

(3) Any member State of the Union may provide measures to protect the breeder against abusive acts of third parties committed during the period between the filing of the application for protection and the decision thereon.

Article 8

Period of Protection

The right conferred on the breeder shall be granted for a limited period. This period may not be less than fifteen years, computed from the date of issue of the title of protection. For vines, forest trees, fruit trees and ornamental trees, including, in each case, their rootstocks, the period of protection may not be less than eighteen years, computed from the said date.

Article 9

Restrictions in the Exercise of Rights Protected

(1) The free exercise of the exclusive right accorded to the breeder may not be restricted otherwise than for reasons of public interest.

(2) When any such restriction is made in order to ensure the widespread distribution of the variety, the member State of the Union concerned shall take all measures necessary to ensure that the breeder receives equitable remuneration.

Article 10

Nullity and Forfeiture of the Rights Protected

(1) The right of the breeder shall be declared null and void, in accordance with the provisions of the national law of each member State of the Union, if it is established that the conditions laid down in Article 6 (1) (a) and (b) were not effectively complied with at the time when the title of protection was issued.

(2) The right of the breeder shall become forfeit when he is no longer in a position to provide the competent authority with reproductive or propagating material capable of producing the variety with its characteristics as defined when the protection was granted.

(3) The right of the breeder may become forfeit if:
(a) after being requested to do so and within a prescribed period, he does not provide the competent