Welcome to the 12th edition of the CPVO newsletter!

As a reader of this newsletter you will have noted that the CPVO updated its website just before Christmas. I am very happy about this development which has resulted in a look and feel of the website in line with the state of the art.

An important milestone towards becoming paperless was also reached recently when the tool MyPVR was launched, making it possible for clients and the CPVO to communicate electronically, not only as regards the application form, but also for many other documents used during the procedure. Following this launch, some technical problems have been detected and we are working together with our clients to solve these issues.

The 5-year Strategic Plan 2017-2021 was drafted by the end of last year after consultations with CPVO staff as well as a wide range of stakeholders. It is my aim that the draft is discussed in the meeting with the Administrative Council (AC) in March 2017. I can then sign it together with the Chair of the AC, Andy Mitchell. The Strategic Plan will serve as a guide when implementing the EU PVP system in the years to come.

By the end of March 2017 the second mandate of Mr Carlos Godinho, CPVO Vice President, will lapse. With all my heart I would like to thank him for all the good work he has done during the past 10 years for the CPVO, and for being an excellent colleague to us all. I wish him all the best when he returns for duty in Lisbon at the Ministry of Agriculture. I hope his return will have as a secondary effect that the CPVO Newsletter will gain one more subscriber!

I wish you ‘good reading’.

Martin Ekvad
President of the CPVO

> GENERAL NEWS

Application numbers in 2016 back on track

During the last 4 months of 2016, the Office received in total 1 188 applications, 84 (or 7.6 %) more than in the same period of 2015. The differences are particularly great for vegetables with + 58 applications (+ 32.8 %) and fruit varieties with + 27 applications (+ 25.2 %). For ornamentals, the figures were nearly stable: + 19 applications (+ 3.6 %) while they were slightly negative for agricultural crops: – 20 applications (– 6.9 %).

Of more interest are the figures for the whole year (available on the CPVO website): in 2016, the Office received in total 3 299 applications which is the 2nd highest number in the history of the Office and this is 6 % more that in 2015. The figures also seem to suggest that after an annual increase during the first 10 years (1996 to 2006) of the existence of the Community plant variety rights system, the application numbers have now stabilised.

New website launched: cpvo.europa.eu

On 19 December 2016, the CPVO launched its new website. The CPVO has worked to reorganise and update the content of the website together with a company specialised in web communication, and hope that it will provide clear information to CPVO stakeholders. Our goal will be to provide more and more updates via the website, and we have empowered several users throughout the CPVO organisation so that each unit or service can directly provide information to the public and the CPVO stakeholders with minimum delays.

The new website will be the place to interact with all CPVO stakeholders in a more proactive way. We will shortly give you the opportunity to express your views on the CPVO external communication via a survey which will be accessible to the general public. The restricted area of the website was not part of the original scope of the revamp process, however the CPVO will continuously improve its website.
Important decisions at the AC meeting, Angers, France (October 2016)

The Administrative Council (AC) adopted in October the consolidated version of the CPVO guidelines on novelty. The principle that the date of physical delivery for the purpose of commercial exploitation of the plant material would be used for assessing novelty of candidate varieties is the cornerstone of that document.

The AC also adopted a CPVO policy on maintaining a ‘reasonable’ free reserve based on (a) a free reserve set at 50 % of payment budget, (b) fixed examination fees for applicants for 4 years based on cost calculation made every 4 years and inflation rate added in the intervening years for examination office remunerations and (c) annual fees adapted to maintain the free reserve.

EU Agencies Forum, Brussels (December 2016)

The CPVO participated in the EU Agencies Forum from 6-7 December 2016 at the European Parliament. The forum brought together policymakers, representatives of industry, civil society, EU institutions and public administration gathered at the European Parliament for a major conference dedicated to the work and contribution of the 45 EU agencies and joint undertakings.

High-level speakers were at the Agencies Forum including Vice-President of the European Parliament Mairead McGuinness, Vice-President of the European Commission Kristalina Georgieva and former President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy.

Delegates agreed that the EU agencies and joint undertakings are crucial to the implementation and success of all areas of EU policy. In addition, the economies of scale and savings generated for EU taxpayers by EU agencies and joint undertakings were also highlighted, as it is more effective to perform a task once at EU level rather than repeating it 28 times at Member State level.

The CPVO’s contribution with 25 000 titles in force was highlighted during the presentation of the report by Deloitte on the contribution of EU agencies to the Europe 2020 strategy and the Juncker Commission Agenda.

