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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
GENEVA

TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY FOR VEGETABLES

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ADDENDUM

**REPORTS ON DEVELOPMENT IN PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION FROM
MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS**

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

Annexes I and II to this document contains the written reports of France and Germany, respectively.

[Annexes follow]

ANNEX I

FRANCE

Following the move of the Groupe d'Etude et de contrôle des Variétés et des Semences (GEVES) headquarters to the new building in Beaucouzé (near Angers), the new testing unit named "Anjouere" is now fully operational. It is located about 20 km from Angers on clay soil that is well adapted to DUS and VCU trials on field crops, replacing the former one located near Versailles.

In total, the number of new varieties and species applied either for national listing or plant breeder's rights, in 2010-2011 decreased (-7%) compared to 2009-2010, but not more than the variation observed between years during the last decade. The plant breeding effort remains important and in development for some crops regarding the capacity of genetic improvement to contribute to the challenges in the field of protection of environment and health. For vegetables, a decrease took place in the middle of the 2000's and represents at least 20% less.

GEVES activity as an examination office on behalf of the Community Plant Variety Office of the European Union (CPVO) is important with around 500 requests of results each year including about 2/3 of take over reports related to field and vegetable crops tested first for national listing. Each year, GEVES sends about 500 reports to other examination offices and buys about 150 reports from them in the framework of bilateral agreements.

In total GEVES studies about 2,500 new varieties each year.

Regarding recent evolutions of protocols for DUS testing, on the base of work conducted on maize and barley to manage the reference collections, using a combination of morphological and molecular distances, a similar approach started this year with lettuce, (500 varieties – 30 DNA markers). The first results were not very conclusive due to the low genetic variability of this crop and the use of Bremia resistance characteristics as grouping characteristics.

Regarding experience with new types of varieties and new characteristics, GEVES has extended:

- the use of the regulation of the amateur garden varieties, on the basis of the new European Union (EU) regulation on varieties without intrinsic value,
- the development of DUS tests and regulation for vegetable rootstock varieties,
- the use of disease characteristics through the coordination of a new CPVO project to harmonize strains and reference varieties.

GEVES has completed the first round of audits in the framework of ISO 9001 certification standard. All activities and units are now covered by this system of management based on quality requirements.

[Annex II follows]

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ANNEX II

GERMANY

The number of DUS tests for PBR in Germany for vegetables is low but stable.

Concerning international cooperation, the Bundessortenamt is now an entrusted examination office for the Community Plant Variety Office of the European Union (CPVO). We successfully passed the audit of the recently introduced quality requirements of the CPVO and, therefore, in the future we will also receive requests from the CPVO for taking over DUS reports.

[End of Annex II and document]