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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 harmful organisms by Member States and the need for further action.

The Commission presented an overview of the interceptions from 15 April to 16 May 2019, highlighting five interceptions of *Spodoptera frugiperda* (fall armyworm) from Mexico, Suriname, Mozambique and Senegal. On internal trade, the Commission highlighted four interceptions for *Phytophthora ramorum* in *Rhododendron* from Germany and The Netherlands.

Furthermore, the Commission requested Spain and Portugal to provide an update on the interceptions of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (pine wood nematode) included in the report of April 2019 that, due to lack of time, were not discussed in the April PAFF Committee. Portugal explained that the two interceptions notified on wood pallets by France were from a heat treatment facility that was already suspended, due to a previous interception, but had left the company before the suspension. The Portuguese authorities continue tracing back and collecting the pallets treated by this installation. The third notification from Portugal by Spain originated from a company that had a failure in the temperature control. The company was immediately suspended after the notification, and now it has restarted its activity under a strict supervision. Spain explained that the two interceptions originated from the same company. The company was provisionally suspended, however the inspections carried out did not find any non-compliance. Spain informed that a visit to this company is included in the audit plan on pine wood nematode taking place in June 2019.

The Commission informed about the follow-up in relation to the interceptions from Suriname, a letter received from Italy in relation to the additional declaration of Uruguay on seeds from *Medicago sativa*, and a meeting held with the Embassy of Nigeria where the Commission highlighted the interceptions of *Bemisia tabaci* in relation to plant health issues.

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

Austria presented information about the findings of two non-EU fruit flies, *Bactrocera dorsalis* as well as *Bactrocera zonata*, in the years 2011-2018. These findings were made in urban areas of Vienna, mostly close to places where fruits and vegetables are marketed. Due to several factors (limited number of individuals caught, genetic distance between individuals, climatic conditions in Austria not allowing the establishment of the species) Austria considers that the pest status for both pests shall be “absent”. Nevertheless, Austria increased its surveillance efforts since 2017.

The Commission recalled that, following legislation in force, any finding of a quarantine pest, even of one individual, shall be reported and requests Member States to take this obligation very serious.

Several Member States raised concerns about the pathways of entry of non-EU Tephritidae. There was agreement that enhanced monitoring is an important element. The Commission asked Member States to maintain and intensify their control activities as well, in order to assure that the legal requirements are efficiently enforced.

France gave information on the recent outbreak of *Callidiellum villosulum* found together with *Scolytidae*, in wooden rodent houses.

An overview of the outbreaks discussed since September 2016 was presented by the Commission. The outcome of each monthly discussion was tabled together with the actions taken. Such actions include the request of risk assessments, the performance of audits, and legislative actions.

A.03 EFSA newsletters on horizon scanning of media and literature for new and emerging plant health risks.

EFSA presented the 26th edition of the media monitoring newsletter. Main highlights from the media were reported mainly on *Anastrepha ludens*, *Bactrocera dorsalis*, *Bactrocera tryoni*, *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*, *Malacosoma disstria*, and *Xylosandrus compactus* in relation to their distribution and the actions taken for their control. For *Spodoptera frugiperda*, emphasis was given on the biocontrol agent newly identified in Africa. The report of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) on the Canopy Health Monitoring (CanHeMon) project on remote-sensing monitoring tools for *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* was also mentioned. Information on the new diagnostic assays and the current distribution and the actions taken for the control of *Xylella fastidiosa* was also presented.

The 5th pilot edition of the literature monitoring newsletter was presented focusing on the first findings of pests, changes in host range and new control methods reported by scientific literature. A considerable number of non-regulated pests were identified. These pests are going to be ranked by the use of the ranking tool that EFSA develops, as part of the mandate on Horizon Scanning. Additionally, the ranking will include non-regulated pests identified in the media monitoring and intercepted at the EU border. This ranking exercise will assist when choices for future legislative actions are needed.

A.04 Update on the situation of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Italy, France Spain and Portugal.

