



ESA

European Seed Association

Current issues and priorities 2012

Estonian Seed Association
01.12.2011

Garlich v. Essen
Secretary General

Current issues- the European policy agenda

The full regulatory framework for plants and seed is under review and will be up for changes in the coming years!

- Seed Marketing (DUS, VCU, certification)
- Plant Health (import, export, re-export)
- Intellectual Property (CPVO, farm saved seed, patents)
- GM cultivation (coexistence, thresholds)
- GM labelling
- New Breeding Techniques
- Seed Treatment



What's at stake?

Better Regulation

- weakened DUS for listing (generic varieties, landraces, varieties for specific uses, supplier label); incompatible with IP protection (« one key – several doors ») approach ?
 - different VCU (env. and food safety) or no VCU
 - differentiated / limited certification requirements (supplier s.)
- from single to separate markets and rules
- testing requirements for AP of GMOs
 - disclosure of breeding pedigree and techniques (CC)

Next: ESA Position and brochure on BR

ESA lobbying plan



What's at stake?

Plant Health

- impractical procedures (re-export)
- costs to be borne by companies without delegation of tasks under official supervision
- eradication vs. management and classification of pests (QPs vs. RNQPs)

Next: ESA brochure similar to BR

Standing Committee Plant Health spring 2012



What's at stake?

Intellectual Property Rights

- extension of FSS option to other / all crops
- FSS payment restrictions (lower payments or no payment to breeders)
- interface PBRs and patents
- limitation of IP protection for plants (no IP on 'life') in scope and/or time
- CPVO rules and costs for protection

Next: Final ESA Position on IP of 9/2011

New ESA brochure on IP by early 2012



What's at stake?

GMOs

- re-nationalisation and end of common seed market (CC)
- unresolved issue of tolerance of GMOs in seed with differentiation of approved vs. unapproved events within EU
- Patchwork of mandatory and disproportionate coexistence measures by region

Next: ESA Position on GMOs in seed (0.4% for all EU approved GMOs + S&T protocol/LLP)

Possibly COM proposal for LLP end 2012



What's at stake?

New Breeding Techniques / Novel Foods

- GM-like rules for use and authorisation (safety assessment)
- Restrictions for breeding and cultivation
- Traceability and labelling requirements

Next steps: **Opposition to GM status of NBTs**
Scrutiny of EFSA opinions on NBTs
Develop alternatives for regulators



What's at stake?

Treated seed

- authorisation of PPPs for seed treatment (insecticides)
- labelling of (all) treated seed
- classification (transport, storage, insurance liability etc.) as dangerous goods
- national safeguard measures and trade restrictions
- Different rules and standards for treatment facilities, processes and final products

**Next: continue development of ESTA (start 3/2012)
no new transport/storage requirements**



The challenge for ESA

- Monitoring of all relevant developments
- Preparation of Members
- Internal coordination and position definition
- Timely input to decision makers
- Lobbying strategies and activities
- etc.

with limited resources!

