



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 13 JULY 2017 - 14 JULY 2017
(Section Plant Health)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/c35591e9-8c0e-4545-9681-5cd352f75cb4>

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

A brief overview was given to the interceptions with harmful organisms and the follow-up carried out by the Commission from 7 June to 5 July 2017. The 4 interceptions of citrus black spot (2 from Swaziland and 2 from South Africa) were highlighted together with the 4 interceptions of false codling moth on citrus fruits from South Africa. A significant number of interceptions of fruit flies on mangoes from different origins were notified. A follow-up will be needed for the outcome of the interception of pine wood nematode on wood packaging material from USA.

As regards *Xylella fastidiosa* in the Union territory, Italy informed that the 2017 survey campaign in the demarcated area of Apulia is starting on 17th July 2017, with 190 technicians. As regards identification and felling of infected plants, Italy informed that 886 plants had been found infected so far in the last 20 km strip of infected zone adjacent to the buffer zone, 628 infected trees had been removed, 17 infected monumental trees had been isolated by nets, while felling activities were still ongoing for the remaining infected trees. A dedicated budget was introduced at regional level to compensate the owners for the value of the destroyed plants. The Committee was also informed that new administrative appeals were introduced at the Regional Administrative Tribunal (TAR) of Apulia concerning 104 infected trees; a hearing was expected on 25 July 2017. Lastly, the Commission informed that a Reasoned Opinion had been issued against Italy due to the continuous delays in the implementation of Decision (EU) 2015/789 in the demarcated area of Apulia.

Czech Republic informed that the suspected cases of *Xylella fastidiosa*, initially reported on *Polygala myrtifolia* and *Phoenix canariensis*, turned to be negative by additional confirmatory analysis carried by the Italian Reference Laboratory in Bari.

France informed that new outbreaks of *Xylella fastidiosa* were reported in PACA region, while survey activities are still ongoing. Moreover, the Committee was

informed that *Spartium Junceum* was recently found infected by *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex*.

Spain informed that the first outbreak of *Xylella fastidiosa* subspecies *multiplex* was detected on 29 June 2017, in the Autonomous Region of Valencia, in a parcel of almond trees located in Alicante. The area has been immediately demarcated in accordance with Decision (EU) 789/2015, and eradication measures are currently being taken. Intensive survey activities are ongoing within and in the surrounding of the demarcated area. Movement of specified plants out of the demarcated area is prohibited. Limited number of garden centres and nurseries are located in the demarcated area, which are subject to intensive surveillance. Spain also informed that *figus carica* was found infected as new host plant in Mallorca, while survey activities are still ongoing in the entire Balearic Islands.

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

An overview of the outbreaks was presented by the Commission. The outbreaks of *Epitrix papa* in Spain and Portugal were highlighted and discussed in detail during the specific points of the agenda for this harmful organism. Furthermore, Italy provided information on the state of art of the outbreak of *Aleurocathus spiniferus* in their territory and of *Xanthomonas perforans* found in tomato plants grown in a greenhouse. The Netherlands reported the finding of a single *Anoplophora chinensis* found in a private garden, originating from a bonsai plant.

On the basis of the on-line publication of a scientific article on the finding of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* in leaf litter originated in different Member States, Malta notified the suspicious presence of *P. citricarpa* in its territory. The notification was sent after the reanalysis of the samples taken for the mentioned article by the Dutch reference laboratory. Official samples were taken by the authorities and are currently analysed.

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

EFSA presented the fourth pilot newsletter which was the outcome of a horizon scanning of the media. Highlights have been presented on *Agrilus planipennis*, Citrus greening disease, papaya mealy bug, *Popillia japonica*, *Spodoptera frugiperda*, *Tecia solanivora* and *Xylella fastidiosa*. Of particular interest the articles related to new control measures of citrus greening and its vectors currently under development or under field trial.

A.04 Exchange of views on a common format of plant passports, based on Article 83 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The Commission presented a revised discussion paper on the common format for plant passports, in which the Member States' comments, raised during two webinar meetings with several Member States, were taken into account. In the following discussion, the Committee further expressed its views on several elements of the

common format, in particular on flexibility with regard to the details of the format, the combined plant passports with official (certification) labels and on transitional periods. The Commission asked for additional written comments to be sent by 17 July 2017. The Commission will then proceed with its internal consultation with a view of adopting this format by the end of 2017 as prescribed in Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

A.05 Presentation by the Commission of the conclusions of the audit carried out in Spain from 12 to 23 June 2017 to evaluate the situation and official controls for *Xylella fastidiosa*.

The Commission informed that the audit carried out in Spain aimed at assessing the situation and official controls in place for *Xylella fastidiosa* in the Balearic Islands (Mallorca and Ibiza), as well as in the regions of Valencia, Andalusia and Catalonia from which the cherry and polygala plants found infected in the first outbreak of Mallorca came. The legislative tools, the contingency and action plans in place provide an appropriate framework for the implementation of the control measures. There is a high level of engagement with stakeholders through multichannel awareness raising measures. At the time of the audit, the presence of *Xylella fastidiosa* was limited only to the Balearic Islands (Mallorca, Minorca and Ibiza), while the rest of the Spanish territory was considered to be free from the bacterium based on the official surveys. The measures introduced directly after the first outbreak of *Xylella fastidiosa* on the Island of Mallorca (November 2017) were in line with the Decision (EU) 2015/789. However, as the number of findings increased as investigations progressed in the Balearic Islands, EU eradication measures have no longer been implemented. Due to the limited resources available, priority was given to the removal of infected plants and implementation of increased survey activities in the whole territory of the Balearic Islands. Movement out of the Balearic Islands is not authorised. During the discussion, Spain has officially asked for the possibility to switch to containment measures as eradication measures are no longer feasible due to the wide distribution of the bacterium in the Balearic territory. The request will also be submitted in writing with further details. The Commission insisted on the need to ensure strict control measures as regards movements of specified plants out of the Balearics, particularly by ferries.

