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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Plant Health*
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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Evaluation of recent import interceptions with pests by Member States and the actions taken.

The Committee discussed the interceptions for the period between 19 May and 4 July 2021. On non-EU trade, the Commission highlighted the three interceptions of Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus, of which two on seeds of *Solanum lycopersicum* (one from China and one from Israel), and one on seeds of *Capsicum annuum* from China. The Commission also highlighted the interceptions of *Bactrocera dorsalis* and *Bactrocera zonata* on mangoes from Cameroon, Guinea, India and Mali, and the interceptions of *Bactrocera* and *Anastrepha* mainly on mangoes from Dominican Republic, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, India and Philippines. The Commission also highlighted nine interceptions of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Capsicum annuum* and *Rosa* from Kenya and on *Citrus reticulata* from South Africa. It was agreed to monitor closely the development of those interceptions in relation to relevant actions already taken for respective cases and to assess the relevant proposals.

Regarding the follow-up actions of the same reporting period, the Commission informed the Committee about the results of the actions taken by South Africa regarding the additional false codling moth interceptions and the interceptions of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on citrus fruits, about the announced self-ban of Suriname on exports to the EU of *Solanum melongena*, *Solanum macrocarpon*, *Cestrum latifolium* and *Capsicum* spp. and about the communication to Bangladesh, Zimbabwe, Cote d'Ivoire and Peru regarding interceptions from those countries.

Finally, the Commission updated the Committee on the completed, ongoing and planned audits of the period.

A.02 Evaluation of recent outbreaks of pests notified by Member States and the control actions taken.

The Commission presented the overview of the outbreaks notified by the Member States in the period from 16 June to 1 July 2021.

Denmark informed about the finding of *Monochamus alternatus* in wood packaging material originating from China in a warehouse. The outbreak is under eradication.

Denmark gave further information on the outbreak of *Ripersiella hibisci* in its territory found on *Callistemon* plants. The findings are the result of trace forward activities and information received by Italy. Germany informed about the finding of the same pest in its territory also found on *Callistemon* plants, being a result of the trace forward information received by Italy. The outbreaks are under eradication in all Member States.

The Commission encouraged the Member States to continue the trace forward and trace back activities in order to locate the infested plants and eradicate the outbreaks found. The need of import requirements for this pest will be evaluated in the near future.

A.03 EFSA newsletters on horizon scanning of media and literature for new and emerging plant health risks; EPPO monthly reporting service on pests.

The EFSA media newsletter and the EFSA scientific literature newsletter of July 2021 and the EPPO reporting service no 6 were presented to the Committee.

A.04 Evaluation of non-compliances of roses imported from Kenya during the last 6 months and exchange of views on the need for revision of the reduced frequency of inspection.

The Commission presented the non-compliance figures for 2021 and a comparison thereof for the 1st semester in 2018-2021 on the import of cut roses from Kenya, and the documents received from KEPHIS on an update of the situation. In considering the situation, the Committee took into account the actions and the measures already taken and planned to be taken by the Kenyan authorities to address the issue, and the planned Commission request for an EFSA opinion. After having discussed the situation, the Committee agreed on keeping the current frequency of the physical checks for the time being. The Commission will keep the Committee informed on the developments in the situation.

A.05 Exchange of views on import requirements for plants of *Ullucus tuberosus* originating in Peru in relation to a possible amendment of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 (high risk plants).

The Commission presented the main conclusions of the scientific opinion by the European Food Safety Authority on the commodity risk assessment of *Ullucus tuberosus*. The Committee held a first exchange of views on the potential mitigation measures of the pests identified in the opinion as pests of concern for the EU. Member States were asked to submit written comments by the end of August 2021.

A.06 Exchange of views on the follow-up to the national measures in Malta for the control of ToBRFV.

Malta updated the Committee on its national measures against ToBRFV, amended on 2 July. It provided the technical justification for those temporary measures.

A discussion took place on recent internal interceptions, the outbreaks in Malta and the ongoing work for amending Regulation (EU) 2020/1191. The Commission asked the Member States concerned information about the positive findings in seeds and seedlings. It was agreed to organise a dedicated meeting between Malta, Italy and the EURL virology to discuss in details recent interceptions and findings. The Maltese measures will be assessed pursuant to Article 52 of the Plant Health Regulation and the issue will be re-discussed in September if needed.

A.07 Exchange of views on a draft text for a Regulation on the control of *Globodera rostochiensis* and *Globodera pallida* in the Union territory.

The Commission presented the draft Regulation and its draft annexes on the control of *Globodera pallida* and *Globodera rostochiensis*, the potato cyst nematodes. The draft Regulation and annexes result from the work of three EU working groups, organized on 23 February, 16 April and 17 June 2021. The Committee held a first exchange of views on the drafts. Member States were asked to submit written comments by 6 August 2021. The Commission intends to present updated drafts during a Standing Committee dedicated to the four potato draft Regulations early September.

A.08 Exchange of views on a draft text for a Regulation on the control of *Synchytrium endobioticum* in the Union territory.

The Commission presented the draft Regulation and its draft annexes on the control of *Synchytrium endobioticum*, the cause of the potato wart disease. The draft Regulation and annexes result from the work of three EU working groups, organized on 26 February, 7 May and 18 June 2021. The Committee held a first exchange of views on the drafts. Member States were asked to submit written comments by 6 August 2021. The Commission intends to present updated drafts during a Standing Committee dedicated to the four potato draft Regulations early September.

