Relationship with the EU

SC-13, Vienna, December 2012

- Mandate to the TF and work
- Content of the Strategy
- Findings

- Recomendations:
  - policy framework
  - *in situ* conservation,
  - on-farm management,
  - *ex situ* conservation, and
  - research.

- What next?

Mandate

- SC-12, in 2010, Slovakia, agreed to request Task Force on EU matters to prepare a strategy paper:
  - to specify the gaps and the needs of actions related to improve the relationship of ECPGR and the European Union/European Commission (EU/COM).

- The Task Force was composed of Siegfried Harrer, Jan Engels, Paul Freudenthaler, Lars Landbo and Fernando Latorre.

Development process

- At the initiative of BLE a TF meeting was held in Bonn in May 2012 and strategy paper drafted.
- The document was shared with ExCo and then circulated to NCs in October with a deadline for comments and adoption.
- The document was then adopted by email.
- This presentation is to highlight main findings and recommendations and seeks your decision on certain actions.

Content of the Strategy

The strategy summarizes the current status, existing gaps and proposed activities on:

- policy framework
- *in situ* conservation,
- on-farm management,
- *ex situ* conservation, and
- research.

→ There are clear synergies between EU fragmented work on PGRFA and ECPGR's objectives

Preliminary findings

Main gaps

→ Vast array of EU structures touching on PGRFA with no apparent coherence or vision

→ No specific EU-strategy for conservation and use of GR in food, agric, forestry

→ No specific measures adopted to implement the ITPGRFA

→ No formal recognition of ECPGR/AEGIS as a direct contribution to the Treaty implementation, or as a research infrastructure, or as a scheme to strenghten coordination of natl programmes.

What next?

- identify ECPGR representative/s (discussion of ECPGR Structure)
- Further develop the ECPGR strategy in the various areas (need to decide short and mid-term actions) and as various documents: mapping doc, outreach doc…
- Involve NCs to contact their officials to start coordinating certain areas (need to decide actions)

RECOMMENDATIONS

POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR AGROBIODIVERSITY

- Invite relevant DGs to participate in SC. √
- Letter to NCs for their natl reps in Standing Committee on Seeds encouraging inclusion of PGRFA concept in new seed legislation. √

- NEXT: Approach COM to explore development of EU Strategy on GRFA and/or Programme on PGRFA

IN SITU and ON-FARM CONSERVATION OF PGRFA

- ECPGR *in situ* and on-farm Conservation Network to develop draft concept for *in situ* conservation → could eventually feed into EU Strategy on GRFA.

- After concept drafted, national inventories of landraces on-farm could be developed → EAFRD authorities could be contacted which provides opportunities for agri-environment measures including on farm management.

EX SITU CONSERVATION, CHARACTERIZATION AND EVALUATION

- ECPGR should lobby for a new GENRES Regulation (main source of projects for ECPGR):
  - Regular update with NCs on developments. A first meeting was held by DG Agri to explain Panel Review (ongoing).
  - ECPGR rep should approach COM to explore possibility of becoming implementing agency for project administration of a future GENRES Programme.

