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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 8 April to 18 May 2021. On non-EU trade the Commission highlighted the fourteen interceptions of Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus, of which eight on seeds of *Solanum lycopersicum* (seven from China and one from India) and six on seeds of *Capsicum annuum* from China. The Commission also highlighted the three interceptions of *Hirschmanniella caudacrena* on *Vallisneria*, one from Indonesia, one from Thailand and one from Malaysia. A Member State expressed concerns about third countries' compliance with the requirement to carry out testing prior to export of aquatic plants and proposed that the Commission requests the results of the tests carried out.

The Commission highlighted the interception of *Anthonomus eugenii* on *Capsicum chinense* from Mexico, the six interceptions of *Bactrocera dorsalis* of which five on *Mangifera indica* (two from Ivory Coast, two from India and one from Cameroon) and one on *Psidium guajava* from Sri Lanka, the interception of *Bactrocera zonata* on *Mentha/Ocimum basilicum* from Kenya, the six interceptions of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* of which five on *Capsicum* species (three from Uganda, two from Rwanda) and one on *Fortunella margarita* from South Africa. A Member State proposed that *Fortunella* is included in the specific import requirements for *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* under point 62 of Annex VII of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. The Member States noted that in the case of *Fortunella margarita* the commodity is also cited as *Citrus margarita* in which case it is subject to specific import requirements which can create discrepancies in the approach followed by non-EU countries.

The Commission also highlighted the three interceptions of *Spodoptera frugiperda* of which two on *Eringium*, and one on *Solidago*, all from Zimbabwe, and the seven interceptions of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Rosa* (four from Kenya, and three from Uganda).

The Commission drew the attention of the Committee on the declaration by Mexico that there are no areas free from *Thrips palmi*, rendering the information declared in the phytosanitary certificate incorrect, therefore the EU should not accept consignments of fruits of *Momordica* sp. exported from Mexico under the option 71(b) of Annex VII of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 - area free from *Thrips palmi*. Finally, the Commission

drew the attention of the Committee to the two interceptions of *Thrips palmi* on fruit of *Momordica* sp. originating from pest free areas in Bangladesh, informed Member States that communication to Bangladesh is under preparation and advised Member States not to accept consignments exported under that option.

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 investigations submitted by Malaysia as a follow-up to the interceptions of *Thrips palmi* and nematodes, about the meeting with Guatemala on Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus interceptions and on the completed, ongoing and planned audits.

On EU trade, the Commission highlighted the interception of *Xylella fastidiosa* on plants of *Olea europaea* originating in Spain (reported by Cyprus). Cyprus informed about a recent interception of two olive trees infected by *Xylella fastidiosa* imported from Spain. The plants have been destroyed and the Spanish NPPO has carried out a thoughtful investigation on the nursery involved and the surrounding area without any finding. It was agreed that Spain will carry out further tests on the samples taken.

The Commission also highlighted the twelve interceptions of Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus of which nine on seeds of *Solanum lycopersicum* (eight from Italy and one from Spain) and three on seeds of *Capsicum*, one from Italy, one from the Netherlands and one from Spain and the interception of *Euwallacea fornicatus* on *Annona* from Spain (reported by the Netherlands). The interception of *Hypothenemus* on *Annona* plants from Spain (reported by the Netherlands) was also discussed. Spain informed that they investigated the nursery and they didn't find the pest nor any other *Scolytinae* non-European species. It also informed that the plant was in the EU since 2016. The Netherlands explained that while they could not identify the pest at species level, its DNA did not match any of the DNA included in their database.

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 5 April to 17 May 2021.

Germany gave information on the outbreak in a nursery of the non-regulated pest *Peronospora aquilegiicola* found on plants of *Aquilegia*. Eradication measures have been taken.

Italy informed about the eradication actions taken for the outbreak of the regulated pest *Ripersiella hibisci* found in a nursery. The pest was found on plants of *Callistemon*.

Sweden informed of the finding of the bark beetle *Coccotrypes cyperi* on plants of *Ficus retusa* from the retail. Eradication measures have been taken.

Malta informed about the recent outbreaks of ToBRFV and on their suspected origins. Malta has been in contact with Italy and the Netherlands for recent interceptions, putting in place strict measures with regard to the introduction of tomato and pepper plants.

The Commission asked to be kept informed about any development of the situation in the Maltese territory. The Commission is also verifying the legal base of the Maltese specific measures and their link with Regulation 2020/1191.

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 April 2021 and the EPPO reporting service no 3 were disseminated to Member States.

A.04 Exchange of views on a draft derogation to allow the introduction into the Union of potato tubers other than those intended for planting originating in Montenegro.

