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Szonja is Hungarian and holds a degree in law from ELTE Budapest University, an MA in French and European Law from Panthéon-Assas University (Paris) and an L.LM. in IP and Competition Law from the University of Liège (Belgium). Before joining ESA she worked at the Budapest office of an international law firm and at the European Commission. In 2009 she became ESA's Manager Intellectual Property and Legal Affairs. Within ESA she is primarily responsible for issues related to intellectual property protection and plant genetic resources and also handles all seed legislation related legal questions. She represents ESA towards relevant international organizations and European Institutions.