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ESA is the voice of the European seed sector. ESA's members are national associations and individual companies active in research, breeding, production and marketing of seeds of agricultural and ornamental plant species. ESA represents more than 7000 seed businesses in the EU and beyond.

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POSITION

ON THE ROLE OF THE CPVO

ESA is of the opinion that the role of the CPVO could possibly be extended to certain activities related to seed marketing and variety listing. In particular ESA is of the opinion that:

The CPVO should have a more active role in DUS testing for variety listing. ESA advocates for having the same DUS tests for the purposes of variety listing and plant variety protection. ESA's position is that the so-called "one key several doors" solution would be preferable as it would imply that one DUS report made by any of the entrusted examination offices could be the key for both national and EU listing and protection.

The CPVO should become the sole responsible body for variety denomination purposes within the EU. The centralised variety denomination database recently set up by the CPVO is a precondition to assure a harmonised and consistent implementation of the provisions as regards variety denomination in Member States. Consulting this website should become obligatory for both national and EU listing and protection. The responsibility for the management of the database and for the verification of denominations proposed should be transferred to the CPVO.

The CPVO should become the responsible body to administer the EU Common Catalogue which should be a simple automatic compilation of national catalogues without any delay (1). In that regard the CPVO could also have an active role in the administrative management of conservation varieties as such varieties should be included in the regular listing system with the mentioning of their specific status.

(1) According to current provisions of EU seed marketing legislation the free movement of seeds is suffering from a shortcoming related to the non-automatic nature of including a nationally listed variety to the Common Catalogue. This is embedded, for example, in Article 17 of Council Directive 2002/55.