In their discussions, delegates agreed that EU agencies and joint undertakings fill important gaps in the EU framework, and were created to resolve and prevent crises. The EU agencies and joint undertakings are well known in their policy areas but, according to delegates, they can lack overall visibility toward EU citizens and other key players at the national level; something that attendees urged the Agencies Forum to work to overcome.

The Forum was organised by the EU Agencies Network, set up by the Heads of EU agencies as a collective voice for the agencies to coordinate, exchange information and agree common positions of shared interest.

Promoting the CPVR system in international fairs and open doors

From 17 to 19 January 2017, the CPVO together with the French Variety and Seed Study and Control Group (GEVES) participated for the first time in the SIVAL trade show in Angers, France, presenting a comprehensive and impressive offering of equipment and services for all plant productions.

From 24 to 27 January 2017, the CPVO exhibited in a joint ‘Plant breeders’ rights in Europe’ stand with the Bundessortenamt (Germany), GEVES (France), the UK National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB) and the Netherlands Inspection Service for Horticulture (Naktuinbouw) at the IPM 2017, in Essen, Germany.

These international fairs offer an excellent opportunity for the CPVO to promote the Community plant variety rights system together with some of the examination offices performing the technical assessment of candidate varieties for EU plant variety rights.

Furthermore, the CPVO, every year in February, opens its doors and explains its mission and activities to the public in the framework of Made in Angers, the annual Angers Loire Valley event on the economy of the region.
Focus on...
New e-service for clients: MyPVR

The implementation of the CPVO's online application system has proved hugely popular, and demonstrated the motivation of its clients to go electronic. Building on this experience, the CPVO has developed an all-new e communication tool, called 'MyPVR', which is now available on the CPVO website.

MyPVR aims to computerise all steps in the application process, and further enhance electronic interaction between applicants and the CPVO. MyPVR encompasses all the e-services that have been provided to applicants thus far, including the online application system and the Variety Finder, establishing a centralised and secure area for file-related communication.

This tool empowers users to oversee their files in the way that best suits their needs. Clients can be safe in the knowledge that their documents are stored in a secure space, and accessible at any time. They can also manage their own access to the CPVO's system, whether consulting previous communication, checking the status of an application, or reviewing sent documents.

Indeed, more information will be at the clients' fingertips than ever before, including details on the technical examinations, and forecasts of dates within the application process. What's more, alerts can be requested for latest updates relating to a specific application or even a general species, so clients can be the first to know of any new information that is released.

Despite a number of tests involving clients before the launch, some technical problems have been detected when MyPVR has been put to use and we are working together with our clients to solve these issues with priority.

The CPVO will continue to be active in developing its e-services, with future MyPVR phases already in motion. We hope that you will enjoy using this new system, and remain available for any questions you may have:

MyPVR@cpvo.europa.eu

International cooperation
Steering group of Dutch PVP development programme

Naktuinbouw and the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs has agreed on a PVP Development Programme for the next 5 years to promote PVP internationally. In order to ensure transparency and reporting an Advisory Group will support Naktuinbouw in the selection of the projects and a steering group will evaluate the selected project proposals.

The CPVO congratulates Naktuinbouw for this important initiative and the President of the CPVO has agreed to participate in the steering group. A kick-off meeting was held in October 2016.

UPOV week in Geneva, CH (24-27 October 2016)

The CPVO attended the UPOV October session. The session was of particular interest since two seminars were organised during the week. One was on the concepts of propagating material and harvested material under the UPOV Convention. The President of the CPVO chaired one of the sessions at this event. The other was on possible interrelations between the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV Convention). More information on these events and the October meetings can be found on the UPOV website. It can however be noted that during the Council meeting both the member and the alternate member of the Netherlands to the CPVO Administrative Council were appointed to important posts in UPOV: Marien Valstar was appointed Vice-President of the Council and Kees van Eettekoven was appointed Chair of the Technical Committee. The CPVO congratulates our Dutch colleagues and looks forward to working with them in their roles in UPOV.

