



CC/85/8

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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

Geneva

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**Eighty-Fifth Session
Geneva, March 22, 2013**

UPOV DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

1. The purpose of this document is to provide an update on the development of the advanced distance learning course DL-305 "Examination of Applications for Plant Breeders' Rights" (DL-305). The background to DL-305 is provided in document CC/84/3.

2. The Consultative Committee, at its eighty-fourth session, held in Geneva, on October 31, 2012, considered document CC/84/3 "UPOV Distance Learning Course". It noted that DL-305 would contain an additional module on "Trial Design and Data Analysis" and approved the plans for the launch of the advanced distance learning course DL-305, as set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of document CC/84/3. The Consultative Committee also noted that a Memorandum of Understanding and a Letter of Understanding would be signed between UPOV and Naktuinbouw for the development of the modules in Section IV "DUS Examination" (see document CC/84/13 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraphs 40 to 42).

3. In response to expressions of interest from members of the Union, the timetable set out in document CC/84/3 has been modified in order to provide additional time for input from interested experts before the test version is uploaded to the WIPO Academy platform. The latest timetable anticipates completion of the draft modules by the end of February 2013, at which time the draft modules will be circulated for comments and input by those UPOV experts that have expressed a willingness to comment and to provide additional information. Those experts will be given 6 to 8 weeks in which to provide their comments. On that basis, it is planned that a test version of DL-305 in Word format and in English only, will be uploaded to the WIPO Academy platform in May 2013. A trial run of the course in English would then be conducted with experts from members of the Union in June/July 2013.

4. Subject to a satisfactory trial run, a first running of DL-305 in English would be offered on the UPOV website at the end of 2013 and, in parallel, DL-305 would be translated into French, German and Spanish. The first running of DL-305 in French, German and Spanish would then be offered on the UPOV website in 2014.

5. *The Consultative Committee is invited to note the plans for the launch of the advanced distance learning course DL-305 "Examination of Applications for Plant Breeders' Rights", as set out in paragraphs 2 to 4 of this document.*

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