



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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 20 OCTOBER 2016 - 21 OCTOBER 2016
(Section Plant Health)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/370d99f5-9921-4705-881e-83aec4a7afc6>

A.01 Evaluation of new outbreaks of harmful organisms notified by Member States and of the control actions taken.

The Commission presented the report of the outbreaks from 22 September 2016 to 13 October 2016. Member States were requested to give a more detailed overview of highlighted outbreaks. Emphasis was put on outbreaks of non-regulated organisms, where Member States presented the quick risk assessments performed in order to assess whether specific actions are needed to be taken. It was requested by the Commission that the information on pest risk assessment is added in the outbreaks report so that all Member States are informed, avoiding duplication of work and ensuring a better degree of coordination. It was also mentioned by the Commission that at regular intervals specific discussions will take place in order to decide whether legislative actions are appropriate for non-regulated organisms for which outbreaks occur and, in some cases, for regulated organisms.

A.02 Evaluation of new import interceptions with harmful organisms by Member States and the need for further actions.

A brief overview was given of the interceptions with harmful organisms reported from 14 September to 13 October 2016. In relation to commodities originated in non-EU countries, the interception of *Xylella fastidiosa* on plants of *Pelargonium zonale* from Mexico and the citrus related interceptions were analysed in detail. Other notifications highlighted were the curry leaves from Vietnam found infested with *Diaphorina citri* and the interception of *Anthonomus eugeni* on eggplants from Dominican Republic.

A.03 Update on the state of play of *Xylella fastidiosa* within the EU and of the implementation of the EU emergency decision.

An update was provided by Italy, France and Germany on the state of play of *Xylella fastidiosa* in their respective territories. More particularly, Italy informed about the

outcome of the survey activities currently carried out in the demarcated area of Puglia, the presence of an isolated infected olive plant reported in the buffer zone and the outcome of road controls. France presented the outcome of the survey activities currently carried out in Corsica and PACA region, the epidemiological situation of *Xylella fastidiosa* in their territory and the state of play of the eradication measures implemented for *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *pauca* in the outbreak of Menton. Germany reported the presence of a new host plant (rosemary) infected by *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *fastidiosa* in the previously demarcated infected zone. They informed about the state of play of the survey activities and trace-back investigations.

A.04 Presentation by the European Food Safety Authority of the Scientific Opinions of the Panel on Plant Health, followed by an exchange of views, regarding

EFSA presented the scientific opinions adopted in September 2016 on the susceptibility of *Citrus* sp., *Quercus ilex* and *Vitis* sp. to the Apulian strain of *Xylella fastidiosa*, as well as the susceptibility of *Phoenix roebelenii* to *Xylella fastidiosa*. The Committee was informed that a discussion on the susceptibility of *Vitis* sp. to the Apulian strain of *Xylella fastidiosa* and possible revision of Decision (EU) 2015/789 would take place in the forthcoming Standing Committee meeting, allowing sufficient time to study the opinion. Concerning the susceptibility of *Phoenix roebelenii*, it was concluded that more scientific data are needed before a review can be considered concerning the status of this plant species in Decision (EU) 2015/789.

A.05 Presentation by Spain on the pest risk analysis for the Ambrosia beetle *Euwallacea* sp, followed by an exchange of views on the need of EU regulation.

Postponed.

A.06 Presentation by the Commission of the overview report of imports for scientific purposes in 2015 under Commission Directive 2008/61/EC, followed by an exchange of views on the implementation of the Directive.

Postponed.

A.07 Presentation by the Commission of the conclusions of the meeting of the EU-US Technical Working Group for Plant Health on 28-29 September 2016.

Postponed.

A.08 Presentation by the Commission of the recommendations of the Commission working group meetings concerning the listing of harmful organisms of Annex IIAII to Directive 2000/29/EC, followed by an exchange of views on the future regulatory status.

Postponed.

A.09 Presentation by the Commission of the application procedure for the 2017-2018 plant health survey programmes.

The Commission presented the first overview of the application procedure for the Surveys Programme 2017 and the files received by the Member States. Further discussion for Surveys Programme 2017 shall continue in the forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

A.10 Presentation by Poland of proposal to modification of the principles for issuing certificates which confirm the health of Polish potatoes moving into other Member States.

Poland presented its request for a change in the rules for shipping Polish potatoes to other Member States based on a risk based approach. Several Member States expressed their concern about the high level of incidence of ring rot in the Polish potato production and about potential uncontrolled trade of potatoes. Once written input from Member States is received, the Commission will evaluate the dossier and organize a follow-up discussion in the Committee.

A.11 Presentation by the Commission of the preliminary conclusions of an audit from 12 to 23 September 2016 in Italy to evaluate the situation and control of *Geosmithia morbida* (Thousand canker disease), followed by an exchange of views on the necessity of EU emergency measures.

The presentation of the preliminary conclusions of the audit was followed by a number of questions by the Member States. It was concluded that possible follow-up actions will need to be considered during a forthcoming Committee meeting.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending amending Implementing Decision 2012/535/EU as regards measures to prevent the spread within the Union of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (Steiner et Buhrer) Nickle et al. (the pine wood nematode).

Based on the outcome of the Commission's Task Force on Pine Wood Nematode, the Commission presented for exchange of views a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending some legal provisions of current emergency measures against pine wood nematode (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*). Based on Member States' comments, the Commission will propose a revised version for a possible opinion in the forthcoming Committee meeting.

Vote postponed

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Directive amending Annexes I, II, III, IV and V of Council Directive 2000/29/EC.

The draft Commission Implementing Decision was published in the Better Regulation Portal for comments from 16 September 2016 to 14 October 2016. The outcome of this consultation was presented in detail by the Commission to the Member States. An extensive discussion followed, where Member States expressed their position on various aspects of the draft. Member States were invited to send written comments as well. The consultation phase will continue in the next Committee meeting. Once the

text is considered agreeable by the Committee, a WTO-SPS consultation phase of 60 days will take place prior to any voting decision.