EPO/OBI conference, Athens, Greece (10-11 November 2016)

In November, the CPVO attended a seminar in Athens which was organised by the European Patent Organisation (EPO), in collaboration with the Hellenic IP Organisation. The subject of discussions concerned inventions in agricultural and food sectors and the way to the market. Since the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between EPO and CPVO, the Office is invited by EPO to cover intellectual property rights in the plant variety sector for the purpose of informing the audience in EPO seminars about this particular field of IP rights. This seminar was attended by some 90 participants and the interest shown towards PVR was especially high from the side of the Hellenic Ministry of Agriculture and the Hellenic Breeders Association.
IP key project for China accession to UPOV (IPKEY), Beijing, China

As a follow-up to the IP Key (‘Intellectual property: a key to sustainable competitiveness’) whereby a Chinese delegation visited Europe in the context of exploring the merits of China joining the UPOV 1991 Convention, the CPVO was invited to China. Two events were organised with the aim of explaining to users and players in the Chinese PVP system the benefits of plant variety protection and to discuss potential developments in further developing the system. The key challenges for China to take the step to join UPOV 1991 is that the present system is not open to the whole plant kingdom. In addition, there is no system in place as regards collecting remuneration for the use of farm-saved seeds and the concept of essentially derived varieties has not been implemented. These aspects were discussed in two seminars organised in Yangling and Beijing by the Ministry of Agriculture and the State Forestry Administration respectively in November 2016. The Chinese colleagues showed much interest in the CPVO QAS system as well as cooperation on DUS testing in the future. The intention is to formalise our cooperation in 2017.

CPVO participation in several conferences

India

A workshop was organised in November 2016 by the Indian Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers’ Rights Authority, in collaboration with Germany and the Netherlands. The President of the CPVO was invited to give a presentation on EDVs. In this respect, the Indian authorities face a particular challenge since they are mandated to decide if a variety is an EDV or not. In the workshop, the concept of Convention Countries found in Indian legislation was discussed. This concept aims to provide for a kind of reciprocity in the application procedure for applicants residing in a country signing up as a Convention Country. The Indian market provides for lots of business opportunities for EU breeders and it was important to participate in this event as a fact-finding exercise. Together with representatives from Germany and the Netherlands, the CPVO was welcomed by the EU representation at the event. The Dutch and the German examination offices (Naktuinbouw and Bundessortenamt) will explore further technical cooperation with India and the CPVO will follow the results achieved with interest.

Vietnam

A seminar on the Enforcement of Plant Breeders’ Rights under the UPOV Convention was organised in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 7 and 8 September 2016, by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) of Vietnam in cooperation with UPOV and USPTO, with the assistance of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan. Presentations were given by technical and legal experts from South and North America, Asia, Africa and Europe. The President of the CPVO gave a presentation on enforcement in the EU and chaired one session of the seminar. The seminar gave an overview of the challenges breeders face when enforcing their rights in various jurisdictions. Case studies nevertheless showed that despite challenges, it is in many cases possible to enforce a PVP. It was highlighted that it is of utmost importance that the benefits of plant variety rights are communicated to the producers and farmers. It goes without saying that being convinced of this message, it is easier to work together.

> LEGAL AFFAIRS

Contributing to EUIPO/EPO IP study on intensive industries of plant varieties

The EIPIN Innovation Society Doctorate is a comprehensive project at the forefront of multidisciplinary academic research, examining the role of intellectual property (IP) as a complex adaptive system in innovation. Fifteen PhD candidates will be trained in 2017 to present their research findings on a number of topics of great societal interest, and to guide inventors and entrepreneurs through the lifecycle of IP-intensive assets that takes human creativity into the marketplace.

Industry-Level Analysis Report on IPR-intensive industries

The European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) and the European Patent Office (EPO) joined forces in 2013 to carry out a study that quantified the contribution made by intellectual property right (IPR) intensive industries to the economy of the EU. The study has been updated with a new version published on October 2016. As a novelty, the scope has been widened to take into account new developments such as the accession of Croatia in 2013 and to include plant variety rights in the analysis. For this reason, the CPVO has actively participated in the project in providing useful input and data. The findings revealed that IPR-intensive industries accounted for 42 % of the EU’s economic output and 27.8 % of all jobs in the EU during the period 2011-2013. On average over this period, 60 million Europeans were employed by IPR-intensive industries. Moreover, given the increasing focus of policymakers and business leaders in Europe and beyond on developing technologies to deal with climate change, a chapter on the economic importance of climate change mitigation technologies (CCMTs) has been added. They account for 1.2 % of employment and 2.1 % of economic output in the EU.
Decisions reached by the Board of Appeal of the CPVO (BoA) in September 2016

(see appeal A006/2007-RENV)

