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1343
C/28/11 Add.3
ORIGINAL : English
DATE : November 7, 1994

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

COUNCIL

Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session

Geneva, November 9, 1994

THIRD ADDENDUM TO DOCUMENT C/28/11

(REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF STATES AND ORGANIZATIONS
ON THE SITUATION IN THE LEGISLATIVE,
ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL FIELDS)

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

The Annexes to this document contain the reports from Slovakia and the United Kingdom.

[Two Annexes follow]

ANNEX I

SLOVAKIA

Situation in the Legislative Field

The Slovak Government has decided to ratify the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention. It is expected that the final draft of the law would be available within a year.

Agreements for cooperation in examination have been signed with Hungary and Poland.

Protection now concerns 72 plant and one animal species. 372 applications are currently pending and 57 titles granted. Six applications were rejected and one withdrawn.

[Annex II follows]

ANNEX II

UNITED KINGDOM

Situation in the Legislative FieldAdaptation of the Law to the 1991 Act of the Convention

Work has been taking place in the Office on proposals to further amend the Plant Varieties and Seeds Act 1964 in order to implement the 1991 Act of the Convention. The consultation document containing the proposals will be issued to industry bodies on November 18. It has not yet been decided whether a place will be allocated for the proposed Bill in the 1994-95 Parliamentary session, but drafting instructions have been completed subject to any changes arising out of the consultation process.

Extension of Protection to Further Genera and Species

Protection was extended to 75 genera and species on December 1, 1993.

Protection is being extended to the following genera and species:

Ornamentals

Aptenia cordifolia (L. f.) N. E. Br.
 Aubretia DC.
 Begonia semperflorens
 Diascia Link et Otto
 Helipterum anthemoides DC.
 Houltuynia Thunb. corr. Thunb.
 Lathyrus odoratus L.
 Lysimachia L.
 Symphytum L.
 Verbena L.

Vegetables

Allium porrum L. - Leek
 Brassica carinata A. Braun -
 TexSel Greens

Cooperation in Examination

No new arrangements nor extensions to existing agreements have been signed during the last 12 months.

Trends in Applications for Protection and Grants of Rights

During the year ending March 31, 1994:

550	applications were received	(13% increase over previous year)
326	grants were issued	(3% decrease over previous year)
227	grants were terminated	(10% decrease over previous year)
1704	grants were renewed	(1% increase over previous year)

Financial Matters

Although the United Kingdom system operates on full recovery of costs, fees for DUS testing were reduced by 20 percent and for other services by 10 percent, with effect from April 1, 1994. This was as a result of economies within the Office, the upgrading of computer systems, and a continued higher level of demand than had been expected.

Activities for the Promotion of Plant Variety Protection

To mark the 30th anniversary of the Plant Varieties and Seeds Act 1964, an open day was held at the Office on June 24, 1994, with demonstrations, displays and lectures about the plant breeders' rights and national listing systems, for the benefit of companies based or represented in the United Kingdom. This was attended by over 70 guests. Many letters of appreciation were received by the Office and by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Members of the United Kingdom Office gave a number of lectures about plant variety rights to groups of visiting students and officials from both member States and non-member States of UPOV, and presented a paper on the European Community Regulation at a conference on "Protecting Biotechnological Inventions--Recent Developments in Law and Practice" at the European Patent Office, in Munich, Germany, on June 21 and 22, 1994.

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