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AIPH pleads for effective enforcement tools for Plant Variety Rights

This month saw the International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH) plead for effective enforcement tools for Plant Variety Rights (PVR) at the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) Enforcement of PBR Seminar.

Breeders are facing difficulties when enforcing their community and national PVR widely due to insufficient knowledge of the applicable legislation amongst breeders, growers, lawyers, prosecutors and judges. For this reason, the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) organises yearly seminars on the enforcement of PVR throughout the whole of Europe.

As part of its campaign to support PVR, Secretary of AIPH Standing Committee for Novelty Protection, Mia Buma, spoke on the enforcement of PVR in the ornamental sector: the growers point of view. AIPH is encouraging countries to accelerate the implementation of breeder's rights and to bring their legislation into line with the UPOV-convention 1991.

Mia Buma comments, "PVR has to be exercised and enforced in balance with the interests of all parties involved, like breeders, producers, traders and exporters and finally consumers. In order to be effective, a PVR law must be accompanied by effective enforcement tools. Any national legislation has to fulfill on this point the requirements of the UPOV 1991 Act and TRIPS Agreement."

"The enforcement of PVR, like all Intellectual Property Rights, must be affordable for all title holders, particularly for small and medium sized enterprises," said Mia.

This year the seminar, that took place on 5 June 2014 in Zagreb, Croatia, facilitated the sharing of information and experience relating to the enforcement of PVR in Croatia, Serbia, Hungary, Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. It also raised awareness of the applicable legislation in Croatia and neighbouring countries. AIPH believes that these yearly CPVO seminars play a role in trying to make up for the insufficient knowledge of the legislation and the accompanying enforcement tools amongst all the involved parties.

Around 120 participants attend at the seminar including intellectual property practitioners specialized in plant variety protection, as well as breeders, farmers, trade companies, lawyers, judges and government representatives.

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Notes for Editors:**International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH)**

AIPH is a co-ordinating body representing horticultural producers' organisations all over the world. It was set up in Switzerland in 1948 to stimulate the international marketing of flowers, plants and landscaping services. Currently membership consists of 26 organisations from 19 countries. For further details visit www.aiph.org.