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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 22 FEBRUARY 2018 - 23 FEBRUARY 2018
(Section *Plant Health*)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/e6aacc8a-43cc-421e-a419-c3f5e3f1455a>

A.01 Evaluation of recent import interceptions with harmful organisms by Member States and the need for further actions.

An overview was given of the interceptions from 22 January to 15 February 2018.

The Commission highlighted the interceptions of *Anoplophora glabripennis* on wood packaging material from China, *Spodoptera frugiperda*, false codling moth (*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*) on mainly *Rosa* cut flowers from Africa and *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* on carrot seeds. Some Member States raised concerns about the large number of interceptions of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* and highlighted the need to review the reduced frequencies applied for some of the commodities concerned. The Commission indicated that the new import requirements on *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* were put in place quite recently. The situation is monitored closely in order to assess whether action needs to be taken in the future. NL presented their experiences with the interceptions of false codling moth on *Rosa*.

The Commission informed about the bilateral contacts with South Africa, who announced 2 additional procedures against citrus black spot for the 2018 citrus export season: a close monitoring of the spraying programme and a final inspection as close to the harvest date as possible. The risk management system (RMS) has been updated accordingly to include these two new procedures. South Africa committed to send the updated RMS in the coming weeks. The Commission also requested more detailed information about the systems approach regarding *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*. South Africa agreed to provide those details.

A.02 Evaluation of recent outbreaks of harmful organisms notified by Member States and of the control actions taken, including update of status and control of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Italy.

An overview of the outbreaks notified by Member States for the period of 16 January to 12 February 2018 was presented by the Commission. Italy presented information on the outbreaks of *Halyomorpha halys*, which is a non-regulated harmful organism in the EU. Upon discussion in the Committee it was concluded that this pest has been present in a number of Member States and for a considerable period of time and that it is not possible to regulate it as a quarantine pest. In addition, Portugal gave information on the outbreak of *Thekopsora minima*, another non-regulated organism in the EU. Upon discussion it was thought to be important to survey the EU territory

for this harmful organism, in order to have more information of its current EU distribution. Furthermore, Croatia and Germany elaborated on the outbreaks of *Thrips setosus* in their territory. As the distribution of this pest in the EU is clearer, given the EU co-financed territory surveillance of the past two years, it is important to decide whether or not legislative actions in connection to this harmful organism need to be taken. Discussion on this issue will take place in the next Committee meeting (Member States are invited to send comments).

Italy presented the survey activities carried out in Apulia for the presence of *Xylella fastidiosa*, for the period 31 July to 31 December 2017. In the buffer zone more than 11000 samples were taken for analysis from different host plants. 19 samples - all from *Olea europaea* - were found positive. Felling orders have been issued for the infected plants and the host plants within 100 meters. Within the last 20km of the infected zone more than 113000 samples have been collected and analysed. Upon analysis 2954 samples were found infected from which 2 from *Acacia* sp., 6 from *Nerium oleander* and the remaining 2946 from *Olea europaea*. On-going surveys carried out outside the demarcated area have revealed no positive cases of infection so far.

A.03 EFSA newsletter on horizon scanning for new and emerging plant health risks.

EFSA presented the eleventh pilot edition of the newsletter. The use of icons has been further adapted to visualize the information on presence in EU, on biology (including main plants affected) and on impact. Highlights from the media were reported mainly on *Agrilus planipennis*, *Anoplophora glabripennis*, *Spodoptera frugiperda* and *Xylella fastidiosa*. For the harmful organisms not listed in the EU legislation reports on the presence in new areas of *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* in Europe and *Lycorma delicatula* in USA, were included.

A.04 Presentation by the Commission of the report of the Commission Working Group for the establishment of a list of commodities to be excluded from the general requirement for phytosanitary certificate at import for all regulated plants under Article 73 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The Commission informed about the comments received from Member States since the first call for input launched in December 2016 and about the results of the activity of the 3 Working Group meetings that have been organised during the past half year.

During the working group meetings the alignment of the commodities suggested for exemption with the criteria of Annex VI of the Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 has been analysed. For each commodity suggested a discussion took place on the fulfilment of the three criteria.

Commission invited Member States to send comments within two weeks' time.

A.05 Presentation by the Commission of the report of the Commission Working Group for the establishment of a list of high risk plants that will be provisionally excluded from import into the Union until further risk analysis and risk management is carried out, under Article 42 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The Commission presented the outcome of the discussions of the 4 Working Group meetings that have been organised during the past half year. During these meetings the inputs provided by Member States have been analysed, substantiated and reasons for inclusion have been clarified. The inputs comprised commodities as plants for

planting, wood and fruits to be potentially included in the list of high risk commodities as defined in Article 42 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031. Discussion took place on the different commodities and the principles used for inclusion. The Commission invited Member States to send comments within two weeks' time.

A.06 Exchange of views on the regulatory requirements and procedure for the acceptance of electronic phytosanitary certificates at import.

The Commission explained the European legal context concerning the dematerialisation of documents and the principles guiding their proposal. A first draft of possible text was shared and explained. Questions were answered and clarifications made. A new discussion will be organised during the next Standing Committee of Plant Health section.

A.07 Results of the Commission Working Group meeting on revision of the specific conditions in the Annexes to Directive 2000/29/EC as regards Grapevine Flavescence dorée, soil and growing medium and the possible inclusion of *Phytophthora ramorum*.

The Commission presented the reports of the Annexes Working Group (AWG) as regards the harmful organisms Grapevine Flavescence dorée, soil and growing medium and *Phytophthora ramorum*. Comments were received from Member States. The Commission will now proceed to the drafting of the next amendment of the Annexes to Directive 2000/29/EC that will comprise the inclusion of new harmful organisms and the amendment of the import and internal movement requirements of already regulated harmful organisms.

