

**Name of Issue:**           **Lobbying and Resources for European PGR**

**Convenors:**               Nigel Maxted (Group 1) and Eliseu Bettencourt (Group 2)

**Participants:** Sergey Alexanian, Kulli Annamaa, Aasmund Asdal, Alvina Avagyan, Luis Ayerbe, Eliseu Bettencourt, Even Bratberg, Sonia Dias, Ladislav Dotlacil, Ivana Dulic Markovic, Fabrizio Grassi, Jaap Hardon, Peter Herthelius, Laszlo Holly, Leena Hommo, Kadri Jarve, Drazen Jelovac, Juozas Labokas, Lars Landbo, Janos Lazanyi, Marc Lateur, Arielevy, Martine Mitteau, Wieslaw Podyma, Eli Putievsky, Isaak Rashal, Ken Richards, Eva Thorn, Goran Zivkov, plus others whose name was not recorded

**Highlights of discussion:**

There are currently insufficient resources available for PGR activities in Europe and it is felt essential in the light of the current threats faced by European PGR to improve lobbying to try to rectify this position. In order to at least begin to rectify the current under-funding the following actions were recommended:

Group 1

1. There is a need for a much more professional approach to PGR resource lobbying. Ken Richards (Canada) illustrated the effect of efficient lobbying with reference to the funding for US PGR system, where they had been able to double their funding in recent years by using seed funding from the North American ASSINSAL to employ a professional fund raiser specifically to lobby for the PGR community.
2. The ECP/GR Secretariat should be encouraged to work more actively to lobby for funding and keep the community aware of any funding opportunities.
3. There was a need for a Statement / Declaration that might be used bring home the message to funding agencies that:
  - a. Europe has economically valuable genetic resources
  - b. These natural and cultural resources are currently being carelessly eroded
  - c. There is a need for a more proactive approach to their conservation and use for the benefit of Europe.

A brief document that refers to these issues known as the Alnarp Statement will be initially drafted at the workshop then passed to the ECP/GR Secretariat for further drafting and use in lobbying on behalf of the European PGR industry.

4. It is inappropriate for any particular individual to actively lobby for PGR resources the ECP/GR Secretariat should be encouraged to work more actively to lobby for funding and keep the community more aware of any funding opportunities.
5. PGR lobbying might effectively be directed at:
  - a. EC Framework 6
  - b. The replacement for 1467/94
  - c. ASSINSAL
  - d. Members of the European Parliament
  - e. National PGR focal points
  - f. Supermarkets
6. It was noted that the biodiversity community and taxonomists in particular, had been very successful with recent lobbying resulting in large grants for their baseline activities and research. It is necessary to raise the profile of PGR in

Europe to be on an equal level to their activities. It was also noted that the replacement for 1467/94 will not permit research activities and therefore there is an urgent need to lobby EC Framework 6 for PGR research funding in the Third Call.

#### Group 2

7. It is recognised that a prerequisite of efficient European PGR activities are well structured National Programmes with clear objectives.
8. There is a need for clear identification of the funding sources and elaboration of a strategy for lobbying.
9. ECP/GR should identify and circulate a list of possible sources of funding and should provide more proactive help with applications.
10. There is a need for overall European coordination and common objectives among national programmes.
11. There is a need for national programmes to feed ECP/GR with their needs and priorities and for ECP/GR to function as a common platform for lobbying and identification of funding sources.
12. ECP/GR to take a leading role in helping and promoting applications for the Sixth EC Framework, other directives and the replacement for 1467/94, and to keep alert as regard future funding opportunity and communicate these to the ECP/GR networks.
13. As the EU is ratifying the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture the ECP/GR Secretariat should investigate how the commitment made through ratification of the Treaty will be implemented.

The recommendations were approved by both sub-groups during a final joint session.

#### **Future / Next Steps:**

Actions are identified above.

The final workshop draft of the Alnarp Statement is attached and has been passed to the ECP/GR Secretariat for necessary action.