



SUMMARY REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY MEETING ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD, AND FEED

Section Vine propagating material

MONDAY 26 OCTOBER 2015

Chairperson: Ms Diana Charels

Sixteen out of 28 Member States were present. Nine (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Sweden and the United Kingdom) out of 10 Member States, exempted from the obligation to apply Directive 68/193/EEC on the marketing of vine propagating material, were absent. Austria, Greece, and Luxemburg were absent.

SECTION A Information and/or discussion

A.1. Procedure for the recognition of the equivalence of vine propagating material imported from third countries.

A Commission representative explained the planned amendment of the procedure regarding equivalence of vine propagating material produced in third countries and presented the state of play.

A.2. Exchange of views on label security and traceability in the vine sector.

The Commission presented a working document on label security and traceability. The presentation was followed by a discussion with Member States on the need for a serial number and the occurrence of fraudulent practices. Several Member States (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Portugal, Slovenia, and Slovakia) declared to have serial numbers on the official labels. France and Germany are in favour of including serial numbers on official labels. According to Slovakia it is not necessary to change the legislation and enforce the inclusion of serial numbers on official labels. Malta does not have any serial numbers whereas Cyprus and Spain have to check whether serial numbers are used. Germany, France, and Italy declared that there are no cases of fraud in the vine sector. With respect to the discussion on fraud the German delegate noted that the fraudulent labels are well done, the legal process takes a long time, the imposed fines do not discourage fraud, and there is a need for exchange of information between competent authorities of Member States.

A.3. State of play of the proposal on Official Controls Regulation.

A Commission representative explained that Coreper gave a mandate for the Luxembourg Presidency to start the trilogues with the European Parliament on the Official Controls proposal.

A.4. State of play of the proposal on Protective measures against pests of plants.

A Commission representative communicated that trilogue discussions on the proposal on Protective measures against pests of plants have started. In addition, Member States were informed that the Commission has officially withdrawn the proposal on Plant Reproductive Material on 7 March 2015.

A.5. Working group on the Annexes of Council Directive 2000/29/EC – Annex II, Part A, Section II – listing of harmful organisms.

The Commission presented the state of play of the above-mentioned IIAII Working group. The working group proposes a classification for the harmful organisms concerned. These recommendations are discussed in the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food, and Feed – Section Plant Health and will subsequently be voted in this Committee.

A.6. EU quality pest project in collaboration with the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO).

The Commission informed Member States that the procedure is ongoing. The project is expected to start mid-2016.

A.7. Emergency Decision 2015/789 on *Xylella fastidiosa*.

The Commission explained the state of play of the Emergency Decision on *Xylella fastidiosa* and informed Member States about ongoing work on the susceptibility of *Vitis vinifera* to the Apulian strain *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *pauca*.

A.8. Demonstration of the EU Forest Reproductive Material Information System.

The Commission demonstrated the semantic information system on forest reproductive material, explained common errors and presented intended improvements. Management of users and secure access for Member State experts is under preparation and will be available with the new version of the system. The Commission informed Member States that a similar information system for the common catalogue of vine varieties could be considered. Member States welcomed this proposal. In this respect Member States noted that synonyms of varieties have to be checked as several identical varieties are listed with different names in the common catalogue. The French delegate promised to send a list of synonyms of vine varieties. Several delegates mentioned that the application of molecular methods to identify varieties is gaining importance.

A.9. Exchange of views on Commission Decision 2010/680/EU releasing certain EU Member States from the obligation to apply to *Vitis* L. Council Directive 68/193/EEC on the marketing of material for the vegetative propagation of the vine.

Ten Member States (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, and the United Kingdom) are exempted from the obligation to apply the requirements of the vine Directive. The Commission asked Member States about the need to amend the status of those Member States. Poland and the United Kingdom informed the Commission in writing that they would like to remain exempted. The Netherlands communicated that they would verify internally.

A.10 Miscellaneous

- The German delegate referred to the derogations foreseen for agricultural and vegetable landraces and varieties and asked the Commission whether old *Vitis* varieties could also be placed on the market as conservation varieties. The Commission promised to look into this matter. The German delegate proposed to consult their experts and prepare a working document on the legal and policy aspects.
- The French delegate asked whether there are any rules on the denomination of vine varieties. The Commission replied that Council Directive 68/193/EEC on vine propagating material does not include such rules. The CPVO delegate commented that rules on the suitability of the denominations of varieties are laid down in Commission Regulation (EC) No 637/2009.
- The French, Italian, and Portuguese delegates inquired about rules on the labels on wine bottles. The Commission replied that this matter is outside DG SANTE's remit.
- The Italian delegate reported an infringement of the requirements of the vine Directive caused by the internet sales of very small quantities of traditional vine varieties.
- The Italian delegate raised the issue of resistant varieties obtained through crossing. Those varieties can be obtained through crossing of *Vitis vinifera* with other *Vitis* species thus giving rise to hybrids. The Italian delegate inquired about the possibility to include those hybrid varieties as a separate section in the Common catalogue, and inquired about the views of Member States to include the features of hybrid resistant varieties on the label.
- The Croatian delegate reported that some Member States (Austria and Slovenia) do not respect the EU rules on the maximum allowed quantities of packages and bundles, and asked whether derogation are permitted.
- The Slovenian delegate asked about the state of play of the Annexes working group on quarantine pests. The Commission will consult the Plant health sector on this matter.
- On the basis of the discussions during the meeting it was agreed that the Commission will prepare a questionnaire addressing the inclusion of a serial number on official labels, the introduction of legal provisions for traditional varieties and the marketing of very small quantities and the individual labelling of such material.