



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 14 DECEMBER 2017 - 15 DECEMBER 2017
(Section *Plant Health*)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/39cdb29d-eeeb-4c61-935f-7b77eac90189>

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

An overview was given of the interceptions with harmful organisms and the follow-up carried out by the Commission from 8 November to 6 December 2017. The 24 interceptions of citrus black spot from South Africa were highlighted. The Commission informed about the bilateral contacts with South Africa on this matter. In addition, the Commission communicated the follow-up carried out to the interceptions notified from Nigeria, Uganda and Senegal.

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

A brief overview of the outbreaks notified by Member States for the period of 8 November to 10 December 2017 was presented by the Commission. Belgium and Estonia gave information on the outbreak of *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* in their territory. As the organism is not regulated in the EU, a discussion on the source of the outbreaks and the main pathway of spread of this harmful organism followed. Potential regulation under the seed marketing directives is going to be explored.

Portugal gave information on the state of art of the *Trioza erythrae* outbreaks in its territory. They clarified that the new outbreaks are not due to the movement of plants for planting from nurseries but to natural spread.

The UK presented the finding of a number of potato viruses in the non-regulated commodity of *Ullucus tuberosus* (Andean potatoes). It was decided to organise a working group to discuss potential future legislative actions for this commodity.

Italy informed that survey activities in Apulia for the presence of *Xylella fastidiosa* have been completed for the buffer zone and two-third of the 20 km infected zone. They also informed that they expect to conclude the 2017 survey campaign by the end of the year. So far, 19 infected plants have been detected in the buffer zone, while 296 infected plants in the first 20 km infected zone, although survey is still ongoing. Felling orders are currently being issued.

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

EFSA presented the eighth and ninth newsletters. In the eighth issue information on the main control methods of Huanglongbing (HLB) disease and its vectors has been included, following a request received by Commission and Member States. The information included methods on the control of vectors and of the infection. Some of the methods are experimental and represent novel innovative ways currently under development/evaluation.

In the ninth issue the use of icons has been introduced to visualize the information on presence in EU, on biology and on impact. This new characteristic was welcomed by the Member States. Highlights from the media were reported mainly on *Agrilus planipennis*, Citrus greening disease, *Spodoptera frugiperda* and *Xylella fastidiosa*. For the harmful organisms not listed in the EU legislation reports on *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*, *Lycorma delicatula*, *Nilaparvata lugens*, wilt disease in tomatoes were pointed out.

A.04 Exchange of views and possible approval of the minimum reduced frequencies for import inspection in 2018.

The Commission presented a revised draft proposal for the reduced import inspection frequency levels for eligible commodities and origins ("trades") for 2018. The proposed revised text reflected the discussion in the November meeting of the Committee, in particular with regard to trades linked to fall army worm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) and tomatoes from Morocco and the Canary Islands. In addition, the issue of the upcoming Commission audit results in Kenya and Tanzania was discussed. While the Committee agreed on most of the Commission's proposals, the issue of cut flowers of roses from Kenya and Tanzania was discussed in more depth. It was agreed to keep the levels for these two trades at the level of 2017 and to come back to the issue once the final audit results and the replies from Kenya and Tanzania to the recommendations and findings are available. It was also agreed to follow closely the developments of the *Spodoptera frugiperda* situation and to respond as necessary within the reduced frequency framework. The Committee then finally agreed to the set of reduced frequencies for 54 eligible trades in 2018. The Commission shall publish the agreed list on its website.

A.05 Exchange of views and possible approval on the diagnostic methods for the identification of *Xylella fastidiosa* as foreseen in Decision (EU) 2015/789.

As required by Article 3(3) of Decision (EU) 2017/2352, the Commission presented, based on the currently available EPPO Standard, a database listing the validated diagnostic tests to be used for the identification of *Xylella fastidiosa* and its subspecies in the demarcated areas and in the rest of the Union territory. The database was approved and will be made available on the Commission website.

A.06 Exchange of view on the information received from non-EU countries regarding the new import requirements for some plant as of 1 January 2018 (Commission Directive (EU) 2017/1279).

The Commission presented the information provided by non-EU countries in relation to the obligations introduced by Directive (EU) 2017/1279. An overview of the submitted information will be uploaded on the Commission web site. The Commission encouraged Member States to remind stakeholders and competent authorities of their obligations in case certain commodities are exported to the EU under specific import requirements. Member States were invited to comment on the information received.

A.07 Exchange of views on possible emergency measures against *Geosmithia morbida* (Thousand cankers disease).

The Commission provided a chronological recap of the situation of the disease since the first outbreak in 2013 and informed about the request to EFSA of harmonised guidelines for the surveillance of the disease. The Commission presented a draft for discussion on possible emergency measures.

Some Member States commented specific parts of the draft, questioning the measures for monitoring and the size of the suggested buffer zone. Others expressed concern about the impact that the spread of the disease could have on the European walnut production sector and supported possible emergency measures.

Italy informed that the pest has already spread in the north of Italy (Pianura Padana), not only in Veneto and Piemonte. It was stated that eradication of the disease in the whole affected area is no longer possible. The NPPO will notify to the Commission the new outbreaks.

