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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 7 September and 16 October. The Commission highlighted in particular the fourteen interceptions of *Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus* on seeds of *Solanum lycopersicum* from Israel, India, Peru and Turkey and *Capsicum annuum* from China and Israel; the twenty three interceptions of *Phylosticta citricarpa* on *Citrus limon* from South Africa and *Citrus sinensis* from South Africa, Zimbabwe and Argentina; the six interceptions of *Bactrocera dorsalis* on *Mangifera indica* from India and Mali, on *Psidium guajava* from Bangladesh and India and on *Solanum torvum* from Cambodia; the eleven interceptions of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Citrus sinensis* and *Citrus reticulata* from South Africa, on *Capsicum* species from Kenya and Uganda and on *Solanum aethiopicum* from Togo; the three interceptions of *Spodoptera frugiperda* on *Asparagus officinalis* from Peru and Mexico and on *Zea mays* subsp. *saccharata* from Peru; the eight interceptions of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*, on *Rosa* sp. from Uganda and Ethiopia.

The high number of citrus related interceptions was further discussed under points A.04-A.06. For the rest of the interceptions it was agreed to monitor the development and discuss if necessary the need for actions.

A.02 Evaluation of recent outbreaks of pests notified by Member States and the control actions taken (including *Popillia japonica* situation in Switzerland).

The Commission presented the overview of the outbreaks notified by the Member States in the period from 6 September to 15 October 2021.

Italy gave information on the outbreak of *Toumeyella parvicornis* and the measures taken so far to control it. The pest is not regulated in the EU. However a pest categorisation has already been mandated to EFSA.

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 newsletters and the EFSA scientific literature newsletters of September and October 2021 and the latest EPPO reporting service were shared with the Committee.

A.04 EFSA commodity risk assessment of *Citrus* L. fruits from South Africa for *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* under a systems approach, followed by an exchange of views.

EFSA presented its commodity risk assessment of *Citrus* L. fruits from South Africa for *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* under a systems approach.

Member States were concerned about the uncertainties raised by the opinion and about the EFSA conclusions on pest freedom.

Member States requested more time to study the EFSA opinion and reflect further on the way forward. The issue will be discussed again at the meeting of the Committee on 18-19 November

A.05 Situation of non-compliances of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on imported fruits of *Citrus* L. during the 2021 trade season.

The Commission presented an overview of the interceptions of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on citrus fruits in view of the revision of the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/715. Member States expressed concerns about the increasing number of interceptions on citrus fruits from Zimbabwe and about the high number of interceptions on citrus fruits from South Africa despite the suspension put in place by South Africa on 19 September. Member States commented that monitoring of the positive performance of countries covered by the Decision should also be taken into consideration. The Commission informed Member States that a meeting with Zimbabwe will be organised on the issue.

A.06 Exchange of views on the renewal of the measures against *Phyllosticta citricarpa* in respect of citrus fruits originating in certain third countries.

The Commission presented a draft technical document on the way forward for the renewal of the measures against *Phyllosticta citricarpa*. The document was based on the already existing Commission Decision (EU) 2016/715, it provisionally maintained the scope pending the developments with the citrus fruits from Zimbabwe, it harmonised the structure of the import requirements for each related country and it reinforced them further in terms of actions to be taken by the countries to ensure absence of the pest, traceability and level of acceptance of the consignments. The overall approach to the renewal of the measures was considered satisfactory by the Member States that intervened. Member States were asked to send written comments. The topic will be discussed again in the meeting of November.

A.07 Report of the existing reduced frequencies of import inspections on fruit, vegetables, cut flowers and wood and exchange of views on the minimum reduced frequencies for 2022.

The Commission presented the outcome of the working group meeting of 2 September 2021 and a draft list of commodities and their origin(s) (“trades”), to which a reduced

frequency of physical and identity checks should apply as of 1 January 2022. The Committee was especially requested to consider certain trades for which the working group had not reached a consensus. A common position for each of the tradelines was not reached. The Commission will revise, in the light of the comments and suggestions made, the draft proposal of frequencies for 2022 and will resubmit the revised list in the forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

A.08 Exchange of views on a draft Regulation establishing a derogation from Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 as regards the requirements for the introduction into the Union of oak logs with bark originating in United States.

The Commission presented an amended draft Regulation, which has been revised following the discussion in a working group with Member States' experts. The Commission reminded Member States that the dossier should be followed up without undue delays, as the initial derogation expired by the end of 2020.

