

Verein zur Erhaltung und Rekultivierung von Nutzpflanzen in Brandenburg e.V. (**VERN e.V.**)
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Mr. José Barroso
President of the European Commission
1049 Brussels
Belgium



Greiffenberg, 30.04.2013

URGENT: Complain for reasons of conflict of interests within DG SANCO

Dear Mr. President of the European Commission,

We are writing to you as a non-profit NGO and an important nationwide player in Germany, maintaining plant genetic resources (PGR) as a biological as well as a cultural heritage. DG SANCO is currently drafting the major reform on legislation concerning the marketing of plant reproductive material. This reform is concerning our work, therefore we have a strong interest that the progress for heirloom varieties is legally allowed.

Lately we became aware of the fact that the progress of the reform is being blocked by a member of the French Ministry of Agriculture, a person with tight links to the French horticulture companies, who is strongly opposing even minimal derogations for heirloom varieties. Yet, these varieties are belonging to the European public domain and therefore shall be allowed on the market. The necessity for such derogations was even recognized by public consultations and is being asked for by DG ENVIRONMENT and DG AGRICULTURE, nevertheless in the framework of inter-services consultations now French administration opposes this.

To us, it is incomprehensible that this situation is taken as admissible. European legal frameworks, having crucial consequences for all citizens, companies and NGOs across Europe, are to be negotiated and drafted by impartially acting European civil servants. There should not even be any shadow of a link to private interests lobby groups. So also in the specific context of the reform of the legislation on the marketing of seeds, national experts shall never be coming from the seed industry.

We therefore ask for your urgent action and intervention in this matter.

Looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Cornelia Lehmann (on behalf of the management board of VERN e. V.)

CC:

Commissioner Mr. Tonio BORG (DG SANCO)
Commissioner Mr. Dacian CIOLOS (DG AGRICULTURE)
Commissioner Mr. Janez POTOČNIK (DG ENVIRONMENT)
President of the European Parliament, Mr. Martin SCHULTZ
President of the European Council, Mr. Herman VAN ROMPUY

Vorstand: Thomas Ebel

Vereinsregister:

Amtsgericht Frankfurt / Oder, VR 1679

Vom Finanzamt Angermünde als gemeinnützig anerkannt gemäß § 59 ff AO wegen Förderung der Pflanzenzucht

Steuernummer :062/140/04281

Sparkasse Uckermark

Konto 3631001168

BLZ 17056060