



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Development

2012/0279(NLE)

30.5.2013

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity

(COM(2012)0577 – C7-0000/2013 – 2012/0279(NLE))

Rapporteur: Catherine Grèze

PA_Leg_Consent

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which was finalised during the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992, laid down the following principles in its Article 15:

- states have sovereign rights over their biological resources,
- access to genetic resources requires prior informed consent and shall be granted on mutually agreed terms,
- benefits arising from the use of genetic resources shall be shared in a fair and equitable way with the country providing the resources.

The CBD also referred to the traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities on the use of biological resources and to equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of such knowledge.

The CBD did, however, have little effect on actual practices. A decade after the CBD's entry into force, negotiations on a protocol on access to genetic resources and fair and equitable benefit-sharing started. These negotiations were concluded in 2010 and resulted in the Nagoya Protocol, which the EU and all the EU Member States have now signed.

The Nagoya Protocol contains provisions that aim to establish more predictable conditions for access to genetic resources; ensure benefit-sharing between users and providers of genetic resources and finally, to ensure that only legally acquired genetic resources are used in respect of Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT). On this ground, the Nagoya Protocol is an important tool to combat biopiracy.

More than two decades after the finalisation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, it is high time to put in place a framework for implementation of its principles on access to genetic resources and fair and equitable benefit-sharing, while contributing to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components, in accordance with the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In light of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held in October 2014 in South Korea, this requires quick ratification and entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol and the adoption of an EU regulation implementing this protocol.

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, as the committee responsible, to propose that Parliament give its consent.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	28.5.2013
Result of final vote	+: 22 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Thijs Berman, Corina Crețu, Véronique De Keyser, Charles Goerens, Mikael Gustafsson, Eva Joly, Filip Kaczmarek, Gay Mitchell, Bill Newton Dunn, Andreas Pitsillides, Maurice Ponga, Jean Roatta, Alf Svensson, Keith Taylor, Ivo Vajgl, Anna Záborská, Iva Zanicchi
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Eric Andrieu, Philippe Boulland, Emer Costello, Isabella Lövin, Cristian Dan Preda