RESEARCH

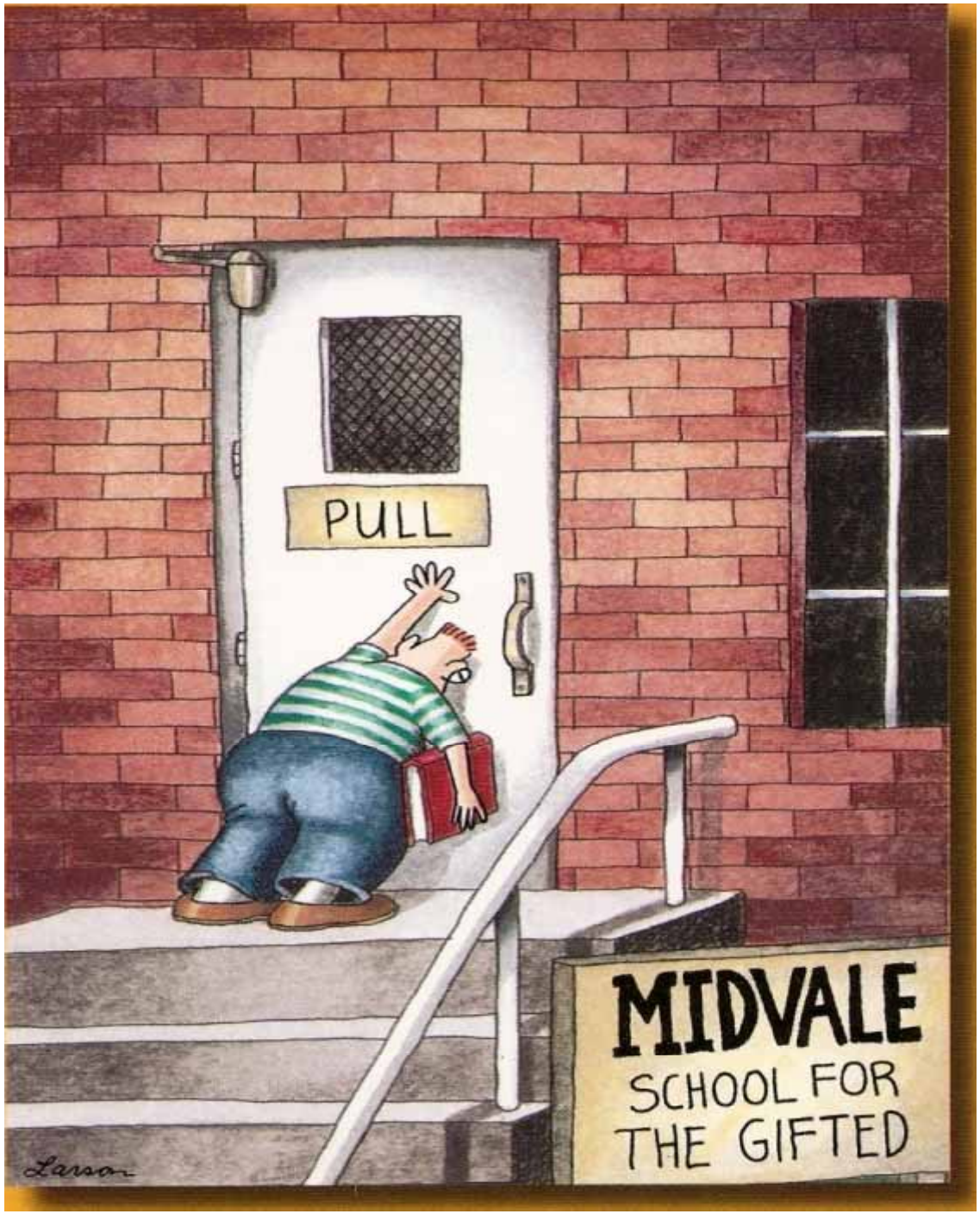
- National Coordinators to approach their **SCAR** reps to raise awareness to include PGRFA activities in Horizon 2020 so that dialogue ECPGR and SCAR is initiated.
- National Coordinators to approach their **ESFRI** members indicating topics for future EU project calls like preservation/expansion of collections.
- Secretariat to send letter to National Coordinators to forward to their SCAR and ESFRI reps expressing interest for PGRFA in future Research Infrastructures.

- ECPGR external relations representative to explore **establishment of an "ERA-Net for PGRFA**" for which ECPGR could play the role of the ERA-Net Coordinator.

- The ECPGR Secretariat and the ExCo Chair should contact CPVO, ESA, the EU Technology Platform (ETP) "Plants for the Future", EUCARPIA and others to explore opportunities for cooperation on conservation and utilization of PGRFA.

What next?

- Decision on **who represents ECPGR**: ExCo Chair, ExCo, SC, ….? (depends on decision on Executive Secretary/Director, hosting institution and legal status, …
- does the **Task Force** need to be reconvened?
  - If yes, what should be its composition?
  - Tasks:
    - Prepare and use road map of contacts to start implementing the strategy,
    - continue mapping activities as needed,
    - …


PULL
MIDVALE
SCHOOL FOR
THE GIFTED
Larson