By decision of 2 September 2016, the Board of Appeal (BoA) dismissed the appeal lodged by R. Schräder requesting the annulment of decisions R701 and OBJ 07-023 of the Office of 19 February 2007 and to grant a CPVR for the variety ‘Sumost 01’ or, alternatively, to cancel said decisions and to declare that the variety ‘Lemon Symphony’ does not exist. According to the BoA, on the filing date of ‘Sumost 01’ (26 November 2001), there existed a valid Community plant variety registration for ‘Lemon Symphony’. The alleged nullity of the CPVR of ‘Lemon Symphony’ pursuant to Article 20 BR has been already decided in a legally binding manner by the BoA (Decision A010/2007 of 23 January 2009) and confirmed by the General Court (Judgment T-242/09 of 18 September 2012) and the Court of Justice (Judgment C-546/12 P, Schräder v CPVO of 21 May 2015). As regards the alleged lack of stability of ‘Lemon Symphony’ under Article 21 BR, the BoA considers that the appellant has not been able to submit evidence and facts of sufficient substance to raise serious doubts as to the stability of the variety ‘Lemon Symphony’ (see appeal A006/2007-RENV). ‘Lemon Symphony’ was a generally known variety in the meaning of Article 7(1) BR on the filing date of ‘Sumost 01’. Plant material with the characteristics of ‘Lemon Symphony’ was also a matter of common knowledge, within the meaning of Article 21 BR, through sales of the variety from October 1999 onwards.

‘Lemon Symphony’ appeal case (A006/2007-RENV)

By decision of 2 September 2016, the BoA dismissed the appeal lodged by R. Schräder requesting that the CPVR for the variety ‘Lemon Symphony’ be cancelled with retrospective effect or, alternatively, with immediate effect. The BoA considers that the appellant has not been able to submit evidence and facts of sufficient substance to raise serious doubts as to the stability of the Variety ‘Lemon Symphony’. The describing characteristics for one and the same variety may change, depending on numerous factors. Plant varieties consist of living material. In the case of Osteospermum, the tolerance range of the describing characteristics is relatively high since the examination is normally conducted only during 1 year of testing and takes place outdoors, thus leading to more substantial variations than an examination inside a greenhouse. The differences in three notes as regards the characteristic ‘attitude of shoots’ can be explained in the sense that no example varieties for this characteristic had been developed in 1997. The BoA finds that variations in the descriptions of characteristics are due to environmental conditions. In the case of the Osteospermum, further to being a variety cultivated outdoors and, thus, more affected by environmental conditions, the number of varieties increased substantially between 1997 and 2005. Consequently, ‘Lemon Symphony’ is stable in its essential characteristics.

‘Lemon Symphony’ appeal case (A006/2007-RENV)

By decision of 2 September 2016, the BoA dismissed the appeal lodged by R. Schräder requesting the annulment of the decision of the Office to adapt the variety description of the ‘Lemon Symphony’ variety according to Article 87.4 BR. The BoA considers that the CPVO exercised the broad discretion conferred on it by Article 87.4 BR in order to adapt the variety description in a correct way and that the adaptation of the official description of ‘Lemon Symphony’ was in line with the purpose of Article 87.4 BR which is to render the description of the variety comparable with the descriptions of other varieties of the taxon concerned. In this sense, if the number of comparable varieties increases over the years, the assessment of the relative criteria changes. In such a situation, it is necessary to adapt the description of ‘old’ varieties in order to obtain a more precise comparative basis for future examinations. The BoA considers that updating all ‘old’ variety descriptions would mean an unreasonable workload for the Office and that this should only be done where there is a specific reason for adapting the description. Furthermore, the appellant has not shown that the technical examination conducted by the BSA had been erroneous (see appeal A006/2007-RENV).
The Administrative Council (AC) adopted in 2004 the guidelines on Article 63 of the basic regulation and took note of their explanatory notes developed by the Office (latest version dated November 2012). Due to a rise in the number of proposals, the CPVO is often confronted with an increasing number of situations where the document does not provide clear guidance. The Office feels that the current guidelines and their explanatory notes need to be further elaborated to address such situations. The AC approved in November 2015 the creation of an ad hoc working group to discuss and comment on a draft proposal prepared by the CPVO. The group met twice in 2016, in June and in October with representatives from Member States, the Commission, the AC observers, KAVB and the Royal Horticultural Society. The purpose of variety denominations was discussed, with various opinions on how to identify the propagating material of varieties only or more in general, on how to identify variety constituent including the harvested material. This discussion is of importance because it has consequences on who users of denominations are and on the elaboration of misleading and confusing concepts.