The Member States concerned provided an update on the state of play of *Xylella fastidiosa* in their respective territories. The situation in France remains stable compared to previous updates, eradication measures in PACA and containment measures in Corsica are being implemented, taking into account the recommendations of the last Commission's audit carried out in November 2018. Spain informed that the demarcated area of Alicante was recently enlarged following new findings in the surrounding buffer zone, with intensive survey and felling activities ongoing. The situation in Portugal (Porto) remains under close monitoring as new host plants are being found infected. Eradication measures are being taken and movement restrictions are in place. As follow-up to the detection of *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *pauca* in the olive tree located in the Municipality of Monopoli (Bari) at the end of 2018, Italy informed that a second sampling of the tree was carried out due to some problems encountered as part of the sampling strategy. The result was finally negative. The demarcated area around this false positive finding will be lifted. Italy also provided further details about a recently adopted national decree aiming at speeding up the implementation of phytosanitary control measures. More specifically, it was explained that the decree provides the phytosanitary legislation with the supremacy over any other legislations, including the environmental legislation (e.g. Natura 2000). Further details will be provided during the June Standing Committee.

A.05 Outcome of the Commission's audit carried out in France from 19 November 2018 to 30 November 2018 in order to evaluation the situation and official controls for *Xylella fastidiosa*.

The outcome of the last Commission's audit carried out in France on *Xylella fastidiosa* was presented. As regards the situation in PACA, the importance was highlighted of increased survey activities in the buffer zone, official controls on movement restrictions of specified plants grown within the demarcated area and quicker provisions for the removal of plants as required by EU Decision. The situation in Corsica remains under close monitoring, with official controls to step-up within ports and airports.

A.06 Presentation of the outcome of the Commission's audit carried out in Spain from 1 to 9 April 2019 in order to evaluation the situation and official controls for *Xylella fastidiosa*.

The outcome of the Commission's audit carried out in Spain on *Xylella fastidiosa* was presented. Significant efforts were put in place in Alicante in terms of felling and survey activities with the aim to eradicate the pest. The area remains under close monitoring due to the increasing number of host plants and to the recently enlarged demarcated area. Containment measures remain in place in the Balears, while the isolated outbreak in Madrid is currently being eradicated.

A.07 Exchange of views on the elements for the revision of Commission Decision 2015/789/EU on emergency measures against *Xylella fastidiosa*.

The Commission presented a number of elements of the EU Decision which need to be updated following the recently published EFSA Scientific Opinion on *Xylella fastidiosa*. Member States were invited to submit comments in written for further consideration by the Commission.

A.08 Presentation by Portugal of the annual action plan in relation to the authorisation for delayed felling of plants susceptible of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*, as provided for in the Point 3(b) of Annex II Annex to Decision 2012/535/EU (amendment of 2018).

Portugal presented the outcome of the annual action plan implemented in the area of the buffer zone affected by the exceptional forest fires occurred in 2017. Considerable efforts have been invested to remove a substantial number of the fire affected plants to prevent possible introduction of PWN vectors from the infected zone into the buffer zone. The area, together with the rest of the buffer zone, remains closely monitored, while felling activities continue as foreseen and are expected to conclude in March 2020 as granted by the current derogation under Decision 2012/535/EU.

A.09 Exchange of views on draft technical Annexes for an Implementing Regulation ('Phytosanitary Conditions Regulation'), including the lists of quarantine pests, RNQPs, regulated commodities and import and movement requirements, under the basic Plant Health Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The Commission presented draft Annexes II (list of quarantine pests), III (list of protected zones and the respective protected zone quarantine pests), X (prohibitions related to protected zones), XI (special requirements for protected zones), XIII (Phytosanitary Certificate requirement for protected zones), XIV (plant passport requirement for the EU) and XV (plant passport requirement for protected zones). The Committee raised some comments, which the Commission will take into account. The Commission also invited the Member States to submit their comments or any additional or complementary ones in writing. The revised version of the draft Annexes will be presented in the forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

A.10 Exchange of views on the revision of Commission Decision 2007/433/EC on provisional emergency measures against *Gibberella circinata*.

A first draft measure was presented at the meeting in April and the comments raised at that meeting or submitted in writing afterwards were discussed in a telephone conference. An amended draft was presented to the Committee and discussed with Member States.

The Commission asked the Member States to submit their comments in writing by 7 June at the latest. The Commission will provide a feedback on the comments in June and aims at presenting a draft for vote in July.

A.11 Exchange of views on the revision of Commission Implementing Decision 2018/638/EU on emergency measures against *Spodoptera frugiperda* .

The current spread of *Spodoptera frugiperda* in Asia was discussed in connection with the need to amend the emergency measure in place. The evolution is worrying as the pest is spreading fast.

A.12 Presentation by Italy of a pest risk analysis for Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus, followed by an exchange of views.

