

Meeting in Krakow (Poland)

Wednesday, May 7th (09h30 - 16h00):

○ **Opening address**

Mr. Andrej Chodkowski, Chief Inspector of Plant Health and Seed Inspection, GIORiN Poland welcomed National seed certification agencies or their representatives, members of the ESCAA and the European Commission as permanent guest to the 2025 ESCAA Annual Meeting in Krakow, Poland.

○ **Presentation of the meeting agenda and organizational matters**

ESCAA Chair (Poland) and ESCAA Secretariat presented the agenda.

Under Any Other Business, the following points were raised:

- The publication of guidelines on sampling on ESCAA website and the way to move forward with other guidelines to be possibly drafted
- The exploration of practices for seed certification agencies in terms of seed mixtures that contain non regulated species
- The way to express the views of ESCAA members towards the European Commission in regards the proposal of new legislation for Plant Reproductive Material.

Members of the ESCAA approved the agenda.

○ **Certification label and plant passport**

National seed certification agency of Poland reported on the outcomes of the survey drafted by the group (Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, **Poland** and Switzerland).

ESCAA members agreed to task the working group to identify the different cases where combined labels are used based on the outcomes of the questionnaire in order to go further on discussions.

ESCAA Chair reminded ESCAA members to provide ESCAA Secretariat with the labels in use by ESCAA members to update the ESCAA website.

ESCAA members agreed to task a working group composed of Austria, Czech Republic, France, Greece, the Netherlands and Poland to draft guidelines on labelling requirements at import and export of seed, this work to be started after the next PAFF meeting.

○ **Proposal of improvements of the actual directives annexes for the future plant reproductive material legislation**

National seed certification agency of the Netherlands reported on the outcomes of the survey drafted by the group (Austria, Finland, France, **the Netherlands**).

ESCAA members agreed to select some technical subjects to be further discuss in detail at next ESCAA meetings in relation to the annexes of the future plant reproductive material (c.f. point on next technical subjects to be discussed).

- **ESCAA website**

ESCAA Secretariat recalled members of the ESCAA about the Statutes of ESCAA where the certification agency that maintains the ESCAA website has the role of ESCAA Secretariat.

ESCAA members agreed to reconduct France as ESCAA Secretariat.

ESCAA Secretariat presented in detail the contents of the ESCAA website and called ESCAA members to contact the Secretariat for any updates to be done on the website (e.g. contact details of certification agencies, data of areas of production and quantities of produced seed included for organic production, repository of labels, maximum quantities to be authorized for not yet certified varieties, etc.).

- **Multiplication (between Member states) of varieties under registration process**

National seed certification agency of Italy reminded of the work of the group composed of Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, **Italy**, the Netherlands, and Spain. National seed certification agency of Italy presented results of the survey launched last year with answers from new respondents. National seed certification agency of Italy also presented a draft guideline prepared by the group on a procedure on information to be exchanged between ESCAA members in case on multiplication of varieties under registration. The Group specified those guidelines are only for recommendations of good practice between ESCAA members and are not related to the marketing of seed of varieties under registration process but only related to the exchange of information between ESCAA members. ESCAA members approved those guidelines and agreed to have them published on the ESCAA website.

ESCAA members agreed to task the group to further work on the proposal of a template for the exchange of such information.

Thursday, May 8th (8h-21h):

ESCAA members thanked Poland for the technical visit to the Experimental Station for Agricultural Variety Evaluation in Węgrzce where they appreciated the presentations on:

- cooperation between PIORiN and COBORU in the topic of seed inspection,
- the assessment of varietal identity and purity and post registration trials,
- the process to qualify seed inspectors for field inspections
- and the use of UAVs during field inspection.

ESCAA members also thanked Poland for the visit of the Wieliczka salt mine and the fine dinner.

Friday, May 9th (9h-13h):

- **Exchange of results of post controls on varietal identity at EU level**

National seed certification agency of France reported on the work of group (Austria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, **France**, Poland, the Netherlands).

National seed certification agency of France reported about the results of the survey about the exchange of results of post controls on varietal identity at EU level.

ESCAA members agreed on the usefulness of such a database. However, it is wiser to wait for the outcomes of the project of digitalization at OECD and EU level. In the meantime, ESCAA members agreed to work on the specifications of data to be exchanged in a future database.

ESCAA members agreed to work on the use of aggregate data for statistical purposes.

- **Overview of actual implementation of market controls including internet market and import**
National seed certification agency of Germany on behalf of Denmark reported on the work of the group (Bulgaria, **Denmark**, Estonia, Germany), in particular the drafting of the questionnaire.

ESCAA members agreed to have this drafted questionnaire circulated to ESCAA members for comments. The questionnaire will be sent in June and results will be discussed at the next ESCAA meeting.

- **Overview of actual implementation of official controls regulation in the seed sector**
National seed certification agency of Sweden reported on the work of the group (France, Greece, Italy, Poland, **Sweden**).

National seed certification agency of France presented how Official controls regulation is implemented in its territory.

ESCAA members noted the conclusions of the presentations and discussed about the usefulness and benefits to apply the Official controls regulation in the seed sector. European Commission clarified that OCR would bring a fair, transparent and harmonised risk-based official control system in the seed sector and will allow seed certification agencies to benefit from the work programme of the EU Commission as for the other sectors, e.g. BTSF training programmes, IT systems development.

- **Selection of the member country which will organise the annual general meeting the following year and the designation of the board**

Members of the ESCAA were informed about Greece to volunteer for hosting the meeting in in the 2nd half of September 2026.

ESCAA members agreed to the designation of the ESCAA Board for 2026:

Vice Presidency: Poland

Presidency: Greece

ESCAA Secretariat : France

ESCAA members were asked to volunteer for hosting the meeting in 2027.

- **Choice of the technical subjects for the following year**

Members of the ESCAA decided on technical topics to be discussed the following year.

- ESCAA website (**ESCAA Secretariat**)
- Overview of the implementation of market Controls including internet market and import (Bulgaria, **Denmark**, Estonia, Germany)
- Implementation of Official controls regulation in the seed sector (France, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, **Sweden**)
- Continuing Exchange of results of post controls on varietal identity at EU level (Austria, Denmark, Estonia, **France**, Finland, Poland, the Netherlands)

- Drafting a template for exchange of information in case of Multiplication (between Member states) of varieties under registration process (Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, **Italy**, the Netherlands, and Spain)
- Exploration of practices for seed certification agencies in terms of seed mixtures that contain non regulated species (Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, **Germany**, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Switzerland)
- Overview by survey of practices on validity period for seed lot before re-testing (Greece, **Poland**, Sweden)

○ **Any other business**

- On the topic of the publication of guidelines on sampling on ESCAA website and the way to move forward with other guidelines to be possibly drafted

The ESCAA Secretariat informed about the publication of the guidelines on sampling on the ESCAA website and proposed that other guidelines to be also published on the ESCAA website.

- On the topic of the exploration of practices for seed certification agencies in terms of seed mixtures that contain non regulated species

ESCAA members agreed to put this subject on the agenda of the next ESCAA meeting.

- On the topic of the way to express the views of ESCAA members towards the European Commission in regards of the proposal of new legislation for Plant Reproductive Material

The ESCAA Secretariat informed about the statutes of the association that allow for its members to express ESCAA views. ESCAA members agreed to task ESCAA Secretariat to review the previous draft letter of the evolution of the Plant reproductive material legislation and to submit it to ESCAA bureau Members by email for consideration.

○ **Record of decisions**

Members of the ESCAA present at the 2025 ESCAA Annual Meeting approved the record of decisions.