NO PATENTS ON SEEDS!

11 June 2020 Conference call NPOS

Minutes

Participants

1. Erling Frederiksen / Danish Seed Savers
2. Bram de Jonge / Oxfam
3. Martha Mertens / FOE Germany
4. Katherine Dolan / ARCHE NOAH
5. Annemarie Volling / AbL
6. François Meienberg / ProSpecieRara
7. Ruth Tippe / No patents on life
8. Christoph Then / No patents on seeds!
9. Johanna Eckhardt / No patents on seeds

excused

- Gudula Madsen / GeN
- Teresa Rodrigues / Plataforma Transgénicos Fora
- Nina Holland / CEO

chair: Christoph
minutes: Johanna

1. Updates

- **Christoph:** Our topic will not be on the agenda of the Admin. Council meeting in June. But it is good that we prepared our proposal in time. I don't have any updates from Germany. I asked the European Parliament to come up with another resolution.
- There was a reply to the fish patent, but no date for a hearing has been set yet.

1.1. Updates from the countries / organisations

- **Austria/Katherine:** We met with the cabinet of the minister. We asked for a meeting with the president of the Austrian Patent office.
- **Denmark/Erling:** Danish Radio made an interview with Thor Gunnar Kofoed. Journalists read the report, asked about Carlsberg. Good that we now have established a contact to the radio journalists.
- **Netherlands/Bram:** No updates. It seems to be very quiet. I approached Plantum twice, but didn't get a response. I'll try again.
- **Switzerland/François:** Some media attention about the decision, radio interviews, articles.

2. Strategy / Next steps

2.1. EPO / EU level

- **Katherine**: Since the issue is not on the Admin. Council agenda in June, there is the fear that the EPO might never put in on the agenda. We might need to build up political pressure. It would be good to have another opposition or another kind of public action in autumn. – Christoph will have a look if there is a patent case that we could use for opposition.

- On 12 November 2020 there is a hearing scheduled on the Monsanto melon patent (more info on our homepage). Vandana Shiva and the Indian government was involved. We should inform Indian authorities in case they want to comment again before the hearing.
- Use the German EU Presidency.

2.2. national level

- **Katherine**: The Austrian ministry will send a letter to other countries, mainly Luxembourg, Finland, Sweden, where they have green allies. They asked us to draft the letter for them. We'll propose to send the letter to all countries. We'll propose that the issue should be on the agenda of the next Admin. Council meeting (13/14 October 2020). We'll keep NPOS updated so that other organisations can then follow up with their governments. We asked what the timetable for a revision of national patent law is – no answer yet. – In Germany no answer on that yet neither.
- **Christoph**: The argument of the Austrian experts that random mutagenesis is not repeatable, is not new. But I don't want to discuss that in detail before our meeting with the Austrian experts.
- Changes in national law could be the definition of essentially biological processes and the scope of patents.
- **Bram**: At the beginning of July I'll have a call with SIDA (Swedish International Development Coopertion Agency).
- Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Netherlands could be a good alliance. – And the Czech Republic.
- Countries could as well send letters in regards to the UPC to the German authorities.

3. Other

3.1. Short update on budget, board members, membership applications

Board members, membership applications

- The position of the third board member was proposed to Eva Gelinsky (IG Saatgut). We'll expect an answer from Eva until 12 June. Eva would become a member as a natural person, IG Saatgut would not become a member. During the conference call there were no objections to Eva becoming a board member.
- In case Eva accepts, her membership application would be put to a vote in front of the member organizations (via email). The Danish Seed Savers as well applied for membership. This will be put to a vote, too.

Budget:

- **Christoph**: I'll wait for the final report from the gen-ethical network and from the professional account data system. I will then inform the organisations and send out the letters to ask for financial support.
- Ruth and Christoph will still go to the official registry to change the statutes. This has been delayed because of Corona.

3.2. Next conference call

- The next conference call will be scheduled for the first half of July.
- A conference call in German will be scheduled for the week of 15 June.