EU.

Finally, the perspective from different Member States of the EU has shown that there is lack of harmonization.

The outcome of the panel discussion highlights the importance of fostering closer cooperation between the leading Authorities in their respective field of practice, the European Patent Office on one side and the Community Plant Variety Office, on the other side. The need to have access to better sources of information has been highlighted as being one of the major concerns for the industry concerned and ultimately for the Authorities called to take decisions. Discrepancies among legislations in different Member States and the practice of the European Patent Office show that a common effort at legislative level is required in order to reach a higher harmonization.

A summary report of the seminar and the seminar's presentations are available on the [CPVO web site](#).

