NO PATENTS ON SEEDS!

Conference call NPOS - 4 April 2022

Minutes

Participants

1. Nout van der Vaart / Oxfam
2. Martha Mertens / FOE Germany (BUND, BN)
3. Dagmar Urban / ARCHE NOAH
4. François Meienberg / ProSpecieRara
5. Giulio Carini / WeMove
6. Christoph Then / No patents on seeds!
7. Johanna Eckhardt / No patents on seeds!

Chair: Christoph
Minutes: Johanna

Agenda

1. Updates

1.1. Petition

- **Johanna**: Our petition has reached 200.000 signatures. Thanks to WeMove and Umweltinstitut München.
- Our Twitter account reached 1.000 followers.
- **Giulio / WeMove**: WeMove agreed to the following steps:
  - beer coasters: Together with the Free brewers we will produce beer coasters. WeMove takes care of design, printing, etc. Free brewers will distribute them in restaurants, etc.
  - Videos: we will produce videos of affected people, f.e. breeders, farmers, consumers, etc. We will visit them, interview them, make as well a video of the surrounding (farm/brewery, etc.). Around 5 videos in German or English. WeMove will need about 2 months to produce the videos.

    Possible interview partners:
    1. Sativa / breeder Switzerland
    2. Cultivari / breeder Germany
    3. Franziska Lerch / farmer from ARCHE NOAH
    4. German or Austrian brewers
    5. maybe a tomato breeder
    6. possibly one of our organisations to explain the perspective of the consumer

    Showing the perspective of the Global South may not be that relevant in this context.

    Please come back to Johanna until 20 April if you have another concrete proposal who we should interview.

Webinar: Organise a webinar for the broad public where we talk about the patent issue.→ We agreed to organise a webinar after the Carlsberg hearing on 10 May. We'll invite an affected person (breeder/brewer) and someone from NPOS as speakers. We'll ask Slow Food Germany if they want to cooperate. They did similar webinars last year, one with Johanna on patents.

- **Giulio**: We didn't agree on a tour yet. There were different options, a very ambitious option that would need a lot of resources and it was unsure if it would lead to the expected outcome.
- In the group we found this version of the tour to be the best (but WeMove still has to decide what they will do):
- Aim for meetings with ministries in 5 countries that we will then accompany with public activities. We can still have a van and frame it as a tour.
- We have to decide which countries are the most relevant ones. The current short list is: Germany, Ireland, Greece, Romania, Luxemburg, Belgium, France.
- Johanna has a more detailed list with an assessment of the countries. Let her know if you are interested in the list.
- We should contact the countries that are persuadable, not the ones that are already on our side or that would be very difficult to convince. It doesn't have to be countries with a lot of breeders. Countries without breeders may be easier to convince.
- Martha can ask Friends of the Earth if they would reach out to the ministries.
- **Please come back to Johanna until 20 April if you would like to contact your ministry or if you would like us to contact a specific country.**
- Regardless of which countries are our top priority, we should as well address a letter to all of the 38 countries to inform them about our demands (both ministry responsible for patents as well as agriculture).
- If we do a smaller tour, we may be able to put more resources in the production of the videos, in press work, in inviting influencers to our events, etc.

1.2. Public activities

TIMELINE

- 9 May press conference (most probably online)
  - We'll organise it together with the Free brewers.
  - Arche Noah recently had a press conference, they can not invite journalists to another one. But they can prepare a press release.
- 10 May Carlsberg hearing
- Webinar for broad public after Carlsberg hearing
- publication of report after 10 May, before 29 June Administrative council meeting.
- Meeting with German ministry, possibly a public activity in Berlin once the report is published
- 29/30 June: public activity in Munich when the Administrative Council meets, remind them of our demands, use this occasion to have all the representatives in Munich (the meeting is currently scheduled to be held in Munich)
- the petition will most likely continue after the end of June

- meeting with further ministries

1.3. Letters to ministries

- Johanna: We had another Zoom meeting with partner organisations. 3 organisations are planning to contact their ministries: Ireland (Seed Sovereignty UK and Ireland Programme / Gaia Foundation, letter was sent on 6 April), Romania (Agent Green), Greece (Peliti)
- IFOAM Organics EU signed our petition. They asked their members to get in touch with their ministries

1.4. Resolution European Parliament

- Johanna: Once we have made progress with the resolution, we can ask organisations to contact their MEPs to support the resolution.

1.5. Updates from countries / member organisations

2. Patent cases / Patent research

- Carlsberg hearing 10 May
- The outcome of the hearing could be relevant for the report. We will publish the report after the hearing.
- We'll have another short meeting next week where Christoph will present the research so far and where we will discuss the report.
- We should have a timeline for the publication of the report, feedback from organisations, etc. so that everyone can plan accordingly.
- A breeder of ARCHE NOAH approached us with a very interesting patent on a tomato. Christoph would like to include that patent in the report.
- Dagmar: The beer story is very strong, the tomato story is ok, but we shouldn't talk about too many different things at once.
- François: A hearing on the Syngenta pepper is scheduled for 16.2.2023. https://www.no-patents-on-seeds.org/en/patent-cases/pepper
- Christoph (after the call): A hearing on the Severed broccoli is scheduled for 9.2.2023. https://www.no-patents-on-seeds.org/en/patent-cases/severed-broccoli

3. Other

3.1. Opportunity to comment for industry

- postponed to next conference call

3.2. Next conference call

- Not fixed yet.