



SUMMARY REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY MEETING ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED

Section Forest Reproductive Material

Riga (LV), 2-3 JUNE 2015

Chairperson: Ms Diana Charels

With the exception of Luxembourg, Malta, Romania and Slovakia, all Member States were present. Forty participants attended this meeting on forest reproductive material (FRM). The aim was to discuss ongoing forestry-related issues at European Commission level, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) level.

SECTION A Information and/or discussion

A.1. Latvia's Forest Activities.

Colleagues from the Latvian Ministry of Agriculture, State Forest Service (SFS) and Strenči forest tree nursery presented Latvia's forest sector, control activities on forest reproductive material in Latvia and the forest tree breeding program, respectively. Fifty-two percent of Latvia's total surface is covered by forests. The forest sector, with an annual turnover of 2 billion Euros, is important for the Latvian economy. The main goal of Latvia's forest policy is sustainable management of forests and forest land. The multifunctional role of forests is central to the forest policy's core task of balancing society's interests.

A.2. Outcome of the Working party on forest reproductive material, 22-23 October 2014, Verona (Italy).

A representative from the European Commission summarised the points addressed at the previous Working party meeting in Verona.

A.3. Update from the European Commission.

A representative from the European Commission presented the state of play of the Plant Health and Official Controls Regulations. DG SANTE's conference of 14 July 2015 at the Expo in Milan on "Climate and Food Security: Challenges for plant health, plant breeding and genetic resources" was announced.

A.4. Forest Reproductive Material semantic system: Member States' feedback and next steps.

The Forest Reproductive Material semantic system was presented. With the semantic approach Member States will locally publish their data and a link will be established with DG SANTE's repository resulting in an update of DG SANTE's website with Member States' data. In advance

of the meeting Member States had been asked to test the database and provide feedback. The results of those tests were analysed during the meeting and bilateral sessions were held with Member States after the meeting and at the second day of the meeting. The database on FRM should be made publicly available with a personalised login making use of the European Commission Authentication System (ECAS). All Member States are expected to submit their lists by the 26th of June.

A.5. Equivalence of Forest Reproductive Material produced in Third countries.

The EU equivalence Decisions on the import of FRM from third countries were addressed and the issue on import of FRM from New Zealand, currently not included in the equivalence Decisions, was discussed.

A.6. Discussion on important OECD issues on Forest Reproductive Material.

An overview was given of the topics addressed at the last Technical Working Group meeting of the OECD Forest Scheme in April 2015. There was again a discussion on the use of the term “variety” versus “varietas” in the Scheme's rules. During the Working Party meeting in Riga Member States agreed on keeping “variety” to be consistent with the terminology used in the EU legislation on FRM.

A.7. Outcome of FAO's 3rd Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (FGR) and role of European National Focal Points for Forest Genetic Resources.

The French member of FAO's working group on forest genetic resources presented the outcome of the third FAO meeting of the International Technical Working Group (ITWG) on Forest Genetic Resources (FGR). He explained the role of European National Focal Points for FGR in the State of the World's reports and the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

A.8. Alarming pests in Europe.

Member States were informed about the Emergency Decision 2015/789 on *Xylella fastidiosa*.

A.9. Survey programs for pests.

The Commission presented the EU survey programs for the monitoring of pests available at http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_food-safety/funding/cff/plant_health/survey-programmes_en.htm

A.10 Field visit

On the second day of the meeting a visit was paid to the Strenči forest tree nursery of JSC Latvijas valsts meži, the Vijciems Cone Drying Facility and the Scots pine seed orchard. The Strenči forest tree nursery produces and sells forest tree seeds and seedlings (mostly pine, Norway spruce and birch). The Cone Drying Facility was constructed in 1895 to extract seeds from cones and ensure reforestation after the northern part of Latvia had been hit by devastating forest fires. After a shutdown of 25 years the facility became again operational in the nineties. Today it is a cultural monument, open to the public. The Scots pine seed orchard contains 14 clones of Scots pine. Trees are pruned every three years to facilitate the collection of cones.

Diana Charels