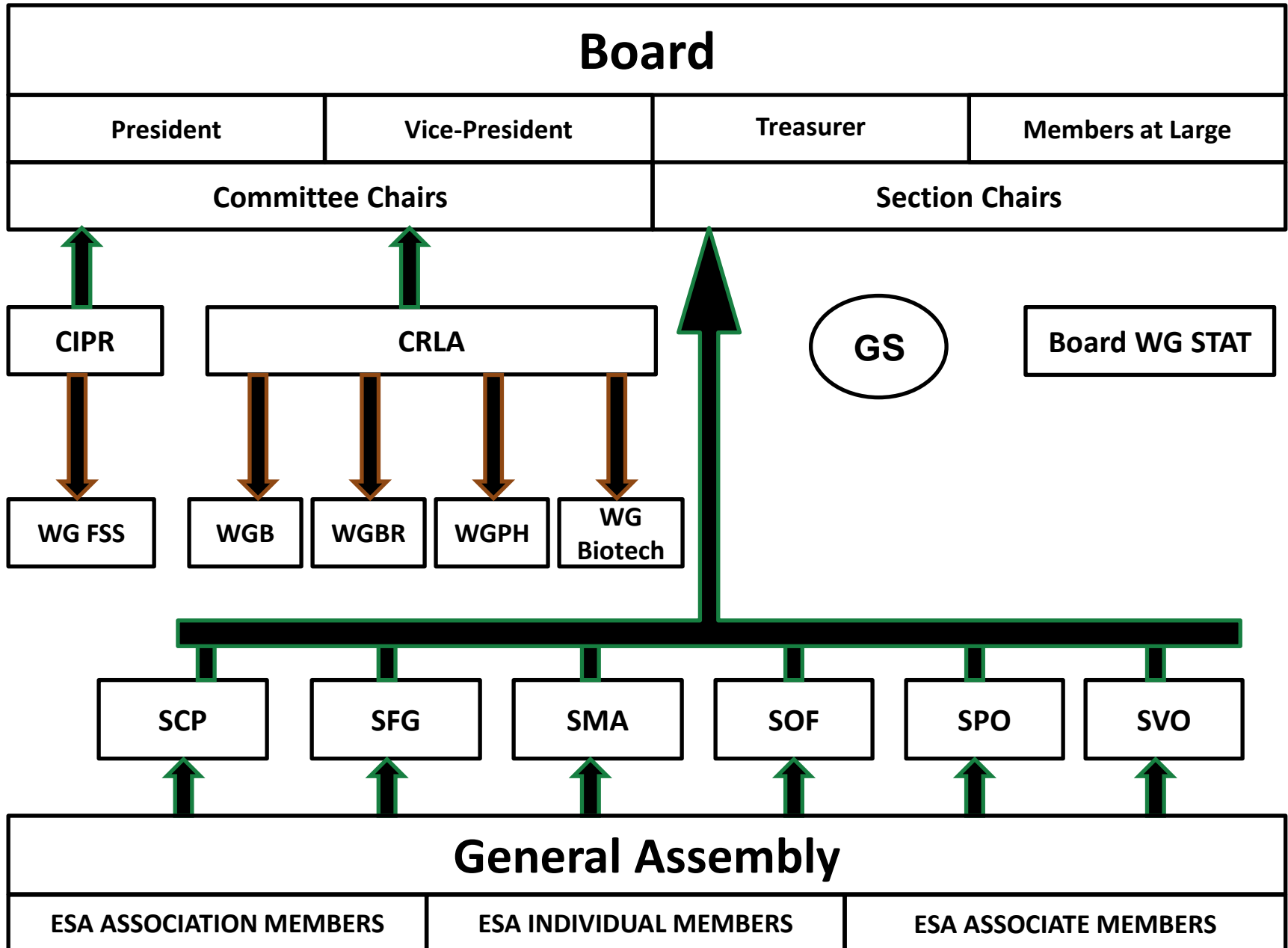


Consequences

- **Focus**
- **Avoid duplications**
- **Cooperate**



ESA's structure



Priorities 2012

- A strong and effective association
 - Work with new members in e.g. Ukraine and contact e.g. Russia (important markets with identified problems)
 - Fair and transparent processes
 - Improved information and services (Newsletter, www. etc.)
 - Effective and efficient consultation of Members



Priorities 2012

- Outreach and communication
 - Targeted approach, including public
 - Focus on network of MEPs in all Member States and relevant political groups
 - Tools (www., brochures etc.)
 - Data (seed industry information)



Priorities 2011

- Innovation and sustainability
 - Align seed industry objective(s) with EU Commission objectives
 - Innovation flagship initiatives
 - Preparation for 8th EU Framework Program for Research and & Innovation
 - Europ. Technology Platform “Plants for the Future”



Priorities 2012

Strengthen ESA Lobbying Capacity

New Secretariat team

– Additional junior Manager Public Affairs:



lobbying

- External contacts
- Internal coordination and follow-up

– Additional Manager Communications :



communication

- Media relations
- External communic. (social media, PRs, website etc.)
- Internal information (website update; Newsletter; ESA Info & Fact Sheets)