Some stakeholders stated that the Office is becoming stricter, although this does not seem to be confirmed by statistics. Still, the group agreed that not any proposal should be acceptable and that there is a need to clearly interpret the legal basis.

The group went through the document proposed by the Office which took note of all comments. A new draft of the guidelines with their explanatory notes will be submitted to the group in another meeting organised in the first half of 2017.

Variety Denominations Working Group in Angers, FR (04 October 2016)

The CPVO hosted the 47th session of the UPOV Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops (TWF). The meeting was organised at the CCI premises in Angers. A total of 51 participants from Member States and observers to the UPOV from around the world were present (several of these being first-time participants). Delegates discussed a number of test guidelines (among others: apricot, blueberry, chestnut, walnut and pistachio) as well as numerous technical working documents throughout the week. On 16 November, participants visited the Variety and Seed Study and Control Group (GEVES) and the Horticulture and Seeds Research Institute (IRHS) of INRA in Beaucoûze. During the visit, activities of GEVES and INRA as well as particular issues related to the technical examination of apple varieties belonging to Gala and Fuji mutation groups were presented.

Crop experts’ meetings, September and November 2016

In September, the Office held its annual meeting with its agricultural experts. The discussion with experts was essentially turned to the elaboration of new technical protocols. Those concerned the species oilseed rape, potato, Kentucky bluegrass, white mustard and fodder radish. It further discussed the implementation of the results of the R & D project on the impact of endophytes in Lolium perenne and Festuca arundinacea which could demonstrate that an endophyte infection has a significant impact on the expression of the phenotype of a variety.

In November, the Office held its annual meeting with its vegetable experts. In addition to vegetable protocols for more than 10 crops, the group discussed numerous other items, particularly: ‘aberrant plants in cauliflower, where there was a field visit by the group to the special trial organised by GEVES; ‘naming of variety types in pepper; updates on disease resistance testing issues; timing of partial revisions of CPVO vegetable protocols in relation to their corresponding UPOV guideline; publication of variety descriptions of parent lines on the CPVO website; the proposed R & D project on the ‘Creation of a joint melon database in the EU’.

Imoddus 2nd meeting in Paris, FR (17 January 2017)

At the invitation of the CPVO, the second meeting of the ad hoc working group Imoddus took place on 17 January 2017 in Paris and gathered 26 participants. Imoddus works as a think tank in order to develop models for the increased use of molecular techniques in DUS testing. When discussing the final version of the CPVO strategy, the group agreed that brainstorming for the exploration of new possibilities could go beyond the limits of the current legal framework and invited CPVO to elaborate further on a model which had been presented earlier to the group. In addition, experts contributed with presentations on the handling of big data, the potential impact of new plant breeding techniques on DUS, the possibilities to accede to funding from the Horizon 2020 Programme and the set-up of a network in order to coordinate efforts and improve infrastructures for work to be carried out in that field. The developments made by Imodimus will be brought forward to the UPOV BMT working group in November this year. The next meeting is foreseen to be organised in spring 2018. Generally, the participants expressed great satisfaction on the participation in that group.
Project approved

The CPVO approved in October 2016 the following R & D project for financing: ‘Test of the potential use of SNPs markers on oilseed rape varieties’. It is coordinated by GEVES with the following project partners: APHA and NIAB (UK), BSA (DE), Coboru (PL), Department of Variety Testing (DK), INIA (ES), UKSUP (SK), UKZUZ (CZ) and the European Seed Association (ESA). This project aims to examine the potential use of SNP markers as a tool for the management of the oilseed rape reference collection, the project was initiated in December 2016 and will have a duration of 1 year.

Follow-up of finalised projects

‘Impact analysis of endophytes on the phenotype of varieties of Lolium perenne and Festuca arundinacea’

The final report was received in February 2016. It states that there is no significant difference on the DUS characteristics between endophyte-free material and endophyte-infested material. Based on the absence of clear effects of endophyte presence on the morphological expression of the varieties, the CPVO favours continuing to accept endophyte seed for the DUS test of a variety. As a consequence, the technical questionnaire (TQ) remains as it is, which means inviting applicants to inform on the estimated percentage of infection. A discussion on the outcome and the intentions of CPVO took place in the Agricultural Experts 2016 meeting, the conclusion has been to accept endophyte seed applications (option b), maintain the intentions of CPVO favours endophyte-infested material. Based on the absence of clear effects of endophyte presence on the morphological expression of the varieties, the CPVO favours continuing to accept endophyte seed for the DUS test of a variety. As a consequence, the technical questionnaire (TQ) remains as it is, which means inviting applicants to inform on the estimated percentage of infection. A discussion on the outcome and the intentions of CPVO took place in the Agricultural Experts 2016 meeting, the conclusion has been to accept endophyte seed applications (option b), maintain question 9 in the TQ, and add the option ‘not tested’ to that question.

