

From: Szonja Csörgő [<mailto:szonjacsorgo@euroseeds.eu>]

Sent: November 15, 2017 6:19 AM

To: secretariat

Cc: johanne huppe

Subject: RE: ESA input to CBD Notification 2017-104 - Contribution to the first Assessment and Review of the Effectiveness of the Nagoya Protocol

Importance: High

To the attention of:

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
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Dear Ms Paşca Palmer,

With reference to the notification SCBD/SPS/DC/VN/BG/JR/86908, and in particular to its point (a), by the present e-mail I would like to inform you about the activities taken and the guidelines and tools developed by ESA, the European Seed Association, with a view to inform and assist our members in their compliance with ABS laws, and in particular with ABS legislation in the European Union.

As an association of users of genetic resources, we have developed the following tools for our members in relation to access and benefit-sharing:

1. A dedicated website on ABS, which is going to be embedded in our homepage (www.euroseeds.eu). This website provides basic information about ABS and its relevance for plant-breeding. Further on, this website serves as a portal for our users to access the ABS-related tools developed by ESA, as well as to access further information on ABS and other important ABS-sites.
2. From the dedicated ABS website our members can access the guidelines that ESA developed. The guidelines explain the obligations of users stemming from the EU ABS Regulation and its

implementing regulation and provides practical guidance on how to comply with those obligations.

3. In order to further assist our members, ESA also developed an interactive tool which provides an easy and quick way for users (from the plant breeding sector) to understand whether or not their genetic resource and activities fall under the scope of the EU ABS Regulation and if yes, what obligations they have to comply with. This tool is also accessible from the dedicated ABS website.
4. To provide an overview of national ABS legislation in the EU Member States, ESA also gathered information on national ABS laws from all EU Member States and created a database where this information is available. The database is also accessible from the dedicated ABS website.
5. Last, in order to promote the value of non-monetary benefit-sharing, ESA also created a sub-site where seed companies and national seed associations, members of ESA, can include and showcase their projects where they are engaged in delivering non-monetary benefits to various recipients (such as countries through collaboration with national genebanks; to farmers and indigenous communities through technology transfer and capacity building or to other plant breeders through information sharing and technology transfer). This sub-site can be viewed here: <https://www.euroseeds.eu/voluntary-benefit-sharing-activities-european-seed-industry>

The ESA guidance document as well as the tools mentioned above have all been already developed but are not yet publicly available. Public launch of the totality of these tools is foreseen for early December (as the finalization of the EU guidance document for the plant breeding sector is awaited for the coming weeks). I will make sure to inform you about the public launch of our dedicated ABS website and to provide you with a direct link.

With regard to the operation of the ABS Clearing-House, as requested in the notification, we have provided our input through the on-line survey.

I hope that the above information is useful and interesting for you and that you find it relevant in relation to the below notification.

With my best regards,

Szonja CSÖRGŐ | Director Intellectual Property & Legal Affairs



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