

Agenda Item 2 -C



Proposal for the establishment of an *ad hoc* Task Force on the implementation at the genebank level of international agreements
Introduced by Bert Visser

It is suggested to discuss the establishment of an *ad hoc* Task Force on the implementation at the genebank level of international agreements, in particular the Convention on Biodiversity (Conference of the Parties VI (COP VI), Access and Benefit Sharing), the almost renegotiated FAO International Undertaking and maybe the Trade Related Intellectual Property agreements of the World Trade Organization (WTO TRIPs). Thus this group should not deal with policy advice to policy makers, but with the implications of agreed policies for collection holders. The motivation is that all European genebanks will have to deal with the implications of these international agreements, but that no coordinated action within the ECP/GR on this issue is currently taking place.

Exchange of ideas may result in some models/approaches/principles at the ECP/GR level. It is not necessary to come up with strict proposals to adhere to. As a start such a group could make an inventory of policy issues with which a genebank is regularly confronted, as well as options which have been chosen until now by various parties, including e.g. the CG institutes. Such issues could include:

- Implications for genebanks from the Multilateral System of the FAO International Undertaking
- Proposals to regard the ECP/GR as a regional multilateral system without a limiting list.
- How to deal with benefit sharing (role of genebanks, reference in MTAs)
- Conditions for technology transfer activities as part of benefit sharing
- Follow-up users to request feed-back on evaluation
- Follow-up of biotechnological use; consequences of the renegotiated FAO IU (parts and components discussion)
- Impact on international collecting missions (competent national authorities; PICs)
- How to deal with requests of material to be used for non food/industrial applications

As a result the Task Force might come up with a first report at the end of this ECP/GR phase.

The Steering Committee is expected to decide on:

- *Establishment of an ad hoc sub-group made of 3-4 of its members*
- *Terms of reference for the group; mode of operation; time frame and expected result.*
- *Possible need to use funds from the ECP/GR budget (small technical meeting)*