A.08 Exchange of views on the specific phytosanitary requirements for a possible derogation from the import prohibition to allow the import of cuttings of *Calibrachoa* and *Petunia* (*Solanaceae*) into the Union.

The Commission informed about the request from Kenya to export cuttings of *Calibrachoa* and *Petunia* to the EU, derogating from the current ban including all Solanacea plants for planting. In reply to the Kenyan letter the Commission requested the list of all pests present in the country, relevant to the Solanacea production. A similar request may be received from Costa Rica to renew an interest already communicated many years ago but not followed up by the country. The Commission discussed with Member States the conditions to be requested to non-EU countries wishing to export these cuttings. Some Member States expressed the interest for this derogation considering it as a pilot project for allowing trade of this sensitive commodity from specific authorized non-EU countries. Some critical issues were identified, such as the conditions for testing in case of suspicious presence of viruses and the EU import requirements and certification. The Commission suggested Member States to put forward a revision of the current EPPO standard for *Petunia* production, which was released in 2002.

A.09 Exchange of views on possible emergency measures against *Geosmithia morbida* (Thousand cankers disease).

The Commission opened the discussion recalling the recent discussions on Thousand cankers and making reference to the possible measures for regulation.

Some Member States consider this pest not eligible for EU emergency measures because the first detection dates back to 2013 and because of the lack of knowledge of some specific biology features, which undermines the effectiveness of the measures to be taken. Since the first detection in Italy the situation has been worsening and in some areas eradication can no longer be achieved.

The Commission discussed on the possible way forward for regulating the commodities affected by this disease (*Juglans regia* and *Juglans nigra* in particular) and presented different options for avoiding the spread of the disease. The pest will be discussed in the Annex Working Group for a possible inclusion as a regulated organism.

The Commission highlighted that no notification of detection has been received in relation with the surveillance activity currently carried out by several Member States. The Commission also noted that since the first official detection the pest has been considered highly harmful and all the activities carried out have been in line with Article 13 of Directive 2000/29/EC. Comments of Member States are expected within 4 weeks before deciding on the way forward.

A.10 Exchange of views on the 2018 update of Regulation (EU) 707/2014 (protected zones).

The Commission presented requests received so far from Member States for modifications in the delimitation of Protected Zones, and 2017 survey reports for Protected Zones temporarily recognised until 30 April 2018. The Commission urged Member States to send in any outstanding survey report, modification request and/or background dossier as soon as possible to allow legal drafting of the new revision of Regulation (EU) No. 690/2008. The discussion will continue in the next meeting of the Committee.

A.11 Exchange of views on the implementation of the specific requirements for wood packaging material at import in the Union and follow-up of Decision 2013/92/EU.

The Commission presented the state of play of the emergency measures towards China: Decision 2013/92/EU will expire on 31 July 2018 and a new policy approach would be desirable, since no improvement in the number of some intercepted harmful organisms has been reached with the current measures.

This new approach could envisage the extension of the emergency measures until the application date of the new Plant Health Regulation, targeting non EU countries on the Europhyt alert list and extending the mandatory checks to a broader range of commodities by a minimum percentage to be established.

A possible pre-notification requirement for all the consignments coming with wood packaging material could be envisaged, under a better cooperation procedure with customs.

The Commission informed on the bilateral videoconference with China, held on 23 January 2018. The Commission committed to send to China any material for awareness raising activities produced at EU level. Some Member States informed on the difficulties to trace back their non-compliant operators based on the information provided by China on their most recent interceptions of wood packaging material from EU origin.

The Commission informed on wood packaging permanent measures envisaged under the new Official Control Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2017/625). Article 77 of the above mentioned Regulation gives the Commission the empowerment to define special control checks and actions to be taken in case of non-compliance for wood packaging material. Member States will soon be informed about the start of such discussion within the dedicated expert group.

Many Member States expressed their support to the extension of the current emergency measures, while others were more cautious and suggested to re-discuss the issue with a global approach.

The Commission will be awaiting comments and suggestions from Member States, with the aim to have this point on the agenda of one of the forthcoming PAFF meetings.

A.12 Presentation by Cyprus of the pest risk analysis of Tobacco Rattle Virus, followed by an exchange of views on the regulatory status of this organism in the Union.

An express Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) was presented by Cyprus. The PRA concluded that the most important pathway for entry of the TRV is seed potatoes but that surveys are still needed to confirm the status of TRV and its vector in Cyprus, as well as the status of Cyprus as pest free area. From the discussions following the presentation, it was concluded that Cyprus will not take any additional phytosanitary measures based on Directive 2000/29/EC, and will not ask the status of protected zone, but is interested in the revision of the potato seed certification scheme. The issue should be raised, if Cyprus considers it necessary, in the PAFF Committee Section Seeds and Propagating Material for Agriculture and Horticulture.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Community of *Spodoptera frugiperda*.

The draft Commission Implementing Decision has been presented to the Committee and a discussion took place related to the stringency and scope of the proposed measures. The Commission will reflect and present an amended draft for vote in the next Committee meeting.

Vote Postponed

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the 2018 work programme on IT tools in the field of food safety, animal health, animal welfare, plant health, and official controls in the food and feed area

The financing decision for food and feed including plant health was presented and discussed for information, it will also be presented to the Animal Health section of the PAFF Committee. Once the internal procedures of the Commission are finalised it will be proposed for vote. There were some minor questions that have been replied.