Report from the ExCo on progress made during Phase IX
Highlights and recommendations for Phase X

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Outcome 1 – AEGIS is operational. Accessions in AEGIS are characterized and evaluated

Gaps in the membership of AEGIS

• The ECPGR members not yet members of AEGIS are urged to prepare for the signing of the MoU before the end of December 2018.

• Additional AEGIS members are encouraged to complete Associate Member Agreements with relevant institutions within their countries before the end of December 2018.
Slow progress with inclusion of accessions into the European Collection

- A target of 35% of the EURISCO accessions to be included in the European Collection should be settled. The target could be divided into at least 7% accomplishment each year during Phase X. The 35% target should be applied to each collection of AMs. A consequence of this will be that the number of newly identified accessions will vary greatly both between and within countries.

The process of flagging has not been working satisfactorily

- The National Focal Points should be encouraged to report the reasons for not flagging accessions which have been proposed as AEGIS candidates by the WGs.
Only very few AMs have completed their genebank manuals

- In those cases where the language is an obstacle for finalization of the genebank manuals of AMs, members of AEGIS having a common language are encouraged to support each other with translation into the English language.

- All AMs should complete their gene bank manuals during Phase X.

Only half of the WGs have so far developed crop-specific standards

- The WGs should be given a deadline for the finalization of the crop-specific standards.
A peer/mentorship-review for the implementation of satisfactory management principles

- NCs are encouraged to promote for the implementation of a peer/mentorship-review system of operations of AM collections.

- Where possible, countries should offer in-kind contributions to others when training and capacity building needs have been identified through the anticipated peer/mentorship-review system.
The flagging of AEGIS accessions by individual AMs is hampered

• To investigate needs and obstacles among AMs hampering the flagging of AEGIS accessions.

In-kind services offered and needed

• To prepare a register of AMs offering services to others.

• An inventory of training and capacity building needs should be prepared based on the results from the anticipated peer/mentorship-review.
Outcome 2 – Quantity and quality of data in EURISCO, including *in situ* and on-farm data, have been increased. Functionality of EURISCO meets users’ expectations.

The uploading process of C&E data is still not working satisfactorily in many cases due to communication problems between WG members and National Focal Points.

- The WG members should be requested to actively contact their respective NFP when C&E data are ready to be uploaded into EURISCO.
Outcome 4 – Commitment and regular resources of national governments are sustained or increased, and commitments and resources of the European Commission (EC) as well as other potential donors towards ECPGR are increased.

Voluntary funding would increase the amount of WG activities

- NCs are encouraged to search all opportunities for voluntary contributions to ECPGR. Even the smallest contribution will be of value, e.g. increase of the travel budget for ECPGR meetings or a contribution for a specific activity.
Should ECPGR investigate the possibilities of becoming a European Research Infrastructures (ERIC)?

• NCs are requested to consider whether it would be likely for ECPGR to become an ERIC and if so, how the process should be carried out.
Outcome 4 (cont.)

ECPGR communication strategy

• Request the Task Force to finalize the communication strategy in line with the proposed revisions from the SC.

• Endorse the communication strategy after discussion and revisions made accordingly.
Outcome 5 – Relations with users of germplasm are strengthened

The European Evaluation Network: a long-term commitment

• NCs should promote the continuation of the European Evaluation Network and search for additional funding. Even if it is intended to be self-funded to a large extent there will be need for additional money, which will contribute to ensure a long-term activity.