

**CPVO**

Community Plant Variety Office

Newsletter

Issue 16, Winter 2018-2019

General news > Focus on > International cooperation > Legal affairs > Technical news > Research & Development > Quality audit news > To be noted > HR news



The year 2018 was busy, the CPVO received 3554 applications, the second highest annual number

of applications received in the history of the CPVO (3626 in 2014) and an increase of 3.9% compared to 2017. The number of applications for agricultural species increased while the number of applications for ornamentals decreased. At the time of writing more than 27000 titles are in force. The financial situation is stable. I am happy to announce that in December 2018 the Commission decided to award EUR 8 million to the Invite (INnovations in plant Variety Testing in Europe) consortium, in which the CPVO is a party. The funds, which come from

EU Horizon 2020, have the aim to improve plant variety testing in the EU. Together with all EU citizens, the CPVO looks forward to a very exciting spring with EU elections and a new Commission. We look forward to planning the coming 5 years with the new Commission and other stakeholders and we will do our best to ensure that intellectual property rights (IPRs) for new plant varieties remain a priority in the EU. I wish you pleasure in discovering the activities of the CPVO during the last 6 months in this edition of the CPVO Newsletter.

Martin Ekvad
President of the CPVO

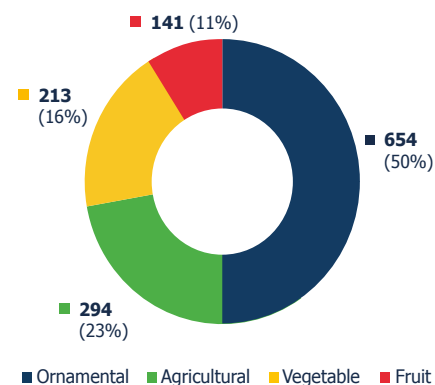
> GENERAL NEWS

Slight increase in application numbers in 2018 compared to 2017

In the period from 1 September to 31 December 2018, the CPVO received 1302 applications in total, accounting for 8 additional applications (+ 0.62 %) as compared to the same period of 2017. The only increase was for agricultural crops with a total of 294 applications (+ 92; + 45.5 %). By contrast, a slight decrease in application numbers was noticed in the three other crop sectors: 654 applications (- 42; - 6.0 %) for ornamental crops and 213 (- 19; - 8.1 %) for vegetables

and 141 applications (-23; -14,02 %) for fruit varieties. As for the entire year, the CPVO observed a slight increase of 3.9 % with variations according to the crop sector: slight increase for fruit and considerable increase for agricultural crops. From 2005 onwards, each crop sector shows a stable and regular development. More detailed statistics on the year 2018 are available on the [CPVO website](#) with the top 10 species per crop sector in particular.

Shares in application numbers per crop sector from 1/9/2018 to 31/12/2018



Bilateral meetings with the Spanish examination office (8/10/2018)

Representatives of the CPVO met the Oficina Española de Variedades Vegetales (OEVV) in Madrid, Spain. The CPVO was informed on the plans of internal restructuring at OEVV. Furthermore the relationship between the OEVV and various technical qualified bodies in view of distinctness, uniformity

and stability (DUS) testing on behalf of the CPVO was considered. The exchange of plant material amongst examination offices, the harmonization of submission requirements, the availability of national DUS guidelines for the CPVO as well as cost calculation aspects were topics of discussion.

European Seed Association annual meeting, Madrid, Spain (7 to 9/10/2018)

From 7 to 9 October 2018, the CPVO took part to the [ESA](#) annual meeting in Madrid, Spain, continuing its constructive collaboration with a key contributor to the work of the CPVO. Representatives from the two entities had the possibility to

discuss topics of mutual interest, including the interface between plant variety rights and patents, the international strategy of the CPVO, fee-related issues, as well as enforcement of intellectual property rights.



