



CC/88/7

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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

Geneva

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Eighty-Eighth Session Geneva, October 15, 2014

UPOV DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

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1. This document provides an update on the running of the UPOV distance learning courses in 2014 and 2015, and presents a proposal for students to have an option to study the DL-305 course in a single session.

BACKGROUND

2. An explanation of the UPOV distance learning courses, including their content and registration requirements is provided in document CC/87/6 "UPOV distance learning courses".
3. Document CC/87/6, considered by the Consultative Committee at eighty-seventh session, held in Geneva on April 11, 2014, explained that in accordance with the comments received during the trial run of the DL-305 course, it was proposed to split the DL-305 course "Examination of Applications for Plant Breeders' Rights" into two separate courses. The aim of the split was to enable participants to study the courses at different times, according to their expertise and experience, and to provide courses with a similar study time to the distance learning course DL-205 "Introduction to the UPOV System of Plant Variety Protection Under the UPOV Convention" (36 hours), instead of the 70 hours indicated for the single course.
4. The Consultative Committee, at its eighty-seventh session, held in Geneva on April 11, 2014, agreed to the separation of the DL-305 course into two separate courses, DL-305A "Administration of Plant Breeders' Rights" and DL-305B "DUS Examination", and approved the program for distance learning courses in 2014 to 2015, as follows:

March 31 to May 11, 2014	DL-305 single course (English only)
May 5 to June 8, 2014	DL-205 (E, F, G, S)
October 6 to November 9, 2014	DL-205 (E, F, G, S)
February/March 2015	DL-305A (E, F, S)
April/May 2015	DL-305B (E, F, S)
October/November 2015	DL-205 (E, F, G, S)

DL-305 OPTIONS

5. A total of 85 students completed the DL-305 single course from March 31 to May 11, 2014. The feedback from most students who expressed a view was that the splitting of the DL-305 course "Examination of Applications for Plant Breeders' Rights" into two separate courses was a good approach. However, a small number of students suggested that some students would wish to be able to study the course in a single session, in the way that they had done.

6. On the above basis, the Office of the Union will make it possible to study the DL-305 course in a single session, or in two separate sessions, according to the following program in 2015:

October 6 to November 9, 2014	DL-205	(E,F,G,S)
February/March 2015	DL-305A	(E,F,S) "Administration of Plant Breeders' Rights"
April/May 2015	DL-305B	(E,F,S) "DUS Examination"
	DL-305	(E,F,S) "Examination of Applications for Plant Breeders' Rights"

7. *The Consultative Committee is invited to note the plans for the organization of the DL-305 course and the forthcoming program for distance learning courses in 2014 and 2015.*

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