The Commission informed about the technical elements provided by Montenegro for recognition as being free from *Clavibacter sepedonicus*. Following agreement of the Member States, a proposal and a plan for an amendment of point 17 of Annex VI to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 was prepared, clarifying that Montenegro will be allowed to introduce ware potatoes into the Union.

A.05 Overview of the findings during recent Commission audits in Member States related to the situation and control of ToBRFV.

The preliminary findings of an audit series in Member States has brought the attention to certain aspects of the outbreaks' management, which need more harmonization. A broader discussion on the state of play of the disease, on the diagnostic methods and on testing at import took place. It was agreed to update the current measures in light of the discussion held.

A.06 Exchange of views on the state of play of Candidatus Phytoplasma pyri (pear decline) as RNQP in the Union territory.

Some Member States have difficulties to implement the risk management measures against *Candidatus Phytoplasma pyri* laid down in the harmonised certification scheme for fruit plants (Commission Implementing Directive 2014/98/EU). The Commission presented alternative measures for both ornamental and fruit plants involving roguing of symptomatic plants in the production site and the immediate vicinity. Member States were asked to provide written input by 11 June. The Commission aims to include the alternative measures for ornamental plants in the ongoing revision of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. The measures for fruit plants will be addressed by amending Implementing Directive 2014/98/EU.

A.07 Exchange of views on import requirements for *Ficus carica* and *Persea americana* plants for planting originating in Israel in relation to a possible amendment of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 (high risk plants).

The Commission presented the technical elements to be included in a proposal for a Regulation removing certain plants for planting of *Ficus carica* and *Persea americana* originating in Israel and the phytosanitary measures in support of that removal. The Commission explained that the proposal follows a strict approach to reduce the risk of introduction of the pests identified by EFSA and tackle the uncertainties of the current measures applied by Israel. Member States expressed their concerns on the possibility of pests to be introduced with these plants.

Member States were asked to send written comments by 1 June 2021.

A.08 Update of Annex I and Annex II of Regulation 2020/1201 on *Xylella fastidiosa*.

Based on recent information from EFSA related to the database of *Xylella* host plants, the Commission presented the suggested amendments of the Annexes of Regulation (EU) 2020/120. The EFSA database will be published in the beginning of June, while a discussion of the amended text will take place during the next Committee meeting.

A.09 Revision of the *Anoplophora chinensis* measures in place in the Union.

The Committee exchanged views on a possible amendment of the EU measures for *Anoplophora chinensis*.

A.10 Update on the guidelines for statistically based surveys for longhorn beetles.

The Commission updated the Committee on the outcomes of the Working group meeting on statistically-based surveys for longhorn beetles (*Anoplophora chinensis*, *Anoplophora glabripennis* and *Aromia bungii*), held on 21 May 2021. At this meeting, the Commission, EFSA and Member States discussed the design of such surveys based on the EFSA survey toolkit. Simulations with the Ribess+ tool were presented and further guidance was given. Member States shared their experience and it was agreed that more guidance on some parameters will be given by EFSA in the next update of the story maps for these pests.

A.11 Information point on import-export issues between the EU and UK(GB)

The Commission informed the Committee about its continued contacts with the UK authorities on several matters. The Commission has launched an infringement procedure against the UK for not respecting the Northern Ireland protocol and not requiring phytosanitary certificates for exports from GB to Northern Ireland. The UK request for equivalence on seed potatoes is rejected by the Commission, as long as the UK legislation is not dynamically aligned to the plant health legislation of the EU. The Commission is willing to facilitate a meeting between EFSA and the UK to prepare the dossiers for the high risk plants.

A.12 Coordination on the type of packaging material that should be considered as regulated wood packaging material.

The Commission informed about a question whether EPAL box pallets (made from metal and wood) should be considered as falling under the exceptions of the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures No 15 (ISPM 15). Member States were asked to submit their position in writing by 10 June, in order to allow an informed discussion at the next Committee meeting and eventually the formulation of a common position.

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.

Exchange of views and possible technical 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 amending Annexes II to XIV of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 establishing uniform conditions for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and the Council, as regards protective measures against pests of plants.

Following the discussion on the measures for *Candidatus* Phytoplasma *pyri* the Commission will include the alternative measures for ornamental plants in the ongoing revision of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.

The Commission proposal will be discussed in the next Committee meeting.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible technical opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation allowing for the containment of Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma within certain demarcated areas.

Vote Postponed

Miscellaneous

Germany informed that in the framework of the measures on Rose Rosette Virus, it is experiencing problems in finding a control for their laboratory tests.

The Commission requested other Member States to inform about their experience and confirmed that it is going to ask the EURL virology for assistance.

Poland informed that it is facing problems to submit its annual survey reports using EUROPHYT-Plant Health Surveys. The Commission informed that the developers were aware of the problems and they were working to solve the issues.