European Patent Office (EPO) meeting, Munich, Germany (24 to 26/10/2018)

On 25 October 2018 the Administrative Arrangement (signed on 11 February 2016 between the CPVO and the [EPO](#)) was renewed for a further period of three years. A new implementation plan has been agreed with activities to be jointly

implemented continuing with the knowledge sharing among technical experts. Moreover, in 2018, the CPVO and the EPO have finalized the activities of the working group established to study how to make available variety descriptions and

technical questionnaires in a searchable format for the purpose of prior art searches by patent examiners. An agreement has been signed on 24 August 2018 by which the implementation of data sending has started.

Meetings with breeders' organisations, Brussels (26/2/2019)

The CPVO organizes annual bilateral meetings with breeders' organisations in order to discuss topics of mutual interest. In February 2019 representatives of the CPVO met [Ciopora](#) and [ESA](#). Meetings with [Plantum](#) as well as with [ECO-PB](#) will take place later this year. Main topics which were considered at the occasion of the

February meetings were legal matters as regards EDVs (essentially derived varieties), variety constituents and the notion of distinctness. An exchange took place on the outcome of some recent court cases (eg. on new breeding techniques) and consequences on the PVP system. Furthermore, fee related aspects, the CPVO

international strategy and the cooperation with other international institutions such as the EPO and the European Intellectual Property Office ([EUIPO](#)) were discussed. Such meetings are also an occasion to plan joint activities like PVP seminars in conjunction with international fairs or in a specific region within the EU.

Focus on...

H2020 - THE INVITE PROJECT



In December 2018, the European Commission announced its decision to grant funds, in relation to the SFS-29-2018 call "Innovations in plant variety testing" of the [Horizon 2020](#) programme, to the Invite (INnovations in plant Variety Testing in Europe) consortium. Under the coordination of the French Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA), Invite links the CPVO to 26 partners across Europe from various sectors ranging from research, breeding and DUS examination to performance testing for both conventional and organic farming. The amount awarded is about EUR 8 million to be spent over a period of 5 years.

The project aims to improve the efficiency of variety testing and availability of information to stakeholders on variety performances under diversified production conditions and on biotic and abiotic stresses. It addresses DUS and performance testing in a balanced way and intends to maximize synergies between them through related activities based on phenotyping, genotyping, modelling and database management.

Invite will focus on 10 crops (maize, wheat, rye grass, sunflower, potato, tomato, apple, lucerne, soybean, rapeseed). The identification of the research needs and main challenges to be addressed for these crops was based on main end-users needs (breeders, the CPVO, examination offices and farmers), taking into account existing knowledge and projects. One expected impact is the introduction of plant traits into the testing protocols that respond to new challenges and demands in the conventional and organic sectors, while also taking into account the economic return of growers.

The role of the CPVO will be to provide guidance and support regarding all issues concerning the improvement of variety testing in the framework of CPVRs, through its participation to the Invite Executive Committee and its involvement in the discussions of all work packages of the project. Moreover, the CPVO is co-leader of the work package dedicated to testing of the tools developed for application in DUS and performance testing. The CPVO will also play a key role in the coordination of variety testing networks and the diffusion of results to stakeholders and policymakers.

The next step is now the signature of the consortium agreement and the launching of the work through the organization of the kick-off meeting in July 2019.



> INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

UPOV week of meetings, Geneva, Switzerland (28/10 to 2/11/2018)

CPVO representatives attended the UPOV Council, the Consultative Committee, the Administrative and Legal Committee as well as the working groups on international cooperation, on variety denominations and on [UPOV PRISMA](#). Items of particular interest for the CPVO were the ongoing developments of the electronic application form (EAF), the discussions on the revision of the explanatory notes for EDVs and the presentations given by [Ciopora](#) and [AIPH](#) on minimum distances. The [UPOV](#) office reported on plant variety

protection (PVP) statistics for the period 2013-2017. It was noted that in 2017 there was a 11.3 % increase in the number of applications for PVP (18 306 in 2017 compared to 16 455 in 2016), and that the number of titles granted increased from 12 550 in 2016 to 12 685 in 2017 (1.1 % increase). The total of 126 322 titles in force at the end of December 2017 represented a 4.6 % increase on figures for 2016 (120 734). As regards molecular techniques, the UPOV Technical committee agreed with the inclusion of a new model "Genetic selection of similar varieties for the first growing

cycle" and the "example French Bean" in document TGP/15. The proposed revision of document TGP/15 will be presented for approval by the Administrative and Legal Committee and adoption by the UPOV Council in 2019. Furthermore the Technical Committee had requested the EU, France and the Netherlands to prepare a new draft of document UPOV/INF/17 "Guidelines for DNA-profiling: molecular marker selection and database construction ('BMT Guidelines')" for consideration at the 18th session of the [BMT](#).