Postponed.

A.13 Exchange of views on the request of clarification concerning the import of processed wood material from US with a Phytosanitary Certificate.

The Commission informed about a letter from a stakeholder requesting information concerning the application of Directive 2000/29/EC to processed wood material used as an energy source (solid recovered fuel, SRF). Some Member States have been requesting a Phytosanitary certificate for this material, considering the SRF a plant product as per Articles 2(1)(b) and 2(2) of the Directive.

Notwithstanding declarations in the dossier that the material does not represent a phytosanitary risk, there is no evidence of any effective treatment applied to the chipped wood, which represents 70% of SRF.

Member States and the Commission agreed that with the current available information the SRF cannot be excluded from the scope of Directive 2000/29/EC. The Commission will reply to the letter accordingly.

A.14 Exchange of views on the request received from Canada relating to the wrapping of softwood lumber after treatment and the EU phytosanitary import requirements for wood of *Thuja* sp.

The Commission presented the request sent by Canada on import requirements for wood of *Thuja* sp., regarding the bark tolerance that should be in line with ISPM15 and the requirement of wrapping softwood lumber after treatment that should be withdrawn. Member States discussed the phytosanitary risk of those two measures related with *Thuja* wood, which is not a host of pine wood nematode nor of its vector *Monochamus* and agreed to be in favour of the Canadian request.

The Commission might propose to withdraw the requirement of wrapping for any treated coniferous wood, modifying both the pine wood nematode Implementing Decision 2012/535/EC and the general import requirements under the Implementing act of the new Plant Health Regulation. In addition, as regards the bark tolerance for coniferous wood, it might be proposed to line-up the import requirements with the ISPM15 indications.

A.15 Exchange of views on the application requirements for wood packaging material with ISPM 15 mark on the internal market.

The Commission discussed the Spanish case of the implementation of ISPM15 rules for the treatment of used wood packaging material (WPM). According to the Spanish national decree, the treatment of WPM already in use but that has never been treated is not allowed. The Member States shared information on their national systems in place for ISPM15 treatment to already used WPM. It was clarified that the NPPO guarantees the traceability until the facility where this treatment has been done, not to the origin of the wood that can be unknown. The interpretation of the Committee, allowing for the ISPM15 treatment of non-treated WPM already in use, is in line with the new Plant Health Regulation. EE and DE requested to have a dedicated workshop on the issues of ISPM15 in relation with the Plant Health Regulation. The Commission took note of this request.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down implementing measures for the Rapid alert system for food and feed, and the rules as regards the computerised information system for notifying and reporting on listed animal diseases, the notification of the presence of, and protective measures taken against, plant pests, administrative assistance and cooperation between Member States' authorities, and the functioning of the information management system for official controls ('the IMSOC Regulation').

The draft IMSOC Implementing Regulation was presented by the Commission for an exchange of views of the Committee, for the second time. The Commission explained the changes introduced in the draft following the comments it received from Member States and the European Data Protection Supervisor.

Some Member States expressed their support on the revised text and appreciated that the Commission took on board their comments on certain fields of the common health entry document template for plants annexed to the draft. A couple of Member States asked for further clarifications on certain provisions of the draft.

Member States were invited to send their comments in writing. The Commission explained its intention to submit the draft for vote in June or July.

M.01 Overview of information submitted by third countries as regards pest status and treatments

The Commission explained the new approach to present the overview of documentation submitted by non-EU countries according to Annex IV of Directive 2000/29/EC (including Directives 1279/2017 and 523/2019) and invited Member States to submit comments to the template presented within 2 weeks. The Commission proposal is to create one document for each third country containing all the information submitted by that country. The current table of the website will be replaced by a page listing the countries that have submitted information where each country listed will have a hyperlink to the specific file of that country.

M.02 Information from Japan regarding phytosanitary certificate for vehicles and machines previously operated for agricultural or forestry purposes.

The Commission informed about the latest communications with Japan in relation to the new requirements introduced in Directive 523/2019 for "machines and vehicles which have been operated for agricultural or forestry purposes" that will need to be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate (PC) from 1 September 2019. Although Japan stated during the SPS consultation that it was not possible to issue PCs for something different from plants and their containers or packages, on 20 May 2019, Japan informed now that PCs will be issued for these category of products. Additionally, Japan informed in the same letter that the same requirement will apply to EU Member States exporting this type of machines and vehicles to Japan from 1 September 2019.