



## **CPVO Headlines**

The digital newsletter of the  
Community Plant Variety Office

*Issue #1 December 2020*

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### **Welcome to CPVO Headlines!**

Dear readers,

Welcome to the new digital newsletter of the Community Plant Variety Office!

The format has been modernised and it will be published more regularly so that it is up to date with our latest news. We hope that this will contribute to further engagement with you, our closest professional partners, institutional stakeholders and users of the EU plant variety protection system.

2020 has been a very challenging year for all of us because of the COVID pandemic. We are now in constant virtual meetings and we are missing the joy of being together.

It was quite disappointing that the pandemic disrupted our 25th anniversary and we had to cancel a big event during which we could have boasted about the achievements of the EU Plant variety protection system: since 1995, the CPVO received over 70 000 applications and granted 55 000 plant variety rights, among which nearly 30 000 titles are currently in force.

We received many messages from our stakeholders recalling the benefits that the system brings to them and we are happy that the CPVO is well recognised and valued across the EU and beyond. Thank you!

We are equally pleased that the industry continues to be productive: last week the CPVO processed its 3000th application in 2020. A figure slightly lower than what we did in 2019, but still very high.

The pandemic has forced us to rethink how we do things. I was particularly impressed by an online training for Chinese experts on DUS testing co-organised by the CPVO last month. Due to the pandemic, six European Examination Offices filmed their assessment of different varieties in the fields and in glass houses from March to August. The footages were shown during the virtual training and complemented the usual power point presentations with a new dimension.

Let's remain creative, focused and hopeful. I am convinced there will be brighter days in the near future, and this is all I wish for 2021!

In the meantime, I wish you a pleasant and informative read!

Martin Ekvad  
President of the CPVO

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## Thank you for 25 years of partnership!

The Community Plant Variety Office was established **25 years** ago!  
Happy anniversary CPVO & thank you to all those who believe in plant innovation and plant variety protection!



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## Calendar of events

- **Vegetable expert meeting**, Virtual, 30 November - 1 December
- **IP KEY China enforcement seminar**, Virtual, 30 November - 2 December
- **Webinar: scope of EU plant variety protection system in light of the Nadorcott judgment**, ICAB (virtual, in Spanish), 17 December
- **CPVO meeting with Examination Offices**, Virtual, 2 December
- **Salon du Végétal**, Angers, 10-11 February 2021

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## Appointments & policy news

Vacancy for the role of  
**President of the CPVO**



### Vacancy notice: President of the CPVO

Given that the second mandate of Mr. Martin Ekvad as President of the CPVO will come to an end on 31 August 2021, a vacancy notice for the role of President of CPVO has been published in the Official Journal of the European Union (Ref: [CA 379, 10 November 2020](#)).

The post will be available from 1 September 2021 for an initial mandate of 5 years, with a possible extension for a maximum period of 5 years.

We encourage those of you with a vision to lead an EU Agency in the field of Intellectual Property Rights for plant varieties through the challenges of

digitalization and climate change to apply before 10 December 2020, 12:00 noon CET.

Please note that this recruitment process is managed by the European Commission.

[More info](#)



## CPVO Administrative Council elects new Chair & Vice-Chair

The biannual meeting of CPVO's Administrative Council (AC) took place virtually on 30 September 2020. Among the decisions taken during the session are the elections of the new Chair and Deputy-Chair of the Administrative Council.

- **New CPVO AC Chair: Mr. Marien Valstar (The Netherlands)**
- **New CPVO AC Deputy-Chair: Dr. José Antonio Sobrino Maté (Spain)**

The change was made on 5 October 2020, for a duration period of 3 years.

Congratulations to them and thank you to **Mrs. Bistra Pavlovska (Bulgaria)** who did an excellent work as Chair during the period 2017-2020!

[More info](#)



## IP KEY: international outreach activities

In an effort to promote plant variety protection at global level, the CPVO is taking an active role in the EU-funded IP KEY programme, directed by the European Commission and implemented by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).