42nd ARIPO AC and UPOV Seminar on plant variety protection, Windhoek, Namibia (20 to 22/11/2018)

Following an invitation from the ARIPO Director General Mr. Fernando dos Santos the CPVO attended the 42nd [ARIPO](#) Administrative Council (AC) meeting which was held in Windhoek, Namibia. For the CPVO the discussions as regards the ratification of the Arusha Protocol for the protection of plant varieties, the proposed strategies for its implementation, the review of a list of agricultural crops with historical practice for farm saved seed as well as the

preparation of quality audit guidelines for future examination offices were of particular interest. Besides the AC meeting [UPOV](#) organized in cooperation with ARIPO and the United States Patent and Trademark Office ([USPTO](#)) a seminar on plant variety protection where the CPVO explained the implementation and highlighted the benefits of a regional PVP system in the EU.



IP KEY PROJECTS

Following events have taken place in the framework of the [IP Key](#), a series of projects directed by the European Commission and implemented by the EUIPO, with the aim to support and facilitate the entry of

European companies in foreign markets, creating an intellectual property friendly economic environment. To achieve such an ambitious goal, the stakeholders involved develop best practices, foster

Cooperation with the OECD

In December 2018 a delegation from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ([OECD](#)) secretariat responsible for the OECD seed schemes visited the CPVO. The intention of that visit was in the first instance to mutually inform each other on the tasks of both organisations with the aim to identify areas of potential cooperation. Topics of common interest like the use of biomolecular techniques (BMTs) in DUS testing and seed certification, the management of the OECD list and its relevance for the [CPVO Variety Finder](#) database as well as potential cooperation in the variety & seed sector related studies were explored. The staff of the CPVO received an interesting presentation on a recently published OECD report on the concentration of seed markets from the author of the report, Koen Deconinck, who participated in that visit.

collaboration and transparency among public authorities, promote awareness in China, Latin-America, South-East-Asia and (soon) in the Caribbean region.

IP Key China

[IP Key China](#) is the EU instrument for promoting a level playing field for EU companies operating in China by contributing to greater transparency and fair implementation of IPR protection and enforcement systems. Its second annual work programme for 2019 includes three activities on plant variety protection, notably a training of up to four weeks for a total of 13 Chinese experts. The training events will take

place at the CPVO for administrative and quality management aspects but a group of experts will also be given the opportunity to shadow experienced examiners at entrusted examination offices in several EU Member States. This hands-on experience will focus on identified key species in order to deepen the Chinese experts' understanding on how European examination offices implement a consistent variety testing

programme across different species and country boundaries. Another activity partially funded through the project is an audit mission at Chinese examination offices, that will be used as a case study to train local experts. With this training, CPVO Quality Audit Service will help both Chinese PVP authorities to develop an audit system in order to manage their respective networks of DUS test facilities.

IP Key South-East Asia (SEA)

[IP Key SEA](#) organised a study visit on plant variety protection (PVP) in Vietnam on 5-6 November 2018 and a conference in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, on 8-9 November 2018. High-level officials from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and

Vietnam, representatives from IP Key SEA, the CPVO, UPOV, the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), participated and advised on PVP best practices and

benefits. Representatives from the private sector in Vietnam also shared how they have benefited from a strong PVP regime. Meetings with several plant breeders on site demonstrated how best practices are applied to maximize the benefits of PVP.



> LEGAL AFFAIRS

The CJEU Judgment in case C-308/18 ‘Gala Schnico’

The Court of Justice of the European Union ([CJEU](#)) dismissed the action and ordered Schniga GmbH (the applicant) to pay the costs. By judgment of 8 November 2018, the Court confirmed the General Court findings by stating that there was no contradictions regarding the results of the technical examination and the meteorological condition occurred at the time of the growing trials. The Court dismissed the two grounds of appeal finding that the action was not well founded. The full text and a summary of the judgment are available on the [PVR case-law database](#).

