

## **Agenda Item 5 -A**

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Proposal for a Steering Committee sub-group on the impact of scientific and political changes on the management and networking of PGRFA within ECP/GR

*Introduced by Martin Smith*

It is proposed to begin a review of the impact of continuing scientific and political changes on the management and networking of PGRFA within the ECP/GR.

Plant science, breeding and agriculture are undergoing major and radical changes as we enter the period of post genomics and bioinformatics, which are changing the manner and speed of scientific and genetic investigations. The move towards multi-functionality within European agriculture and the social and economic climate for environmentally sustainable forms of farming and the utilisation of PGRFA are also key indicators. The management and utilisation of PGRFA collections must try to keep up with the changing needs of these new technologies and their potentials, otherwise there is the risk that their relevance and use will be increasingly compromised. The political framework is also changing with the implementation of the CBD and the, hopeful, conclusion to the negotiations to revise the IU. A review of the potential impact of these and other changes to ensure that the ECP/GR programme uses its limited resources to best effect is considered useful. The results of this review could be timetabled to feed into the considerations for Phase VII. A small sub-group of the Steering Committee could be nominated to take this work forward.

*The Steering Committee is expected to decide on:*

- *Establishment of an ad hoc sub-group made of 3-4 of its members*
- *Terms of reference for the group; mode of operation; time frame and expected result.*
- *Need to use funds the ECP/GR budget (small technical meeting)*