The Commission took note of the worsening of the situation compared to what was described in the Italian official letter of May 2017 and asked to be updated in writing.

The Commission requested Member States to send written comments to the draft measures by 20 January.

A.08 Exchange of views on possible emergency measures against *Aromia bungii* (red-necked longhorn beetle).

The Commission presented a first draft of Union emergency measures against the entry and spread within the Union of *Aromia bungii* (the red neck long horn beetle). Discussion will be continued in a forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

A.09 Exchange of views on possible emergency measures against *Spodoptera frugiperda* (fall armyworm).

The outcome of the eWorking group on *Spodoptera frugiperda* was presented. Discussion followed focusing mainly on the appropriateness of having emergency measures, which commodities to be covered and how to survey in Member States, as the pest has many hosts. It was decided that measures should focus on fruit commodities as *Capsicum* (sweet or hot peppers), *Momordica* (gourds), *Solanum macrocarpon* (African eggplant), and *Solanum melongena* (eggplants) and also include maize (excluding seeds). Risk-based surveillance in Member States needs to be followed, tailored to Member States' agricultural production and imports from the affected non-EU countries. There was no homophony on the need of emergency measures. The Commission announced that a follow-up discussion on emergency measures will take place and the vote was anticipated for the February PAFF meeting.

A.10 Results of the Commission Working Group meeting on revision of the Annexes to Directive 2000/29/EC concerning *Aromia bungii*, *Cryphonectria parasitica* and *Ceratocystis platani*.

The outcome of the discussions that took place in the Annexes Working Group was presented to the Committee. The risk that *Aromia bungii* poses for the EU, the potential inclusion into the Annexes to Directive 2000/29/EC, with specific import and internal movement requirements, were presented. The presentation of the reports of *Cryphonectria parasitica* and *Ceratocystis platani* was postponed.

A.11 Presentation of the overview of Member States' 2016 survey results for *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*, followed by an exchange of views.

The Commission informed that according to the 2016 survey activities carried out by all Member States, pine wood nematode remains limited to Portugal mainland and three outbreak areas in the Spanish territory (of which one officially declared eradicated in 2017). The number of checks has been increased on movement controls of wood from Portugal and Spain with very limited number of non-compliances, most of which of administrative nature, and without any finding of pine wood nematode.

A.12 Presentation by Portugal of the Pine Wood Nematode situation in its territory.

Portugal informed that the exceptional forest fires of 2017 have led to around 1,5 million pine trees affected by fire in the buffer zone along the Spanish border, and almost 0,5 million trees located in the 5 km surrounding area. It appears impossible to conclude the felling activities by 1 April 2018 (as foreseen by EU legislation) due to resource capacity and structural constraints (capacity to absorb the amount of burnt wood). Portugal requested a derogation from current legal provisions, while keeping safety measures in place (e.g. extra surveys, traps) to detect any presence of Pine Wood Nematode (PWN) infection in the area concerned, which is at the present time still free from the pest. Member States were invited to inform the Commission in writing by 8 January 2018 about the request of Portugal to be followed by an electronic working group if needed. A follow-up discussion is planned for the January PAFF Committee. The Commission informed that a proposal amending Decision 2012/535/EU may be presented in early 2018 in order to meet the Portuguese constraints.

A.13 Exchange of views on the revision of the import requirements for US *Quercus* (oak) logs with bark attached in view of a possible prolongation of Decision 2005/359/EC after 2020.

The Commission presented the state of play of the import requirements for oak logs with bark from US, reminding that the current derogation Decision 2005/359/EC (lastly amended in 2010) will expire in 2020. This derogation allows import of oak logs with bark from US after fumigation with Methyl Bromide (240g/m³) for preventing the spread of the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*. Some Member States are currently importing under this regime.

Given the sensitivity of the issue and the connection with other EU measures (implementation of the Montreal Protocol), the Commission wants to know the position of the interested Member States towards the possibility to discontinue the use of Methyl Bromide as an EU import requirement for oak logs.

Member States who have an interest to this kind of trade will carry out an internal consultation with the industry and send their position to the Commission.

One Member State stated its opposition to a possible extension of the current requirements.

The Commission informed about a forthcoming workshop on alternatives to Methyl Bromide that will take place in Canada. It is scheduled for March 2018 and organized by the EU delegation. More detailed information on the issue will be shared via CIRCA.

A.14 Conclusions of the meeting of the EU-US Technical Working Group for Plant Health of 4-5 October 2017.

An overview was given of the state of play on ongoing EU-US phytosanitary dossiers on import. This related to wood packaging material for military ammunition, hard wood derogation, ash wood imports, the import requirements for corn seed and interceptions due to the presence of harmful organisms. The revision of the import requirements for citrus canker and citrus black spot and other amendments of the annexes of the Directive 2000/29/EC were mentioned. Next meeting will take place in May 2018 in the US.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/715 setting out measures in respect of certain fruits originating in certain third countries to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of the harmful organism *Phyllosticta citricarpa* (McAlpine) Van der Aa.

The draft Commission Implementing Decision updates the emergency measures for *Phyllosticta citricarpa* in order to take into account the last amendment introduced by Directive (EU) 2017/1279 in relation to the import of citrus fruits. This update does not change the phytosanitary import requirements.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.