Board of Appeal (BoA) Decision A009/2017, ‘Siberia’

By Decision of 15 October 2018, the BoA rejected as inadmissible the appeal lodged by Siberia Oriental BV against CPVO Decision of 23 October 2017 on the request to amend an entry in the register of Community Plant Variety Rights (CPVRs) regarding the expiration date of the right on *Lilium* L. variety ‘Siberia’. The BoA ruled that the appeal would have been possible against the decision on the initial entry date of termination in the CPVO register after the grant of the CPVR in 1996. Said appeal should have been lodged within the 2-months time limit of Article 69 of the Basic Regulation. The present appeal was lodged after the expiration of the given period. On the other hand, the decision to reject the request to amend the expiration date of the right or to correct an error are not subject to appeal under Article 67(1) of the Basic Regulation. Therefore, the appeal was rejected as inadmissible. Against the present BoA decision, an action has been brought before the General Court on 23 January 2019 (T-737/18). The full text and a summary of the decision is available on the [PVR case-law database](#).

Intellectual property rights enforcement: the CPVO and the EUIPO Observatory

The CPVO took part in the annual meeting of the Observatory Working Groups from 28 to 30 November 2018 in Warsaw, Poland, where all the stakeholders of the [EUIPO Observatory](#) had the possibility to discuss the results of the work performed during 2018, which included but was not limited to comparative studies, awareness campaigns and software developments. The CPVO was also part of the public sector meeting of 12-13 February 2019 in Bucharest, Romania, which gathered representatives from the IP offices of the EU and other public entities, including the OECD and EFSA.

The EUIPO Observatory provides solid information and data on the enforcement of intellectual property rights to its public and private stakeholders in view of policy developments, while promoting a deep cooperation among public authorities and the awareness of EU citizens on the importance of IPRs enforcement. The CPVO is member of the Observatory network, which benefits from a broad range of expertise and a wide representation of the interests at stake. The Observatory is directly involved in the publication of complex [studies](#) on IPR-related matters and in the creation of the [national key judgement database](#), which includes judgement on national and EU plant variety rights.

Learn how to start and handle legal proceedings before the CPVO and its Board of Appeal

Proceedings and their correct usage are advantageous tools to protect your IP and non-IP rights! The CPVO has organised a [webinar](#) on legal proceedings before the CPVO and its Board of Appeal (BoA) in collaboration with the EUIPO Academy. Ms. Anne Gardener, Registrar of the CPVO BoA, explained some of the most relevant basic principles and rules applicable to proceedings before the CPVO, including objection, nullity and cancellation proceedings, as well as proceedings before the CPVO BoA. Find more information on other learning opportunities provided by the [EUIPO Academy learning catalogue](#).

The CPVO universities network is expanding across Europe

Several universities across Europe have shown a growing interest in the CPVR system and a need for specific training. The University of Alicante (in November 2018) and the Maastricht University (in January 2019) hosted an intensive module on plant variety protection and the CPVO had the pleasure to provide its expertise in the form of a training on EU plant variety rights.

Moreover, on 24 January 2019, the CPVO participated as keynote speaker to the XX European Intellectual Property Institutes Network ([EIPIN](#)) Congress in Alicante, Spain. The CPVO also entered into collaboration agreements with the Munich Intellectual Property Law Center ([MIPLC](#)) and the Center for International Intellectual Property Studies ([CEIPI](#)), further developing its network.

Collaboration between the CPVO and the European IPR Helpdesk

The CPVO collaborates with the [European IPR Helpdesk](#) for the development of contents and training material on EU plant variety rights. The IPR Helpdesk provides, free-of-charge, first-line support on intellectual property matters to beneficiaries of EU-funded research projects and EU small and medium enterprises (SMEs) involved in transnational partnership agreements. The IPR Helpdesk also develops didactic material in several forms, including webinars and publications. Among the latest publications, you will find a [fact sheet](#) on plant variety protection and an [IP Chart](#) on EU plant variety rights. In addition, Mr. Philipp von Kapff (member of EUIPO Boards of Appeal) and Mr. Francesco Mattina (CPVO Vice-President) have contributed with a joint article on the interface between trademarks and variety denominations ([Issue 31](#) of the European IPR Helpdesk Bulletin).