A few Member States raised comments. The Commission asked Member States to submit comments in writing, for the sake of clarity, and will produce a revised draft for the Committee meeting in November.

A.09 Exchange of views on the need for additional rules under Article 70 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 to ensure consistency of decisions, measures and orders across all border control posts and control points.

The Commission informed the Committee on the state of play of recent discussions on the need for additional rules under Article 70 of the Official Control Regulation (OCR). Those discussions have started under the working groups for the OCR and will continue during the next meeting scheduled for 18 November.

The issue under discussion refers to the cases when the provisions of Articles 66 or 67 of the OCR have to be applied, in case of non-compliant consignments detected at the border control posts.

Some Member States expressed their views with regards to the concept of risk in the plant health sector. It is difficult to ensure that rejected consignments do not re-enter the EU in the future. From discussions during previous meetings, it has been seen that Member States have adopted different approaches with regards to Article 66 and the option of rejection, understanding differently the level of risk of the given consignment.

The discussion briefly touched upon how difficult is to address the issue in a uniform manner for all the sectors of the food chain. Some concrete questions and suggestions have been put forward by certain Member States. The discussions will continue under the working groups of the OCR to which the plant health experts were invited to participate.

A.10 Exchange of views on import requirements for tubers of *Ullucus tuberosus* originating in Peru in relation to a possible amendment of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 (high risk plants).

EFSA presented its commodity risk assessment of *Ullucus tuberosus* originating in Peru and explained the uncertainties due to the lack of survey data on the presence of the pests in Peru. With regard to some viruses that have not been selected as pests of concern in the opinion, EFSA explained that the reason is that there is no evidence of impact or no evidence of association with the tuber. The Commission informed that the

discussion on whether import requirements can reduce the risk of introduction of pests to an acceptable level will take place in a forthcoming meeting.

A.11 Exchange of views on import requirements for fruits of *Momordica charantia* from Sri Lanka, Thailand, Mexico, Suriname and Honduras in relation to a possible amendment of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 (high risk plants).

The Commission presented the likelihood of *Thrips palmy* Karny freedom on *Momordica charantia* fruits from Sri Lanka, Thailand, Mexico, Suriname and Honduras, determined by EFSA, and a draft annex with proposed measures to achieve acceptable levels of *Thrips palmi* freedom on those fruits. Some comments were raised, including the need for consistency related to “physical protection”, to ensure uniform application.

A.12 Outcome of the EU-US bilateral meeting of the Plant Health Technical Working Group of 19-20 October 2021.

The Commission gave a short overview on the main EU import related issues discussed at the bilateral meeting, with special attention to the US requests for renewal of the derogations for US oak logs with bark attached and for the US ammunition boxes.

A.13 Information point on import-export issues between the EU and UK (GB).

No issue raised.

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 opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 as regards the listing of pests, prohibitions and requirements for the introduction into, and movement within, the Union of plants, plant products and other objects, and repealing Decisions 98/109/EC and 2002/757/EC and Implementing Regulations (EU) 2020/885 and (EU) 2020/1292.

The draft Regulation has been notified to WTO-SPS for a consultation of 60 days which ended on 28 September. The comments received during this consultation phase were presented by the Commission and the way to address them was discussed with the Member States. A comment related to the import requirements against *Pantoea stewartii* for small consignments for maize seeds was further analysed and taken on board.

A written procedure for vote has been launched shortly after the meeting.

Vote taken by written procedure: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on the eradication and prevention of the spread of *Globodera rostochiensis* and *Globodera pallida* in the Union territory.

On request, some comments for possible amendments to the draft text presented by the Commission in October were discussed. The Commission explained that these changes

are necessary due to the new legal basis (Regulation (EU) 2016/2072). They are considered to be editorial and there is no intention to alter the content of the provisions at this point in time.

The Commission will take into account the comments from Member States in the further process. The Commission reminded Member States that the draft text still needs to undergo the standard legal scrutiny by Commission services before launching the public consultation on the draft Commission Implementing Regulation through the Better Regulation Portal.

M.01 Update on *Xylella fastidiosa*

The Commission informed about updates on the webpage on *Xylella fastidiosa* and the declarations from third countries. The Commission also informed about the need to amend the recently updated list of *Xylella* host plants included in the modification of Regulation (EU) 2020/1202. Due to the minor changes and to the need to act quickly, Member States will be consulted through a written procedure for vote.