



19 August 2022

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cc:

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Ref: European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources - ECPGR
Subject: Nomination of Working Group co-Chairs

Letter of Appointment

Dear Bart and Milos,

Based on your Expressions of Interest, it is a great pleasure to inform you that the ECPGR Executive Committee nominated you both as co-Chairs of the ECPGR Cryopreservation Working Group (WG).

The Steering Committee (SC) has deliberately selected this special arrangement, wishing to ensure that you together guide the WG according to the interests of the European region. In this respect, we recommend that you keep your respective National Coordinators (in copy) informed about the progress of your work.

Please note that the SC expects the WG to develop a concept for the most rational and efficient way to collaboratively conserve under cryopreservation the relevant European material. Among others: a suitable number of European facilities that

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could share the tasks could be defined; genebanks that are currently working on cryopreservation should be able to share and further develop their knowledge, also expanding it to other crops or European genebanks, as appropriate. Please note that the transfer of material for secondary duplication to the Belgian cryo-facility would not be a priority for the time being and ECPGR will not contribute financially to it.

The SC will review the work done by the WG on cryopreservation at the next SC meeting in June 2023 to monitor the appropriateness of its continuation as part of the ECPGR permanent structure.

Please note that you will be included in the ECPGR Chairs listserver (ecpgr_chairs@listserv.dfn.de), whereby you can receive and send messages forwarded to all the Chairs.

Should you need further advice and clarification, please don't hesitate to contact the Secretariat.

I wish to congratulate you with your nomination and look forward to a continued fruitful collaboration with you in the Programme.

Best wishes,



Marianne Lefort
Chair of the ECPGR Executive Committee