> TECHNICAL NEWS

Interpoma, Bolzano, Italy (15 to 17/11/2018)

The CPVO took the opportunity of the bi-annual fair Interpoma dedicated to pip fruits to organize, in cooperation with Ciopora, a seminar on 'Evolutions and Perspectives for DUS testing in plant breeder's rights and registration procedures'. The situation of Gala and Fuji mutation varieties under DUS test was

the subject of particular attention, as well as the discussion on the UPOV apple guidelines. Ciopora raised the concern of minimum distances to be respected between protected varieties. The seminar was well attended and received. Ciopora suggested that such experiences could be renewed in the future.



Vegetable experts meeting, Angers, France (3-4/12/2018)

In 2018, the vegetable experts meeting was held on 3 and 4 December in Angers, France. The technical protocols for lettuce, leaf chicory and cucumber were partially revised during the meeting. In addition, the group discussed numerous other items on DUS matters, particularly the observation of the characteristics during multi-annual testing. In this respect, an agreement was reached on launching a survey in the course of 2019 among the examination offices. Following the agricultural experts meeting in September 2018, the vegetable

experts group was also invited to reflect on i) the possibility to include a paragraph concerning re-submission of a new seed sample after the first year of testing into the vegetable technical protocols (as it was done for the Triticale) and ii) how to deal with situations where the two growing cycles had not been carried out in two subsequent cycles. An update on the advancement of the Harmores 3 project was presented to the group. The related final meeting will take place in May 2019 in Angers and the results will help to reach

a conclusion on the use of an additional biomolecular method of observation for inclusion in both the tomato and the tomato rootstock protocols. The group received also a short update on the melon database project by Naktuinbouw and a presentation by GEVES on a potential new R&D project entitled "Harmorescoll". The meeting ended with short up-dates on the need to entrust examination offices for mushrooms species and the use and revision of the common names in the marketing directives.

22nd annual meeting with the examination offices

On 5 and 6 December 2018 the CPVO held its 22nd annual meeting with its examination offices, which was also attended by representatives from the European Commission, the UPOV office and the breeders' organisations, Ciopora, ESA, the Dutch Association for the Plant Reproduction Material Sector (Plantum) and the European Consortium for Organic plant breeding (ECO-PB), as well as by representatives from the non-EU PVR authorities from Switzerland and Norway. The main subjects of discussion were the following.

- Handling of discrepancies between the technical information provided in the application documents and the plant material submitted for DUS testing;
- Taking of photographs during visits to the growing trial;
- Proposal for a revision of the procedure on the

acceptance of additional characteristics;

- Status and use of reserve plants in the ornamental and fruit sector;
- Re-submission of seed samples;
- Obtaining reference varieties for DUS testing and the revision of the Technical Verification procedure;
- CPVO Policy on the Status of Plant Material Used for DUS Testing Purposes;
- Confirming receipt of plant material (pilot project Naktuinbouw).

Furthermore, the participants were informed of the state of play of R & D projects and IT projects, such as the CPVO's bid for funding from the Horizon 2020/Invite programme, sending out material requests letters in all official EU languages or the calculation of costs by the examination offices.

Workshop on heterogeneous material and organic varieties

In cooperation with the European project [Liveseed](#) and the European Consortium for Organic Plant Breeding ([ECO-PB](#)) the CPVO organized this workshop at the occasion of the annual meeting with its examination offices on 6 December 2018. The aim was to present the scientific concept of heterogeneous material and organic varieties and to discuss the consequences of the new organic Regulation (EU) [2018/848](#). Various breeders but also registration authorities reported on their experience with this type of material.