A.09 Exchange of views on a draft text for a Regulation on the control of *Clavibacter sepedonicus* in the Union territory.

The Commission presented the draft Regulation and its draft annexes on the control of *Clavibacter sepedonicus*, the cause of the potato ring rot. The draft Regulation and annexes result from the work of three EU working groups, organized on 2 March, 28 April and 24 June 2021. The Committee held a first exchange of views on the drafts. Member States were asked to submit written comments by 6 August 2021. The Commission intends to present updated drafts during a Standing Committee dedicated to the four potato draft Regulations early September.

A.10 Exchange of views on a draft text for a Regulation on the control of *Ralstonia solanacearum* in the Union territory.

The Commission presented the draft Regulation and its draft annexes on the control of *Ralstonia solanacearum*, the cause of the potato brown rot. The draft Regulation and annexes result from the work of three EU working groups, organized on 4 March, 24 April and 25 June 2021. The Committee held a first exchange of views on the drafts. Member States were asked to submit written comments by 6 August 2021. The Commission intends to present updated drafts during a Standing Committee dedicated to the four potato draft Regulations early September.

A.11 Exchange of views on the follow-up actions regarding non-regulated pests for which actions have been taken under Article 29 of Regulation 2016/2031 and regarding non-regulated pests analysed with EFSA's Pest Monitoring Scoring tool.

Postponed.

A.12 Exchange of views on the need of EU action against *Peronospora aquilegiicola*.

Postponed.

A.13 Exchange of views on the use of plant passports for movements of plants for planting to final users by means of sales through distance contracts in line with Article 81 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The Commission briefly opened the discussion by referring to the ongoing analysis of the responses to the questionnaire under Article 79 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031. Several Member States commented on their experience with the implementation of Article 81 of the Regulation and briefly expressed their views. The Commission invited the Member States to share in writing their views and possible suggestions by 1 September 2021.

A.14 Request from US to consider the recognition of sulfuryl fluoride as a mitigating measure for the treatment of *Fraxinus* (ash) wood against *Agrilus planipennis*.

The Commission informed the Committee that the US submitted a request to recognise the treatment of logs of ash wood against *Agrilus planipennis* with sulfuryl fluoride for phytosanitary certification. The request was supported with a dossier and EFSA will be consulted on it.

A.15 Request from Canada to reconsider the phytosanitary import requirements for veneer wood products from Canada.

The Commission informed the Committee that Canada submitted a request to recognise the production process of veneer sheets (soft- and hardwood) for phytosanitary certification. The pertinent dossier is currently under finalisation and would be submitted soon. Once all elements are submitted, EFSA will be consulted on the dossier.

A.16 Information point on import-export issues between the EU and UK(GB).

Member States were informed (in addition to the written information) about the new UK(GB) import requirements for seed potatoes from the EU. The Commission indicated that DG SANTE will coordinate eventual requests from Member States for obtaining market access to UK(GB).

The Irish delegate asked that the Commission should reconsider access of UK(GB) seed potatoes to the EU market from next season onwards to avoid possible shortages of seed potatoes from dedicated varieties which are adapted to the specific growing circumstances in Ireland for planting next seasons.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on emergency action against a plant pest in the Union and third countries.

No item raised.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible technical opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation as regards temporary measures to prevent the entry into, and the spread within, the Union of *Meloidogyne graminicola* (Golden & Birchfield).

The Commission presented the text. The text will be finalised following comments made and further consultation with Legal Service. The vote through the written procedure should take place in the coming weeks.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible technical opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on a derogation from Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 concerning the introduction into the Union of plants of strawberry (*Fragaria* L.) intended for planting, other than seeds, originating in Chile.

The Commission presented the text. The text will be finalised following comments made and further consultation with Legal Service. The vote through the written procedure should take place in the coming weeks.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation reviewing Regulation (EU) 2020/1191 establishing measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of ToBRFV.

The Committee discussed the draft text with additional measures to be added to Regulation (EU) 2020/1191. Eradication measures, demarcation and import controls were the main issues discussed. The Commission took on board some Member States' suggestions. Other comments will be submitted in writing in one week time. The Commission will then consolidate the new suggestions and present a new text.

M.01 EPAL box pallets.

A question from Germany whether EPAL box pallets, made from metal and with a wooden base plate, might be considered as exempted from the provisions of ISPM 15 was presented to meeting of the Committee in May and Member States were asked to express their view after the meeting.

Based on the discussion and comments submitted in writing, the Committee decided that such box pallets should not be considered as being exempted from the provisions of ISPM 15 and that the wooden parts of these box pallets shall be marked in conformity with that standard when introduced from third countries into the Union.

M.02 Veneer wood from US.

The US approached Portugal with a claim that wood slices of a thickness of lower than 6 mm (CN code 4408 xx xx) should be exempted from the import requirements for wood as laid down in Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. The Commission clarified that all kinds of sliced or sawn wood are explicitly included in the provisions of that Regulation, regardless of the thickness of the sheets, and that the pertinent CN codes have been added for clarification in the respective entries and that the claim is unfunded.

M.03 Revision of technical Annexes.

The Commission informed the Committee about the Member States' comments received on the draft Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation

(EU) 2019/2072 and the way they have been addressed. The Committee will be consulted via a written procedure for a technical approval on this draft Regulation in order to send a notification for the WTO-SPS consultation.