In October, the CPVO led an online training on plant variety rights and DUS examinations for a group of 60 experts from China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) and China's National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA).

The [session](#) provided an excellent opportunity for in-depth discussions between the Chinese experts and the European ones, representing the CPVO and six EU examination offices from the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands and Spain.

In November, the CPVO participated in similar IP KEY activities with experts from South-East Asian countries and [Latin American countries](#), and the CPVO is participating this week in an [IP KEY activity on enforcement](#) of plant variety rights with Chinese officials.

[More info](#)

## EU Action Plan on Intellectual Property

The CPVO welcomes the European Commission Action Plan for Intellectual Property released on 25



November.

As the EU agency responsible for plant variety protection, we support the announced commitments to evaluate the plant variety legislation & to have plant variety rights covered in the IP enforcement portal managed by the EUIPO.

As rightly indicated in the EU Commission's Action Plan, a robust plant variety rights system incentivizes breeders to develop new varieties, thus contributing to the achievement of the European Green Deal objectives and the United Nations sustainable development goals!

[More info](#)



## UPOV Council annual session

At the end of October, the CPVO attended the UPOV annual sessions where CPVO President, Mr. Martin Ekvad, acted as Ad Hoc Chair of the 77th session of the Administrative & Legal Committee.

The UPOV Council appointed Mr. Daren Tang as the new Secretary-General of UPOV for the period 30 October 2020 to 30 September 2026.

The CPVO congratulates Mr. Daren Tang on his appointment and we look forward to a continue our fruitful cooperation with UPOV!

[More info](#)



## CPVO Case Law 2015-2020

The CPVO just published its Case Law Volume II booklet which offers the summary of relevant decisions and judgments taken in the past five years by its Board of Appeal, the General Court and the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Volume I offers a recollection of similar decisions and judgments for the years 1995-2015.

Both publications are available on CPVO's website.

[More info](#)



## Update on BREXIT

In the context of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, the European Commission and the Community Plant Variety Office have published updated guidance for stakeholders regarding the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union and the EU rules applicable in the field of Community Plant Variety Rights.

The CPVO would like to remind all breeders who are currently domiciled or have a seat in the United Kingdom that they must designate a procedural representative who is domiciled or has his seat or an establishment within the EU territory.



Failing to do so before the end of the transition period (01 January 2021) will lead to the CPVO initiating cancellation procedures of the Community Plant Variety Rights in question.

[More info](#)



Annual Report 2019



## CPVO Annual Report

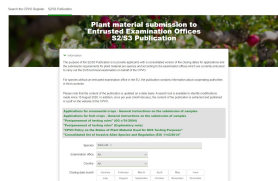
In case you missed it, the CPVO Annual report 2019 provides information on the CPVO priorities and achievements in the fields of R&D, international outreach, and the digital transformation of its core business activities, as well as on its finances and budget.

In 2019, the CPVO received 3 525 applications for Community plant variety right protection, reaching more 3 500 applications in a calendar year for the third time in the CPVO's history.

The CPVO Annual report is illustrated with infographics, statistics and charts covering all aspects of the Community plant variety rights system.

[Read the report](#)

## Technical & administrative announcements



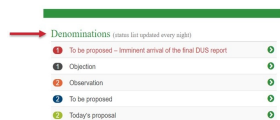
### New search tool for species requirements

The CPVO launched a new search tool for applicants, where users can find the closing dates for applications and the submission requirements per species according to the entrusted examination offices carrying out DUS tests for the CPVO.

For species without an entrusted examination office in the EU, the database contains information about cooperating authorities in third countries.

For those familiar with the CPVO, this new online search tool merges the information formerly available in the so-called S2 publication and S3 webpage.

[Try the tool](#)

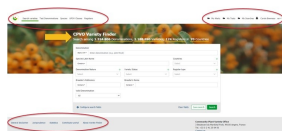


### Improved online denomination service

All users of the CPVO services and applicants to Community Plant Variety Rights can now have an overview of the denomination situation over their files and submit their denomination proposals online.

