



Script for calls from diversity supporters for the European Parliament's plenary vote

1. **Hello, my name is XX, I am** a citizen from XZ, farmer, gardener, conservationist, etc.
2. **I am calling about the vote on the EU Seed Law Regulation on April 24.**
(Full name: "Regulation on the production and marketing of plant reproductive material")
3. **Are you responsible for this in your team or can you forward me to the person responsible?**
4. **The vote is particularly important (to me) because...** (add personal reason, e.g. I want to save old varieties, climate-friendly agriculture is important to me, I grow rare varieties, as a citizen I want diversity on my plate, I am concerned about the concentration on the seed market, I want to support small seed companies and buy from them, ...)
5. **The report from the Committee on Agriculture is a step in the right direction for crop diversity** (more specifically, if you like: It protects the preservation of crop diversity and strengthens regional seed production).

As a citizen, gardener, farmer, it is important to me that the EU Parliament adopts the report in the vote on April 24.

6. **The report of the Committee on Agriculture must not be undermined. For example, the possibilities for conservation work must not be deleted.**
7. **Will Mr./Ms. XY (Name of MEP) support the entire report?**
8. **Brief goodbye** - thank them for the conversation and perhaps repeat again why you find the topic important, perhaps mention that you are following the topic, that the topic can influence your vote in the European elections, etc.



Additional information for interested supporters – not necessary for a call!

What exactly is the regulation about?

The regulation creates the rules for the exchange and sale of seeds and other propagating material for plants (e.g. onions, fruit, etc.) in the EU. In other words, whether conservation organisations are allowed to give old varieties to farmers and who has to fulfil how many bureaucratic requirements for the sale of seeds. ARCHE NOAH advocates for activities related to saving crop diversity to remain outside the regulation (it is not about commercial value), for farmers to be allowed to exchange and sell their seeds, and for diversity varieties to have a chance alongside industrial seeds.

If you would like to discuss the content of the regulation more in detail, here are two specific concerns from the aforementioned report by the Committee on Agriculture – which is why it is very important that MEPs vote in favour of it:

- It must remain possible to pass on small quantities of seed without restriction through the regulation for the purpose of conservation of agro-biodiversity. This is about saving varieties, not about the seed market! The report from the Agriculture Committee would make this possible, but the industry is now calling for this to be banned. Protect the circulation of diversity in small quantities, as provided for in the report.
- Farmers' rights are important! They must be allowed to exchange and sell their seeds. The report from the Committee on Agriculture respects this right. This right is also enshrined in international law (UNDROP - the UN Declaration on the Rights of Small Farmers and Other People Working in Rural Areas).

The industry's most common counter-arguments:

- **"Poor quality" of diverse seeds?**
No! Diverse seeds have many, often simply different quality characteristics than industrial seeds, e.g. adaptability to local or changing climate conditions!
- **Diversity varieties would not be "healthy"?**
That's not what the vote in April is about! The strict rules of the EU Plant Health Regulation continue to apply, even if the transfer of seeds is not regulated by the new EU seed legislation.

