



**ROYAL NORWEGIAN  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD**

*The Minister*

International Union for the Protection of  
New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)  
34, chemin des Colombettes  
CH-1211 Genève 20  
Switzerland

Your ref

Our ref

2010/1175 - 1

Date

19.08.2010

**OBSERVER STATUS TO APBREBES AND ECVC**

*Norway wishes hereby to express our support in granting observer status to the Association for Plant Breeding for the Benefit of Society (APBREBES) and the European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC). Their applications will be decided at the next meeting of the Consultative Committee at October 20, 2010.*

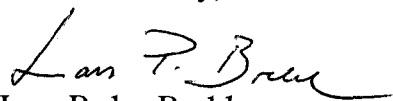
*We recall the decision of the Consultative Committee at its seventy-eight session, which was held in Geneva on October 21 and 22, 2009: "The Consultative Committee agreed that, in accordance with Section I, paragraph 2 of the 'Rules Governing the Granting of Observer Status to States, Intergovernmental Organisations and International Non-Governmental Organizations in UPOV Bodies and Access to UPOV Documents', as set out in Annex to document C/39/13, the request of APBREBES for the granting of observer status to the Council, the CAJ and the TC could not be considered further until it demonstrated its 'competance in areas of direct relevance in respect of matters governed by the UPOV Convention'."*

*Norway knows well APBREBES and ECVC, particularly from work in FAO and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Furthermore, one of the member organizations of APBREBES (the Development Fund) has been advisor in the Norwegian delegation to UPOV since March 2008.*

We believe that a well balanced group of observers, representing all relevant stakeholders, would be supportive for the work of UPOV. Today, farmers' groups and organisations with knowledge and experience on agricultural biodiversity and food security are not adequately represented. The accreditation of APBREBES and ECVC

would therefore be an important step to enable the Organisation to cope with future challenges.

Yours sincerely,

  
Lars Peder Brekk