Users must connect to [MyPVR](#) to access the new dashboard and use the new e-denominations service.

[More info](#)



## New Variety Finder to be released soon!

The CPVO Variety Finder database is currently being revamped and a new version will be released in December.

The new CPVO Variety Finder will feature key improvements, both in terms of usability, with a more user-friendly and intuitive design, and in terms of functionalities, with new searching functions and the possibility to use our application programming interface (API).

Stay tuned to the CPVO website and social media! We will give a shout as soon as the new version is online.

[More info](#)



## CPVO in-depth analysis

*The cascade of protection in relation to parent lines and hybrids and the relevance of the breeders' exemption:* our CPVO experts conducted an analysis in relation to the scope of protection extended from the parental lines to the hybrids and the potential use of such hybrids for the breeding of other varieties in relation to the breeders' exemption.

[More info](#)

## CPVO in the media & on the web



### CPVO celebrates its Silver Jubilee

At the occasion of CPVO's 25th Anniversary, Flora Culture International Magazine sat with Martin Ekvad to discuss the most significant achievements and future challenges of the Community Plant Variety Office.

[Read the article](#)



### Interview with European Seed Magazine (Part I - Martin Ekvad)

The interview covers the following themes:

- How the developments of the CPVO have been for the past 25 years?
- What are CPVO's international relations and outreach activities?
- What are the main achievements of the CPVO?
- What are the remaining challenges?
- How does BREXIT impact the work of the CPVO?
- Views on molecular tools for plant variety testing?

[Read the interview](#)

## Celebrating 25 Years of CPVO

PART 2 - LOOKING AT THE HOT TOPICS

Following the 25th anniversary of CPVO, in August 2019, we asked the European Commission to look at the hot topics of the CPVO's work. The Commission's response is published in two parts. This is the second part, looking at the hot topics of the CPVO's work. The first part, looking at the CPVO's work, is published in the previous article.

**EUROPEAN SEED (SE) FRANCESCO MATTINA, THE CPVO'S**

**MANAGING DIRECTOR, HAS BEEN ASKED TO DESCRIBE THE**

**CPVO'S WORK IN THE PAST 25 YEARS, AND TO LOOK AT THE**

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## Interview with European Seed Magazine (Part II - Francesco Mattina)

The interview covers the following themes:

- The INVITE EU R&D project;
- The EU Regulation 2018/848 which provides for the marketing of Organic Heterogeneous Material and for organic varieties;
- Essentially Derived Varieties (EDVs);
- New breeding techniques;
- The recent decision of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in the case C-176/18 ('Nadorcott');
- Europe's system for Farm-Saved Seeds.

[Read the interview](#)

## CPVO latest videos & social media hits!



### Webinar - How to protect a plant variety at EU level

This [webinar](#) presented by Sergio Semon, CPVO's Head of the Quality & Audit Service, was recorded by the French organisation Vegopolys Valley and released at "Salon du végétal" on 14 and 15 September 2020. The webinar is currently available in French but we will record an English version soon.

[Access all CPVO webinars](#)

## Twitter



**CPVO** @CPVOTweets · 1h

Today we would like to welcome our 2000th Twitter follower, @KocksKelly, and we say a huge thank you to everyone following @CPVOTweets!

Feel free to reach out, tag, quote, mention us whenever you have good stories to share! 🌱🌻🌿🍌🍌🍌

[#NewPlantVarieties](#) [#PlantBreeding](#) [#IPLaw](#)



[Join us on Twitter](#)

## LinkedIn



Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO)

1,323 followers

3w • Edited •



Have you ever wondered how [#NewPlantVarieties](#) & the [#PlantVarietyProtection](#) system contribute to keep agricultural production sustainable?

The [#EUGreenDeal](#) & [#FarmToFork](#) strategies acknowledge the relevance of [#plantbreeding](#) towards more environmental-friendly solutions.



Join us on LinkedIn

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