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**INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS**

GENEVA

**FOURTH MEETING  
WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS****Geneva, October 9 and 10, 1989**

COMMENTS FROM COGECA AND COPA

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

The annex to this document contains the comments from the General Committee for Agricultural Cooperation in the European Economic Community (COGECA) and the Committee of Agricultural Organizations in the European Economic Community (COPA) on the revision of the Convention. They were transmitted to the Office of the Union by letter of September 25, 1989.

[Annex follows]

**COMMENTS FROM COGECA AND COPA  
ON THE REVISION OF THE CONVENTION**

The position of COPA and COGECA concerning the legal protection of plant varieties is based on the following considerations:

1. There cannot be double protection for varieties.
2. The rights of the breeder should extend to any reproductive material, that is, plants, plant parts, cells and protoplasts.
3. The free access to the variety for experimental purposes with a view to creating a new variety must be guaranteed, including where the variety embodies an invention protected by a patent.
4. The well-established principle of the plant-breeding world whereby farmers may freely use reproductive material for sowing a new crop must be set out in the Convention.

COPA and COGECA propose the following definition for the farmers' privilege:

"The farmers' privilege covers acts of reproduction or multiplication of reproductive material in the soil with treatments made by the farmer himself using his own farming equipment, irrespective of whether these acts are undertaken by himself or under cost-free farmers' self-help arrangements involving mutual benefits, to sow or plant a new crop on his premises."

5. The introduction of a derived right is acceptable provided that there is a perceivable sign of improvement of the variety (there should be no protection for plagiarism).

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