

CPVO decision of 27 April 2020 concerning the extension of time limits

On 27 April 2020 the President of the Community Plant Variety Office took a new [Decision](#) concerning the extension of time limits for proceedings before the CPVO.

The [Decision](#) is applicable as of 4 May 2020 and concerns the deadlines for the payment of the annual fee (*Article 9 fees regulation*) and the payment of examinations fees (*Article 8 fees regulation*). Any other time limits regarding proceedings with the CPVO are not affected by this decision.

In practice users are encouraged to pay all invoices for annual fees and fees for technical examinations within the normal deadlines. However, if a user is unable to pay the mentioned fee(s) he/she will have three months to pay it from the date of the reminder, instead of one month in normal times. The extension of these time limits shall apply to outstanding debit notes with a due date for payment until 21 September 2020 included.

As regards requests for the postponement of submitting plant material for DUS tests, the Office will assess such requests bearing in mind that users may face severe limitations to their activities and communications capabilities across the EU and world-wide.

“The covid19 pandemic is certainly the biggest disruptor of the century for businesses across Europe, and in specific for SMEs. The CPVO acknowledges the difficult situation for the whole plant breeding sector. Breeders, in particular in the ornamental sector, have been hit directly, and their business activities have been severely hampered and jeopardized”, said Martin Ekvad, President of CPVO.

“In these extraordinary circumstances, the CPVO has decided to adopt a more lenient approach as regards the deadlines of payment for annual fees and examination fees – which are extended to three months. We hope that this decision will enable breeders to maintain their plant variety right titles in force and will relieve some unnecessary stress, so that they can keep innovating and producing new plant varieties for the benefit of society. We will also continue to be lenient when deciding on the requests for the extensions of time limits to submit plant material for DUS tests”, he concluded.

Video message from CPVO President, Martin Ekvad

[embedded content]

Documents

You can read or/and download the following documents in English – please note

that additional language versions will be made available on 4 May:

Background

A [Decision of the President of 24 March 2020 as amended on 6 April 2020](#), was taken with the aim of extending time limits expiring between 17 March 2020 and 3 May 2020 inclusive in the context of the coronavirus outbreak.

On 27 April 2020 the President took a new Decision ([the Decision](#)) on the extension of time limits in proceedings before the CPVO which enters into force on 4 May 2020 regarding the payment of fees for technical examinations and of annual fees, pursuant to Article 8 and 9 of Commission Regulation (EC) 1238/95 (the [Fees Regulation](#)). As from the date of entry into force, this Decision repeals and replaces completely the previous decision.

The Office will continue to send debit notes for the aforementioned fees and applicants are encouraged to pay their fees in due time. However, for all outstanding debit notes regarding annual fees or examination fees with a due date for payment until 21 September 2020 inclusive, that have not been settled in due time, the Office will send a reminder with a three months deadline to pay the fee. Until the end of this three-month period, the Office will not launch the related procedure for cancellation of titles due to unpaid annual fees. Accordingly, the Office will not cancel the arrangements for a technical examination, or stop any ongoing technical examination or launch a procedure for the refusal of applications before the said three-month deadline has expired.

In addition, plant material submissions for the commencement of DUS testing work at examination offices that are due before 21 September 2020 may be delayed upon request for one year (request to be made to the CPVO before the submission deadline). If technically feasible however, a delay can be granted for a short period of time which would allow the DUS test to be conducted in the current growing period.

An updated [Explanatory Note](#) is available in English and will be available in several languages at the beginning of May to provide further guidance on the time limits affected by the aforementioned extension, the nature of the extension and the measures to adapt communications sent to users.

[Press release – The situation in Libya and on the migration route to Europe](#)



Civil Liberties MEPs will hear about the conditions that thousands of migrants and asylum-seekers stranded in Libya are facing, often in locked camps and lacking the most basic provisions. They will also look into the situation at sea, following the [establishment of the EU naval Operation Irini](#), which on 1 April succeeded Operation Sophia.

[According to UNHCR](#), so far this year, 3,277 persons have arrived in Italy by sea, and 1,135 in Malta, significantly lower figures than those arriving in Spain (4,934) and Greece (7,569).

The fate of migrants and asylum-seekers attempting to reach European shores from Libya has become even more uncertain due to COVID-19 and the recent decisions by the Italian and Maltese authorities to declare their own ports “unsafe” because of the pandemic, preventing people rescued at sea from landing. Authorities in [Libya have also blocked disembarkations](#) due to the heavy shelling taking place around Tripoli.

Most MEPs and invited speakers will attend the meeting remotely.

When: Monday, 27 April, from 16.00 to 18.00.

Where: European Parliament in Brussels, Jozsef Antall 202, and remotely.

Check the [full agenda and speakers list](#). You can [follow the discussion live](#).

[Coronavirus: EU-OSHA issues guidance for a safe return to the workplace](#)



The coronavirus outbreak shows the critical importance of sound occupational safety and health measures and conditions in all sectors of activity.

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) has published guidance for workplaces, compiling the most significant information and advice available on the coronavirus outbreak.

The guidance covers several areas:

- Risk assessment and appropriate measures
- Involving workers
- Taking care of workers who have been ill
- Planning and learning for the future
- Staying well informed
- Information for sectors and occupations

Speaking on the publishing of the guidance, **European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, Nicolas Schmit**, said:

Today, more than ever, it is very clear that protecting and promoting occupational safety and health is of the utmost importance for workers, companies, social protection systems and the whole society. This guidance provides answers to practical questions that employers have, for instance on how to minimise exposure to coronavirus in the workplace, how to update their risk assessment, taking care of workers who have been ill. It will help employers and businesses in managing the return to work and in providing practical advice to the staff.

More information

[CoR SEDEC Bulletin No. 2: Updates on the COVID-19 crisis](#)



Brexit content disclaimer

The European Committee of the Regions is in the process of updating some of the content on this website in the light of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union. If the site contains content that does not yet reflect the withdrawal of the United Kingdom, it is unintentional and will be addressed.

Article – Coming up: economic impact Covid-19, agriculture, tyre labelling



Although in many cases MEPs will be participating remotely, committees are continuing their work.

Coronavirus

The economic affairs committee will discuss the economic impact and response to the Covid-19 outbreak with Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President for An Economy that Works for People, and Paolo Gentiloni, Commissioner for Economy, on Monday.

The transport committee will discuss the response to the Covid-19 crisis in the transport sector with Commissioner Adina-Ioana Vălean, on Monday.

Agriculture and fisheries

On Tuesday the agriculture committee will vote on transitional measures to support the agriculture sector through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund from 1 January

2021.

During its meeting on Thursday, the fisheries committee will consider recommendations on the negotiations for a new partnership with the UK.

Transport

Also on Tuesday, the internal market committee votes on plans to update the labelling of tyres to make it easier for consumer to find out information about fuel efficiency and other essential parameters.

Foreign affairs

On Monday the civil liberties committee discusses the situation in Libya and how it affects efforts by migrants and asylum seekers to use the country to enter the EU irregularly.

Also that day, the security and defence committee will look into arms exports, artificial intelligence as well as EU-African security cooperation in the Sahel region, West Africa and the Horn of Africa.