



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON PLANT
REPRODUCTIVE MATERIAL LEGISLATION - Working Party on heterogeneous material
(populations)**

28 May 2013

Chairperson: P. Mannerkorpi

Experts from the following Member States were present: AT, BE, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GR, HU, IE, LT, LV, MT, NL, PL, UK, SE and SL. Experts from CPVO and NO participated too.

A Member States expert seminar was organised to learn about heterogeneous plant material/populations not confirming to variety definition (UPOV).

The first objective was to outline a possible definition, genetic structure and composition as well as breeding and production methods of heterogeneous material. Presentations were given by Martin Wolfe, Organic Research Centre, United Kingdom (Heterogeneous material from the view point of wheat composite populations), Christian Huyghe, INRA, France (Heterogeneous material - synthetic populations of fodder crops) and Monika Messmer, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Germany (Heterogeneous material - maize open pollinated varieties).

Secondly, the benefits and drawbacks of heterogeneous plant material were discussed with the objective to identify on the basis of the current consolidated knowledge, what are the advantages and the disadvantages in relation to sustainable agricultural production, breeding strategies and needs, transparency and finally informed choices for the users of plant reproductive material (e.g. description, labelling and data bases including common catalogue) and in relation to different stakeholders.

The following presentations were given: Riccardo Bocci, Associazione Italiana per Agricoltura Biologica (AIAB), Italy (Benefits and drawbacks of production of heterogeneous plant material – SOLIBAN EU project), Edwin Nuijten, Louis Bolk Instituut, the Netherlands (Benefits and drawbacks of production of heterogeneous plant material, COBRA EU project) and Anders Borgen, Agrologica, Denmark (Practical experience in Denmark).

The third session concerned a possible regulatory approach with the objective to identify the regulatory adaptations and options, consistent with the basic objectives of the legislation to ensure the identity, health and quality of plant reproductive material for its user.

The conclusions on a possible regulatory approach were presented by Andy Mitchell, UK and Remy Caillatte, FR.