NO PATENTS ON SEEDS!

20 June 2022 Conference call NPOS

Minutes

Participants

1. Erling Frederiksen / Danish Seed Savers
2. Nout van der Vaart / Oxfam
3. Martha Mertens / FOE Germany (BUND, BN)
4. Dagmar Urban / ARCHE NOAH
5. François Meienberg / ProSpecieRara
6. Verena Schmitt / Umweltinstitut München
7. Ruth Tippe / No patents on life
8. Christoph Then / No patents on seeds!
9. Johanna Eckhardt / No patents on seeds!
10. Andreas Riekeberg / Dachverband Kulturpflanzen- und Nutztiervielfalt

Chair: Christoph
Minutes: Johanna

Agenda

1. Updates

- We have an online meeting with the EPO on 5 July. If you want to participate, please let us know if you haven't done so already.
- The Webinar on patents for a general public organised by WeMove has been postponed from June to autumn. It will most probably be held before the Administrative Council meeting on 13 October.

1.1. from countries / member organisations

- no updates

1.2. Germany

1.2.1. meeting with German ministry on 24 June

- We'll have a meeting with the German ministry of Justice / Agriculture and the Patent office.

2. Report

- Update on workshop with experts on 15 June:
- Dagmar: there were several high level experts who weren't really clear about what was patentable or not. We can communicate that it is absolutely confusing, no one knows anymore what counts. There are thousands of gene variants that are going to be patented, no one really knows what that means. Only big companies have the capacities to do that.
- François: People from patent offices did not share any solutions, positions.
- It should be very clear in the report if the patents were filed before or after 2017. – At least it was not clear for them.

- Many people mentioned again native traits – common understanding that native traits shouldn't be patented.
- The Disclaimer solution was discussed again.
- A patent in line with the arguments in the report was granted on 15 June (EP 3560330, KWS, on maize, Christoph sent an email with more details)
- Christoph will try to have the updated draft version of the report ready on Thursday, 23 June.

3. Upcoming events

Updated schedule

28 June: ~~14h-18h: 1st half of physical meeting~~
17h meeting with Salvia and NPOS members in the NPOS office
18h dinner close to the office, Christoph will make a reservation

29 June: 10h meeting in front of the EPO for the public activity
10.30h-11.30h photos in front of the EPO
interviews with Austrian journalist
12.30h Lunch close to the NPOS office, Christoph will make a reservation
14h-18h: physical meeting

- Eva Csergö from the Salvia Foundation will join us for the dinner on 28 June and for the public activity on 29 June. She will as well have lunch with Christoph and Johanna to discuss the current funding and the possibility for funding in the future.

3.1. 29 June Public activity EPO

- Christoph will try to send a draft press release on Thursday, 23 June
- Johanna will send out an invitation for the press on Friday, 24 June
- ARCHE NOAH will organise a background talk for select journalists on Friday, 24 June
- Swiss organisations want to send info to select journalists this week.

3.2. Strategic meeting in Munich

- Only a part of the members would have been able to join the meeting on 28 June. So we decided to skip the first part of the meeting and have the discussion only on 29 June in the afternoon.
- We won't organise a hybrid meeting that would have offered the possibility to join online since we don't have the technical resources to do so.
- We'll ask members who won't be able to join to send in their comments beforehand so that we can take them into consideration during the meeting.

DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE MEETING ON 29 JUNE

1. **Report**
   1.1. discuss the findings of the report, what do they mean for different sectors (breeders, countries/ministries, etc.), how can we reach out to them?
   1.2. new KWS patent granted
2. **mid-term strategy**
   2.1. timeline for the summer
   2.2. events and timeline from autumn until the end of the year
   2.3. hand-over of petition
   2.4. ARCHE NOAH: activity with breeders in Belgium?, ARCHE NOAH will have an office in Brussels again
   2.5. Prepare the meeting with the EPO
3. **long-term strategy**
   - for long term-strategy we will have to wait what the outcome of the mid-term strategy will be, but we can briefly discuss it
4. **Other**
   - Next conference call

3.3. Outlook on activities in autumn

- to be discussed at the physical meeting

4. Other

4.1. Next conference call

- to be discussed at the physical meeting

4.2. coordination of German/English conference calls (possible translation)

- postponed