‘Rose project: sampling, analyses and storage of DNA samples’

The AC agreed in April 2016 to end the automatic storage of samples and to leave it on a voluntary basis, at the cost of the applicant/breeder as from September 2016. Clear procedures and framework of this service have been prepared by the CPVO, presented to the Administrative Council in October 2016 and communicated to the applicants/breeders. The sample taking and storage of the DNA sample for a period of 5 years costs €50. The full procedure is available on the CPVO website.

> IN PRACTICE

What’s new at the level of the PVR application proceedings?

On 22 September 2016, Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1448 came into force. Of relevance:

- The email address of parties to proceedings is now part of the official designation of a client;
- Natural and legal persons must be indicated as recorded in their country;
- The language of proceedings is chosen from the outset by the applicant, when filing the application; only the successor in title may request to change it for future proceedings;
- The acknowledgement (confirmation) of receipt now shows the nature of the received PVR application (the electronic application number is indicated if the application was made online);
- PVR Certificates on grants will only be e-sent.

On 4 October 2016, the Administrative Council adopted general guidelines on how to interpret the novelty requirements. If the applicant requests to change the first disposal dates or if the Office has a doubt as to the disposal dates, the applicant will be asked by the CPVO to substantiate the first disposal dates. The Office will assess all documentary evidence provided including on what date the physical transfer took place. To that effect clients may provide in lieu or in addition to an invoice a shipping/delivery/despatch note.

CPVO agenda

> 7-8 March 2017
Frut experts meetings, Huelva, Spain

> 14-15 March 2017
Administrative Council meeting, , Angers, France

> 30 March 2017
EPO/CPVO workshop, Munich, Germany

> 27-28 June 2017
Ornamental experts meetings, Angers, France

> 28 June 2017
Hydranga open day, Angers, France

> 12 September 2017
Vegetable open day, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

> 13-14 September 2017
Vegetable experts meetings, Edinburgh, UK

> 3-4 October 2017
Administrative Council meeting, Angers, France

> 17-18 October 2017
Agricultural experts meetings, Angers, France

> 29 November 2017
EPO/CPVO conference, Brussels, Belgium

> 5-6 December 2017
21st annual meeting with the EOs, Angers, France

Participation in forthcoming events

> 3 to 7 April 2017
UPOV week of meetings, Geneva, Switzerland

> 13 April 2017
IP Key, Beijing, China

> 24 to 28 April 2017
56th Ciopora annual meeting 2017, Toronto, Canada

> 19 to 23 June 2017
UPOV TWA, Hanover, Germany

> 3 to 7 July 2017
UPOV TWV, Roelofarendsveen, the Netherlands

> 11 to 15 September 2017
UPOV TWO, Victoria, British Colombia, Canada

> 18 to 22 September 2017
UPOV TWF, Kelowna, British Colombia, Canada

> 8 to 11 October 2017
ESA annual meeting, Riga, Latvia

> 7 to 10 November 2017
UPOV BMT, La Rochelle, France

> 14 to 17 November 2017
UPOV TWC, Buenos Aires, Argentina

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The President of the CPVO congratulates Véronique Doreau (Secretary to the Board of Appeal and Assistant to the QAS), Ekaterina Mantziaris (Financial Assistant) and Sergio Semon (Technical Expert), who have completed 20 years of European public service. He expresses his recognition for services rendered to the CPVO and to European integration and wishes them all the best for the future.


The third fee concerned by an increase is the take-over fee which amounts now to €320, which corresponds to the amount of CHF 350 (following the UPOV recommendation). This fee has been amended through a new CPVO decision fixing the amount of specific fees signed by its President and published in the CPVO Official Gazette 2016/6 on 15 December 2016.

The new fees apply from 1 January 2017.

The CPVO is delighted to announce that Mr Paul Sescu, of Romanian nationality, has been appointed to the position of Deputy Accountant from 1 January 2017 for 2 years. Having gained his previous experience in European agencies and the Commission, Mr Sescu is pleased with this opportunity to join the CPVO. We wish him the best of luck and success in his new job.

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Special thanks from the president to the contributors and the editorial team of this newsletter for their valuable work.