UPOV Technical Working Parties meetings review

UPOV TWF, Santiago de Chile, Chile (19 to 23 November 2018)

CPVO experts participated in the 49th Technical Working Party for Fruit crops meeting together with representatives of six EU Member States. Discussions for the revision of the apple guidelines started in this meeting and breeders took an active part to the discussions. The Chilean PBR office organized a workshop where the Ministry of Agriculture explained the importance of fruit export for Chile. 70 % of the applications for

PVR are for fruit species. Chile is also an important exporter of seeds. The breeders' association emphasized how important it is that Chile adheres to the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention in order to have access to the newest varieties. The next UPOV TWF meeting will take place in Budapest, Hungary, from 24 to 28 June 2019, following a joint invitation sent by the Hungarian National Food Chain Safety Office (NEBIH) and the CPVO.



UPOV TWO, Christchurch, New-Zealand (18 to 22 February 2019)

Representatives of fourteen different PVP authorities including the CPVO met in Christchurch (NZ) from 18 to 22 February 2019 for the 51st Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants

and Forest Trees meeting. Important discussions took place on the following subjects: the ways to enhance cooperation between UPOV members; the use of taxonomic databases; the

possibility to define trees/shrubs/wines. Twelve ornamental guidelines have been discussed within those seven will be proposed for adoption to the UPOV Technical Committee.

NEW RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Oilseed rape

This project intends to 'Developing a strategy to apply SNP molecular markers in the framework of winter oilseed rape DUS testing'. The project is a follow up project of an earlier project which aimed to examine the potential use of single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) markers as a tool for the management of reference collection and

which was successfully concluded in 2018. The project is coordinated by [GEVES](#), with the [Bundessortenamt](#) as project partner. Before the end of the project, all CPVO entrusted examination offices will be invited to discuss the outcome and the potential follow up of the project results.

Case study on minimum distances between *Pelargonium* varieties

The CPVO approved a new R&D project on discussions initiated by Ciopora on minimum distances between *Pelargonium* varieties. The new project is a follow-up of an earlier one in which effects of the introduction of higher minimum distances for vegetatively reproduced species was initially assessed on the basis of variety description prepared in the past. Now, a practical case study is

aiming at a re-evaluation of the distinctness of a set of 7 selected pairs of *Pelargonium* varieties on the basis of so-called mock protocols for which, in the opinion of Ciopora, distinctness is not recognized in the market. The project coordinator is Ciopora with the Bundessortenamt as partner, being the CPVO entrusted examination office for *Pelargonium*.

Tomato

This project aims at the 'International validation of a SNP set to determine genetic distances for the management of tomato reference collection'. The project is coordinated by Naktuinbouw

and partners are all entrusted examination offices for tomato (GEVES, COBORU, NÉBIH, INIA, DGAV and CREA). In addition the DUS testing center of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural affairs, China, as well as the

Korean Seed & Variety Service (KSVS), Republic of Korea, are involved and participate in the project on their own funding. Furthermore the European Seed Association is also partner to the project.

QUALITY AUDIT NEWS

Forthcoming triannual 2019-2021 assessment cycle

The end of 2018 saw the successful conclusion to the 2016-2018 triannual QAS assessment cycle, during which time all 26 of the CPVOs entrusted examination offices were analysed. The autumn of 2018 also saw the approval by the Administrative Council of a list of 36 Quality Audit System (QAS) technical experts for the forthcoming triannual 2019-2021 assessment cycle. The current 36 experts represent a 20 % rise in numbers from the outgoing list, thus demonstrating the appeal of participating in the QAS process by national experts; all of these experts shall receive training on quality auditing techniques on 23-25 April 2019.





> TO BE NOTED

CPVO grants before Brexit date

Please note that the CPVO has compiled Brexit related information in the [‘News and Events’](#) section of its website,

including a notice to stakeholders in respect of consequences of a potential no-deal scenario.

No increase in fees in 2019 !

