

SESSION: EU-VCU group status

***EU-VCU GROUP
May 13th to 15th 2024
Korsør, Denmark***

Report of the working group

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- ❑ **During the 15th EU-VCU Seminar in the 2022 Pier Giacomo Bianchi (IT-CREA DC) presented the «statute» of a «sister» organization ESCAA European Seed certification Agencies»**
- ❑ **Italy prepared a first draft of the Statute for the EU-VCU group to discuss within the working sub-group**
- ❑ **The working sub-group elaborated a proposal that was presented during the 16th EU-VCU Seminar 2023**

- ❑ **As agreed at the 16th EU-VCU seminar, Italy organized a meeting before the EU-VCU seminar in May to have the opportunity to discuss within the working sub-group about the remaining questions concerning the Statute of the EU-VCU group:**
 - ❖ **articulation with the new PRM regulation**
 - ❖ **the legal framework under which the association will operate**
 - ❖ **the human and financial means necessary for the development of a website and for the Secretariat of the association**

We agreed the aspects of the Statute that give added value to our EU-VCU group:

- **consolidation of activities done during the years**
- **transparency of the activities addressed in the group**
- **country contact points**
- **library of the topics discussed in the past**
- **visibility of the EU-VCU group**
- **clear international voice that represents our activity (technical level)**
- **strengthens the harmonization in EU**
- **exchange of expertise**
- **easier way to exchange protocols/data**

-articulation with the new PRM regulation:

dealing on PMR and the proposal to have VCU also for vegetables, we asked ourselves if we should open the EU-VCU group to the vegetable's world: we postponed the debate during the meeting in Denmark 2024

-the legal framework under which the association will operate:

we agreed the association will operate at technical level to exchange different interpretations/opinions on different items, but in an informal way. It's the Ministry of each Member State involves in the official discussion as the reviewing on new PMR regulation

-the human and financial means necessary for the development of a website and for the Secretariat of the association: we would present to the next EU-VCU seminar these options:

- 1) An organization voluntarily proposes to organize the website (as happened for ESCAA)**

- 2) Group's members pay an annual fee:**
 - raise the cost of the annual EU-VCU seminar**
 - consider previously experiences (DurdusTools, Gemma)**
 - contact ESCAA to have an idea of the costs**

3) in the Statute is stated the EU-VCU group will evaluate the possibility to build up a website

4) the role of Secretariat could rotate among the group members; one possibility could be every 5 years to have more stability

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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