

+++ Phone protest now +++



Dear Sir or Madam,

we have an urgent request: Help us with a phone call to convince the Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) of the importance of an EU seed law which promotes diversity!

Why now? On 24 April, next Wednesday, the plenary of the European Parliament will vote on improvements to the new EU seed law that have been the subject of intense negotiation. **We know that personal calls from citizens are taken seriously by MEPs! Please give us your time!**



WHY YOUR SUPPORT IS IMPORTANT NOW

Get in touch with your MEP

Despite strong opposition from corporate interests, so many of our proposals for more diversity have passed every hurdle in the legislative process. On 19 March, the Agriculture Committee of the European Parliament voted in favour of seed diversity, after the Environment Committee had already done so a week earlier. Although more could still be done, the text proposed by the Agriculture Committee is a valuable compromise to solve the most important problems in the proposal. The task now is to **get the draft law confirmed in the upcoming plenary session without negative changes**, so that it can then be negotiated in the triilogue between the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers in the autumn.

But there are numerous dangers lurking:

- Up to one week before the vote, new **amendments** can be tabled.
- Up to three days before the vote, so-called "**split votes**" can be requested in order to vote on individual parts of the law separately.
- There is a possibility that **MEPs will not follow the recommendation of the specialised committees (agriculture, environment)** but the recommendations of their parties or their national governments.
- The **agribusiness lobby** is calling MEPs with spurious arguments to vote against the diversity-promoting text of the Agriculture Committee.

Our message to MEPs is: Vote for diversity and support the text of the Agriculture Committee.

YOUR CALL MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

Tips for making calls

We have put together a conversation guide as well as a list of key MEPs and their telephone numbers. First things first: MEPs and their staff are used to being contacted by citizens. This is part of their job. Some tips:

- You will find **around 30 contacts in our list of MEPs to be contacted in English. Select a few, e.g. starting with those whose surname begins with the same letter as yours.** This ensures that everyone has an equal chance of being contacted. Some MEPs are highlighted in colour, these are particularly important due to their position - please contact them first.
- **Don't be discouraged if someone doesn't pick up the phone on the first attempt.** The second or third time it will definitely work!
- It is usually not possible to speak to the MEPs themselves. In that case talk to their assistant instead.
- Contact the parliamentarians' offices **until 19 April on the Brussels number!** From 22 April, you can either reach them on the Strasbourg number or continue to contact staff on the Brussels number. Monday to Thursday during office hours is the best time to reach someone.
- Whether you only have 15 minutes, an hour, or even more: **Every call helps!**



Wishing you good conversations and sending warm regards from Brussels!

Magdalena Prieler
ARCHE NOAH Seed Policy Officer

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.

Gender	First Name	Last Name	Country code	Parliamentary Group	Office Brussels	Office Strasbourg
F	Mazaly	AGUILAR	es	Conservative and Reformists Group	003 222 847 793	033 388 175 793
F	Clara	AGUILERA	es	Socialists and Democrats	003 222 847 783	033 388 175 783
M	Daniel	BUDA	ro	European People's Party	003 222 847 110	033 388 175 110
M	Asger	CHRISTENSEN	dk	Renew	003 222 847 335	033 388 175 335
M	Dacian	CIOLOȘ	ro	Renew	003 222 847 678	033 388 175 678
M	Christophe	CLERGEAU	fr	Socialists and Democrats	003 222 847 170	033 388 175 170
M	Ivan	DAVIDentity and Democracy Group	cz	Identity and Democracy Group	003 222 847 712	033 388 175 712
M	Paolo	DE CASTRO	it	Socialists and Democrats	003 222 847 520	033 388 175 520
M	Jérémy	DECERLE	fr	Renew	003 222 847 291	033 388 175 291
M	Bas	EICKHOUT	nl	Greens/EFA	003 222 847 365	033 388 175 365
M	Luke Ming	FLANAGAN	ie	The Left Group	003 222 847 238	033 388 175 238
F	Iratxe	GARCÍA PÉREZ	es	Socialists and Democrats	003 222 847 646	033 388 175 646
F	Anja	HAZEKAMP	nl	The Left Group	003 222 847 629	033 388 175 629
M	Jan	HUITEMA	nl	Renew	003 222 847 131	033 388 175 131
M	Krzysztof	JURGIEL	pl	Conservative and Reformists Group	003 222 847 351	033 388 175 351
F	Elsi	KATAINEN	fi	Renew	003 222 847 361	033 388 175 361
F	Camilla	LAURETI	it	Socialists and Democrats	003 222 847 039	033 388 175 039

M	Gilles	LEBRETON	fr	Identity and Democracy Group	003 222 847 817	033 388 175 817
F	Silvia	MODIG	fi	The Left Group	003 222 847 785	033 388 175 785
M	Bert-Jan	RUISEN	nl	Conservative and Reformists Group	003 222 847 155	033 388 175 155
F	Silvia	SARDONE	it	Identity and Democracy Group	003 222 847 757	033 388 175 757
F	Irène	TOLLERET	fr	Renew	003 222 847 243	033 388 175 243
M	Nils	TORVALDS	fi	Renew	003 222 847 585	033 388 175 585
F	Hilde	VAUTMANS	be	Renew	003 222 847 661	033 388 175 661
M	Alexandr	VONDRA	cz	Conservative and Reformists Group	003 222 847 483	033 388 175 483
F	Veronika	VRECIANOVA	cz	Conservative and Reformists Group	003 222 847 303	033 388 175 303
F	Emma	WIESNER	se	Renew	003 222 847 867	033 388 175 867

Priority
MEP