A.06 Presentation of the conclusions of the Commission audits concerning the outbreaks of *Trioza erytreae* in Portugal (September 2016) and in Spain (October 2016).

Trioza erytreae has spread in Spain and Portugal since its first notification in December 2014 and January 2015 respectively. Control measures are being applied by the two Member States in order to contain and/or eradicate the organism. The possibility to draft EU emergency measures was discussed.

A.07 Presentation of the conclusions of the Commission audits concerning the outbreaks of *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*, *Epitrix* and *Scrobipalopsis solanivora* Povolny (*Tecia*) in Spain from 5 to 19 May 2017.

Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum (CLS) was notified for the first time on potato in Spain in December 2016. Control measures have been taken in the infected farms to eradicate and contain the organism. Although the risk of spread to other EU

Member States is considered to be small, the containment measures and the surveillance plans need to be improved, notably with regard to the number and the size of the samples.

Since its first notification in 2009, *Epitrix papa* continues to spread in the northern part of Spain, although Spain has successfully addressed certain shortcomings identified in the previous audit of June 2016 (information campaigns, registration of producers/pack houses) and made comprehensive surveys. Nevertheless, the management of both existing and newly established demarcated areas remains only partially compliant with Decision 2012/270/EU. MS expressed their concern about this "minimal approach" for demarcation. Spain referred to problems of translation of EU measures and problems of interpretation when areas should be demarcated (presence of *Epitrix* versus signs of *Epitrix*). The Commission explained that its intention is to adopt a corrigendum and possibly present a modification of the provisions for demarcation clarifying that this should be done in case of signs of the presence of *Epitrix* (and not only of presence of *Epitrix*) for vote at the October PAFF Committee.

Scrobipalopsis solanivora Povolny (*Tecia solanivora*) has spread in Spain since its first notification in September 2015. Measures have been taken to prevent the movement of plants, but focused on the place of its detection, which is not necessarily the source of the pest. Therefore, these measures are unlikely to result in eradication of the pest, but should inhibit its spread. The action plan has been examined and the conclusion is that the strengthened measures are satisfactorily addressing the recommendations of the audit. Spain presented the new decree integrating these new elements (March 2017). It was concluded that no additional EU measure is needed at this stage.

A.08 Presentation by the Commission of the results of the 2016 Member States' survey results for *Epitrix*, followed by an exchange of views.

MS confirmed the absence of *Epitrix* in their territory, except Spain and Portugal where the pest is present in large areas. Portugal is demarcating areas on the basis of signs of *Epitrix*. Spain takes the view that the legislation allows another interpretation (presence of *Epitrix*).

A.09 Presentation by the Commission of the results of the 2016 Member States' survey results for potato brown rot (*Ralstonia solanacearum*) and potato ring rot (*Clavibacter michiganensis* ssp. *Sepedonicus*), followed by an exchange of views.

Postponed.

A.10 Presentation by the Commission of the results of the 2016 Member States' survey results for the potato cyst nematodes *Globodera pallida* and *Globodera rostochiensis* in application of Council Directive 2007/33/EC, followed by an exchange of views.

The Commission presented Member States' annual survey results for potato cyst nematodes (PCN) *Globodera pallida* and *Globodera rostochiensis*.

The implementation of official surveys and investigation was similar to previous seasons. The total of infested areas continues to increase and the incidence of PCN in ware potatoes has slightly increased compared to the previous two years.

A break of resistance was reported by NL on starch potatoes infested by *G. pallida*.

A.11 Overview by the Commission of the application procedure for the 2018 plant health survey programmes.

The Commission presented the first overview of the application procedure for the Surveys Programme 2018 and the files received by the Member States. Further discussion for Surveys Programme 2017 shall continue in the forthcoming meeting of the Committee. The Commission also presented the reporting obligations for the intermediate financial report for the 2017 survey programmes with deadline 31st of August 2017 (Art. 23, Regulation EU 652/2014). The IT Tool for the Plant Surveys (EUROPHYT Portal) would be used for the submission of the Intermediate Report phase for the Survey Programme 2017.

A.12 Presentation of the first results of the online survey on wood packaging material.

Postponed.

A.13 Presentation of the results of the 2017 Working Group meeting on reduced frequency of import inspections, followed by an exchange of views and possible approval of the minimum reduced frequencies for 2018.

Postponed.

A.14 Presentation of the EFSA opinion on the pest categorisation of *Spodoptera frugiperda*.

EFSA presented a pest categorisation that was requested to be delivered urgently as a follow-up of the horizon scanning exercise of the media. *Spodoptera frugiperda* (fall armyworm) a polyphagous pest, native to the Americas, has been reported in Africa and has spread fast. It is a quarantine pest for the EU, has many hosts and shows a high migrant capacity. Following discussions with the Member States, it was decided to look into a fast legislative action from the EU side, adopting the current import requirements. The Commission has urged the Member States to step-up import inspections of commodities arriving from the countries where the pest occurs and include the pest in their future territory surveillance planning. Furthermore, the way to assist African countries to contain/eradicate the harmful pest will be explored.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision repealing Decision 2007/365/EC on emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Community of *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Olivier).

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision repealing the existing emergency measures for *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Olivier) (Decision 2007/365/EC). The vote will take place in a forthcoming meeting of the Committee. The Commission will examine the possibility to present a proposal including the organism as a regulated non quarantine pest.

Vote postponed