



INTERBULL Centre
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
P.O. Box 7023
SE-750 07 Uppsala, Sweden
Phone: +46 18 672098
e-mail: Toine.Roozen@slu.se

Uppsala, 9 July 2017

To whom it may concern,

Subject: Governance of the Interbull Centre

The Interbull Centre has been the EU Reference Body for Bovine Genetics since 1996. During this period, the Interbull Centre has been governed as described in the application recently submitted by Jordburksverket and the Interbull Centre.

The Interbull Centre is strongly related with three distinct institutions:

1. The Interbull Centre is a section of the Department of Animal Breeding and Genetics of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU).
2. The Interbull Centre has been contracted by ICAR to be the operational unit for ICAR's permanent subcommittee "Interbull" and the ICAR working group "Interbeef".
3. In 1996 the Interbull Centre was designated as the European Union's Reference Body "responsible for collaborating in rendering uniform the testing methods and the assessment of the results for pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species" (EURL-Z).

As such, the Interbull Centre is governed by SLU, ICAR and the EU, and has three roles:

- 1- *the Interbull Centre's role as the EURL-Z*
- 2- *the Interbull Centre's role as the operational unit of Interbull*
- 3- *the Interbull Centre's role as a research unit within a university*

The most important aspect of the Interbull Centre's governance of its role as the EU Reference Centre, are the Interbull Centre's EURL-Z activities as described in the EURC Work Plans as submitted to, and approved and verified by, DG SANTE.

With regards to the Interbull Centre's role as EU Reference Centre and as the operational unit of Interbull: The Interbull Terms of Reference (in place since 2004) define (amongst others) that:

- *"The members of the Interbull Steering Committee are appointed by ICAR."*
- *"The Interbull steering committee has up to nine (9) members of whom six shall come from Europe, two North America and one Oceania."*

The requirements for the EU Reference Centre state that the EU Centre has to collaborate with international organisations, among them ICAR is named. International organisations such as ICAR, its sub-committee Interbull, the Interbull Centre, and many of its member organisations consider it very important that standards and criteria are set globally in order to have well functioning international genetic and genomic evaluations. This is important both for the European standards, and for the continued import and export of genetic materials into and out of the European Union, which are both (economically) very important to the EU, and the EU cattle industry. It is therefore also important that the committees setting such rules and guidelines are representing the global industry/membership.

We have been asked by the French representative of the ICAR board, Laurent Journaux, on behalf of the French Ministry of Agriculture to clarify the governance of the EU Reference Centre: The current composition of the Interbull steering committee guarantees that the majority of the members come from Europe. It is commonly agreed amongst the countries representing the majority of dairy cattle in Europe that:

- No organisation or individual from outside Europe should dictate rules in Europe concerning performance testing and genetic evaluation.
- The big players from outside Europe need to adapt to these rules much more if they have been involved when these have been created.

In line with this, the Interbull Centre's functioning as the EU reference body (and in the future the EU Reference Centre) has been a long-running reason for the majority of Interbull Steering Committee members representing Europe (currently 6 out of 9).

I hope that the above clarifies our current position and that it finds your support of being a logical implementation with the best interest of the EU and the European cattle (breeding) industry at heart.

But most of all, I'd like to emphasise that the Interbull Centre's activities are governed by a steering committee whose membership comes by majority from Europe, and that furthermore its EURC Work Plans are agreed upon with DG SANTE.

Yours sincerely,

Toine Roozen
Interbull Centre Director

