



European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC) Voting recommendations

Vote on the proposal on plant reproductive material (PRM), 24th April 2024

- **ECVC calls on MEPs to support the amendments adopted by the Agriculture Committee (Amendments 1 to 315)**, which bring substantial and necessary changes to the initial proposal of the European Commission on the respect of farmers' rights on seeds, and in particular the right of farmers to exchange PRM in the framework of their agricultural production, without this transfer being considered marketing. In addition, these amendments generally improve the framework for the conservation and renewal of agrobiodiversity. They also allow clearer information on intellectual property rights, and ensure that new commercial categories, aimed at introducing more diversity into the seed supply and providing to farmers PRM that is better adapted to their local cultivation conditions, do not contain patented GMOs/NGTs or are not covered by intellectual property rights, which would be contrary to their primary purpose. **However, we call to not support Amendments 11 and 170**, which propose that the quantities of PRM exchanged between farmers under Article 30 should be defined by the European Commission. ECVC opposes this because it is more appropriate for Member States to be able to define the quantities of PRM exchanged according to their national context. ECVC recommended that the quantities should correspond to the needs of a small professional farmer, whose definition falls within the scope of the Member States.
- **In addition, ECVC calls to support amendments 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 335, 337, 346** which complement the amendments adopted by the Agriculture Committee on the implementation of farmers' rights, the conservation and renewal of agrobiodiversity, and the prohibition of GMOs/NGTs in certain categories (heterogeneous materials, conservation varieties), which would conflict with the primary aim of these categories. **Moreover, these amendments introduce an opt-out clause (amendments 322, 330)**, which is necessary to ensure that Member States can prohibit the use of a harmful variety. This is essential to ensure the principle of subsidiarity, and moreover, this provision exists in all the current seed marketing directives.
- **On the other hand, ECVC calls to vote against amendments 336, 344, 347, 349, 350 and 351, which seek to restrict farmers' right to exchange PRM between each other, limiting this provision to the exchange of seeds.** This limitation is not justified, either in terms of EU's international obligations on farmers' rights, or in terms of plant health concerns. Exchange between farmers of PRM will remain subject to the plant health rules applying to agricultural production, guaranteeing the safety of such exchange. Furthermore, limiting farmers' right to exchange PRM would have a negative impact on the renewal of agrobiodiversity practised by farmers. **ECVC also calls to vote against amendment 345, which seeks to limit the concept of dynamic conservation to Article 29.** This is not justified because the dynamic conservation or dynamic management of PRM on the farm is an integral part of the PRM exchange practices between farmers. **Finally, concerning dynamic conservation, ECVC calls to vote against amendments 352 and 353.**