NO PATENTS ON SEEDS!

2021-07-28 Conference call NPOS

Minutes

Participants

1. Dagmar Urban / ARCHE NOAH
2. Fulya Batur
3. Gabi Pichlhofer / biorespect
4. Verena Schmitt / Umweltinstitut München
5. Bram de Jonge / Oxfam (joined later)
6. Martha Mertens / Friends of the Earth Germany / Bavaria
7. Ruth Tippe / No patents on life!
8. Christoph Then / No patents on seeds!
9. Johanna Eckhardt / No patents on seeds!

excused

- François

Chair: Christoph
Minutes: Johanna

Agenda

1. Updates

1.1. Conference from German Ministry of Justice on 8 July

- Christoph: Conference was ok, but as expected no concrete output. They gave us the opportunity to present our point of view. But industry was as well getting a lot of speaking time. We don't have any signals that following the conference concrete steps are being taken by the German ministry.
- Dagmar: It was said several times by industry as well as people not so close to industry that they don't see a problem anymore. We should show the problem with specific cases.

1.2. from countries / member organisations

Austria / Dagmar:

- The Austrian Patent Law has to be adapted to the Nagoya Protocol and the Unitary Patent. We shared our proposals, they said it is way too far reaching. So we need an exchange on an expert level. We will send them our proposals again, including paragraphs from patent laws from other countries.
- Yesterday the Minister visited the ARCHE NOAH garden. She talked with the German Minister after the symposium. They said "it was very successful". She will follow up on

that. But on European level they feel very lonely. They are willing to present a position, but before they do so, they need other countries who support them.

- Plus, we'll organise another capacity building workshop on patents.
- Fulya: We did capacity building workshops in different countries in order to get national organisations to push their decision-makers. We have to think about how we get the organisations moving. They want to, they see the problem, but they don't have the capacity to work on the issue. It is often too complicated for them.

Other

- Christoph: At the moment I do not expect to have a decision until the end of the year. We still are going in the right direction, but our allies were not very active.
- Martha: Maybe we should have the Organic movement have support us.
- Dagmar: More targeted media work in other countries could be helpful.
- Christoph: Let's keep organisations from other countries in mind in our upcoming activities. Maybe they can support us. Let's think about what they need from us.
- We should have a discussion on the long-term strategy.

2. Strategy / Next steps

2.1. EU-Parliament

- Christoph: In the past we were successful in regard to the EU Parliament.
- The EU-COM has to come up with a report on bio-patents every 2 years, the last report was in 2016. Maybe asking for a report could be a starting point.
- Fulya: Maybe an "Initiative Report" from the Parliament instead of a resolution would be an option.
- It would be good to get things moving before the Admin. Council meeting so that the discussion keeps going and they don't close the issue.
- We could ask a MEP to ask a question about the Commission report to raise the topic. – Fulya can ask a Belgian MEP.

2.2. Meeting of Administrative Council on 15 October

- No decision will be made at this meeting. We can just use the meeting for awareness raising and to keep the discussion going.
- We will hand over the barley plants to the EPO, hopefully together with the barley breeder.
- Christoph is growing the plants.
- We would need a backup of plants. Can somebody close to Munich do that?

2.3. Opposition of bushy melon

- We will hand over the opposition before the Meeting of the Committee on Patent Law (24 November).

2.4. Hearing on fish patent

- 16 November

2.5. Report on patent applications on animals

2.6. Hearing on 3rd Carlsberg-patent on 10 May 2022

2.7. conference call to discuss long-term strategy?

- We could have a physical meeting in Munich. Maybe in parallel with the Admin. Council meeting in October.
- Before having a physical meeting, where we take decisions, we should prepare that by conference calls. At our next conference call in September we will start to discuss the strategy. We might prepare documents before the call.

3. Other

3.1. Patent lawyers

- Christoph: I was in contact with new patent lawyers in Heidelberg. I will send them an overview of the cases and then they will decide if they will be our representatives at the hearings or just give us input and leave it to us to represent ourselves.
- Dolder was very helpful in the past, but sometimes not very easy to access.

3.2. Membership application Plataforma Transgénicos Fora

- Johanna: We still need one more vote to have a majority to accept Plataforma Transgénicos Fora as an organisation as our member. (Update after the meeting: We now have a majority in favour. But the official deadline to vote ends on 12 August.)

3.3. Next conference call

- Next conference call at the beginning of September