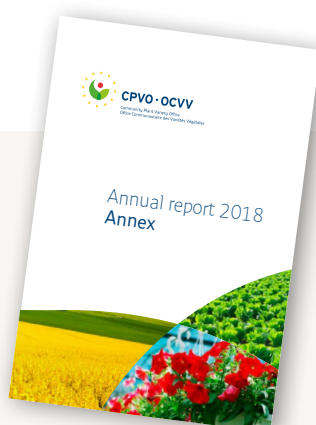
The CPVO sets its fees at a level which should lead to a balanced budget in the medium (5-year) term. While we strive to keep our costs to an absolute minimum and provide value for money, certain increases, in particular, due to inflation, must be passed on to applicants. It is essential that applicants have a clear vision as to what they can expect as regard fees. In this

way, they are better able to plan for their expenditure. The CPVO has therefore put in place a procedure whereby the fees for applicants change only every four years. The next change, which will take place in 2020, will see a revision of application fees, examination fees and annual fees, but in the meantime, the good news is that for 2019, there will be no changes.

> PUBLICATIONS

CPVO publications

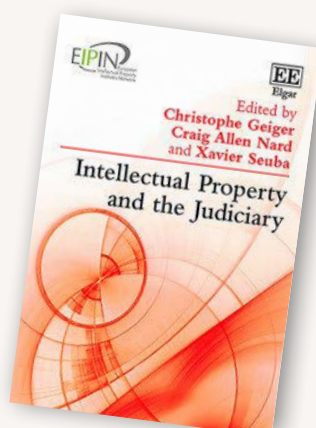
The *Official Gazette of the CPVO 1.2019*, the *S2 Gazette* and the *Annex to the Annual Report 2018* have been published and are available for free in electronic format only (PDF). You may download both gazettes from the [Gazette page](#), the annex to the Annual Report from the [Annual Reports page](#).



Best IP Book of the Year !

"Intellectual Property and the Judiciary" edited by Christophe Geiger, Craig Allen Nard and Xavier Seuba.

The book gathers the contributions of several experts in intellectual property law on the connection between the interpretation of IP law made by judges and the development of IP policies in different countries and legal systems. The work includes contributions on plant variety rights, namely on the functioning of the CPVO Board of Appeal (by Mr. Martin Ekvad, President of the CPVO, and by Dr. jur. Gert Würtenberger, expert in plant variety protection), and other intellectual property rights, including Trademarks. Available [here](#).



Participation in forthcoming events

- > **1 to 5 April 2019**
CIOFORA AGM, Stellenbosch, South Africa
- > **3 to 5 April 2019**
EUIPO IP Regional Seminar, The Hague, The Netherlands
- > **8 to 10 April 2019**
EUIPO Observatory Working Groups, Alicante, Spain
- > **21 to 24 May 2019**
ITPGRFA/Technical WG on Farmers' Rights, Rome, Italy
- > **20 to 24 May 2019**
UPOV TWV, Republic of Korea (place tbc)
- > **3 to 5 June 2019**
ISF World Seed Congress, Nice, France
- > **11 to 14 June 2019**
OECD Seed Schemes annual meeting, Vienna, Austria
- > **12-13 June 2019**
International Forum on IP Enforcement, Paris, France
- > **24 to 28 June 2019**
UPOV TWF, Budapest, Hungary
- > **16 to 20 September 2019**
UPOV TWA, Montevideo, Uruguay
- > **25-26 September 2019**
EUIPO Observatory Plenary meeting, Alicante, Spain
- > **14 to 16 October 2019**
ESA annual meeting, Stockholm, Sweden
- > **16 to 18 October 2019**
UPOV BMT WG, Hangzhou, China
- > **23-24 October 2019**
Heads of European agencies meeting, Stockholm, Sweden
- > **28 October to 1 November 2019**
UPOV week of meetings, Geneva, Switzerland
- > **25 to 29 November 2019**
EUIPO Observatory Working Groups, Brussels, Belgium

CPVO agenda

- > **19 March 2019**
Administrative Council meeting, Angers, France
- > **4 June 2019**
R & D Durdus meeting, Milan, Italy
- > **18 September 2019**
Administrative Council meeting, Brussels, Belgium
- > **24 to 26 September 2019**
CPVO fruit experts meeting, Wurzen, Germany
- > **8-9 October 2019**
CPVO agricultural experts meeting, Angers, France
- > **2-3 December 2019**
CPVO vegetable experts meeting, Angers, France
- > **4-5 December 2019**
CPVO examination offices meeting, Angers, France

