

FINAL DOCUMENT

CEUREG Forum XII Budapest, 16-17 October 2008

The twelfth meeting of Central and Eastern European Countries Registration Authorities Forum (CEUREG Forum) was organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Hungary.

CEUREG Forum participants: Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Slovak Republic and Ukraine.

CEUREG Forum papers and documents were revised and supported by Albania, Croatia, Latvia, Macedonia (FYROM), Romania and Slovenia.

The CEUREG Forum XII. was officially opened by Mr. Gellert Golya, representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Hungary.

Then the chairman of the meeting Mr. Josef Svaricek on behalf of the Plant Protection Products Section of the State Phytosanitary Administration (SPA), Czech Republic, awarded the 10 years SPA anniversary medal Mr. Gellert Golya and Mr. Janos Molnar for many years of support and organization of the CEUREG Forum meetings.

The CEUREG Forum meeting took place according to the approved Agenda.

At the beginning of the first day there was given an information on a very important current crop protection issue. Mr. Tamas Komives (Plant Protection Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences) reported on the 1st International Ragweed Conference held on 10-13 September 2008 in Budapest, Hungary. Then Mr. Istvan Dancza (Central Agricultural Office, Hungary) informed participants on spread of and the authority measures against ragweed in Hungary and Mr. Levente Kiss (Plant Protection Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences) presented an overview on advances in understanding the biology of common ragweed.

Mr. Josef Svaricek (State Phytosanitary Administration, Czech Republic), chairman of the meeting, overviewed the previous CEUREG Forum I. to XI. meetings main topics.

The lecture of Mr. Louis Smeets (European Commission, DG SANCO, Belgium) on the current status of the Draft Regulation Replacing the Directive 91/414/EEC was not given as to the enormous workload on all the DG SANCO staff in these days (European Parliament 2nd reading of the Regulation, finalization of the existing active substances EU review, etc.). There was given an oral information by Mr. Geza Gabriel (MARD, Hungary) on the current status of the Regulation and expected near future time schedule.

Mr. Jean-Pierre Busnardo (DuPont Crop Protection), on behalf of European Crop Protection Association (ECPA), introduced the industrial point of view and approach on the most important parts of the draft Regulation.

Participating European Union Member States (EU MSs) from the CEUREG region discussed their comments to the draft Regulation, especially to the part on the control of the plant protection products (PPPs) placed on the market with respect to the need of co-operation among EU and non EU states. This approach was supported also by delegations of Austria, Switzerland, non EU states from CEUREG region and ECPA.

The afternoon Session on Control of Plant Protection Products Placed on the Market was opened by Representative of Austria, Mr. Johann Kohl (AGES), who gave a thorough lecture on (Post-registration) Control the PPPs placed on the market in Austria and possibilities of regional co-operation in this field.

Then Mr. Beat Schmitter (Federal Office for Agriculture, Switzerland) gave a presentation on the Control of the PPPs Placed on the Market in Switzerland and need for co-operation in the field of control of PPPs placed on the market in Europe.

In the country contribution part Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Serbia informed on their official control system of PPPs placed on the market (incl. parallel imports), including controls on distribution, storage and use, and on enforcement measures.

In the final summary discussion to this point participants agreed on the importance of harmonized legal provisions for the post-registration control of PPPs placed on the market. Delegates of all participating countries expressed the necessity of close co-operation of all states in Europe in the field of inspection and control activities, especially to reduce illegal trade and counterfeited products on the market.

The participating EU MSs delegations recommend the European Commission:

1. to initiate the process of creation a database of PPPs authorised on EU territory,
2. to prepare Regulation on controls of the PPPs placed on the market (further “Regulation on controls”), containing also the provisions on:
 - co-operation of inspection and control bodies of all states in Europe, including the rules for exchange of informations
 - harmonized system of licensing of all distributors and re-packaging companies within the territory of EU MSs, to enable inspections of placing of PPPs on the market more effective and to enable an efficient action against counterfeited products,
 - minimum requirements on competence and power of relevant national inspection bodies, to make the PPPs inspection system more effective
 - requirements on data and documents accompanying PPPs in the distribution chain, to support traceability of PPPs placed on the market
 - harmonized system of reporting PPPs control results

3. to create an “EU MSs Expert Working Group (further “EU EWG”) on controls” for consultations and comments on the draft of the Regulation on controls, and:

- invite the experts of the “EU EWG on parallel imports” to participate on the work of “EU EWG” on controls
- invite the experts from CEUREG region states and Switzerland to participate on the work of “EU EWG on controls” as consultants and observers

4. for closer co-operation of all states in Europe in the field of inspection and control activities of the PPPs placed on the market and information exchange in this field:

- initiate, prepare and sign an agreement between the European Union and Switzerland
- initiate, prepare and sign an agreement between the European Union and non EU states from the CEUREG region

The participating delegates from the EU MSs agreed that the information on the proposed recommendations will be presented in both of the PPPs related expert groups of the European Commission and of the Council of European Union, i.e. the Working Group on Legislation and the Working Party on Agricultural Questions (Pesticides/ Plant Protection Products).

On the next day Plant Protection Products Composition Analysis and Control Session was opened by presentation of Mr. Stanislaw Stobiecki (Institut of Plant Protection, Poland) on Identity and Composition Determination of Plant Protection Products in their Quality Aspects.

Ms. Olga Nováková (State Phytosanitary Administration, Czech Republic) gave then a presentation on the Czech Laboratory for PPPs Analysis - activities, accreditation, cooperation.

In the country contribution part to panel discussion Hungary and Poland informed on the methods of sampling of PPPs placed on the market and laboratory controls of composition of PPPs.

In the afternoon there was opened the Session on Other International and Regional Developments by Mr. Josef Svaricek (State Phytosanitary Administration, Czech Republic) by the presentation on the OECD Pesticides Programme.

Serbia as candidate country to EU informed on the law harmonisation procedure, problems, experiences and expectations. It was evident from the reports that there were made many efforts to step forward.

Belarus, Russia and Ukraine gave a presentations on the general overview and the latest development in plant protection products registration.

Draft of the final document was prepared after the comments and discussion to certain parts, and will be send by e-mail to all participating CEUREG region states delegates, and also to those who from different reasons could not participate on the meeting, for comments within 14 days after the receipt.

The meeting proposed some topics for the next CEUREG meeting: EU zonal system, mutual recognition, GEP.

Before the end of the meeting Mr. Stanislaw Stobiecki introduced Poznan as a location of the next CEUREG Forum XIII. in October 2009.

At the end the participants of the CEUREG Forum XII. expressed thanks to Hungary for hosting the meeting and thanked Mr. Josef Svaricek for professionally chairing of the meeting already for the eleventh time.

Done in Budapest, 17 October 2008