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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Plant Health*
12 - 13 September 2019

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SUMMARY REPORT

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

The Commission presented the interceptions of citrus fruit from South Africa, Argentina, Tunisia and Uruguay for citrus black spot and/or false codling moth. It also informed the Member states about the follow-up actions to those interceptions.

The Commission also referred to an interception of *Fraxinus* from Belgium by the UK as a prohibited plant. The Commission highlighted that this commodity should be traded freely within the Union and no unilateral prohibitions should apply.

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

The Commission presented the overview of the outbreaks notified by the Member States in the period from 3 July 2019 to 31 August 2019.

A.03 EFSA newsletters on horizon scanning for new and emerging plant health risks and ranking of pests identified by media monitoring.

The media newsletter of August and September 2019, together with the two pilot newsletters of the scientific literature scanning have been disseminated to Member States.

A.04 Exchange of views on the phytosanitary requirements to be put in place to control the spread of Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma under Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The Commission discussed with the Member States the possibility to have an EU harmonised approach on eradication and containment for Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma. The distribution of the pest and current national measures of several Member States have been taken into account in this discussion.

A.05 Presentation by Switzerland on its new plant health legislation and exchange of views on the equivalence of phytosanitary conditions for movements of regulated commodities between EU and Switzerland from 14 December 2019 onwards.

The Swiss delegation presented the new plant health legislation that will apply in Switzerland from 1 January 2020 and their equivalences with the EU legislation. Switzerland bases its new law on Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 and its implementation, maintaining the equivalence that exist today.

A.06 Information by the Commission of the outcome of the meeting of the EU-US Plant Health Technical Working Group of 20-21 May 2019.

The Commission presented an overview table with the main conclusions and actions as agreed during the EU-US meeting. A point for special attention concerns the results of the Commission audit for US export certification of regulated wood to the EU. This will be addressed at a forthcoming Committee meeting.

A.07 Presentation of the report of the Commission audit from 18 to 29 March 2019 to the United States of America to evaluate the system of official controls of wood intended for export to the European Union.

Postponed.

A.08 Presentation by the Commission of the results of the 2018 Member States' surveys for potato brown rot (*Ralstonia solanacearum*) and potato ring rot (*Clavibacter michiganensis ssp. sepedonicus*), for the potato cyst nematodes *Globodera pallida* and *Globodera rostochiensis* and for *Epitrix*.

Ring rot and brown rot survey results were received from 28 Member States and from Switzerland, Turkey, Bosnia Herzegovina and Serbia. Substantial survey and eradication efforts are made in the Member States for both ring rot and brown rot.

Nine Member States were affected by ring rot. Ring rot was detected in both seed and ware potatoes in Estonia, Poland and Romania. Ring rot was detected in ware potatoes only in Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, and Slovakia.

An audit carried out in Lithuania in October 2018 suggested that the compliant implementation of the EU legislation and the additional measures taken should contribute to decrease the ring rot incidence. Compared to the previous season 2017, the situation in Poland has improved in seed potato production but the incidence of ring rot has slightly increased in ware potato production. The situation in Romania has improved in both productions compared to the previous season. An audit carried out in April 2018 pointed out several problems to be solved for improvement of the ring rot incidence. Apart from Poland and Romania, the overall ring rot incidence has slightly increased in ware potato and slightly decreased for seed potatoes.

Brown rot was detected in six Member States at harvest, as in 2017. The overall brown rot incidence has slightly decreased in ware potato and slightly increased for seed potatoes.

Brown rot and ring rot were present simultaneously in Bulgaria and Poland.

PCNs survey results were received from 28 Member States and from Switzerland. Similar trends as in the previous seasons were observed. Both nematodes were found in 16 Member States, *G. rostochiensis* was found in seven Member States and *G. pallida* in two Member States. Hungary, Croatia and Malta were free of nematodes. Overall, the incidence has slightly decreased in ware potatoes and slightly decreased in seed potatoes comparing to the previous two years.

The Netherlands continues the characterisation of the exceptional change of the composition of PCN (first recorded in 2015) in starch potato area but results could not be concluded due to the drought ('Pallifit' research project).

The Commission asked Cyprus some clarifications about the actions taken as regards the eight intra-EU interceptions of ware potatoes contaminated with PCN and originating from Cyprus.

Epitrix survey results received from 27 Member States confirmed the absence of *Epitrix* spp. in their territory, except for Spain and Portugal where the pest is present in large areas.

In the North of Spain, the entire community of Asturias is demarcated and new infested areas were detected during annual surveys. In Galicia, seven infested fields were detected outside the already established areas. In Andalucía five new demarcated areas were created. *Epitrix* spp. was observed on three other hosts than potatoes.

The Commission requested Spain for an update of the results of the studies on the *Epitrix* spp. flights, for a final decision on the size of the demarcated areas, which is currently 500 m. An update of the results of the washing/brushing efficiency by UK and Ireland remains missing.

In Portugal, survey intensity has decreased due to the efficient use of sweeping nets which allowed to survey the smallest areas and more zones than during the previous growing seasons. New findings were detected on the mainland and in the Acores and Madeira. *Epitrix* spp. was observed on three other hosts than potatoes.

A.09 Exchange of views on a derogation from certain provisions of Council Directive 2000/29/EC in respect of naturally or artificially dwarfed plants of *Pinus thumbergii* and *Pinus parviflora*, originating in Japan.

Postponed.

A.10 Presentation by the Commission of the report of the Working Group meeting on 8 July 2019 on the multi-annual survey programs and reports on quarantine pests under Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The Commission presented the report of the working group meeting held on 8 July 2019 on the multi-annual survey programs and the annual survey reports on quarantine pests under Regulation (EU) 2016/2031. The Commission and Member States agreed on organising a new working group in the coming weeks to continue with the work.

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 Decision as regards measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of Rose Rosette Virus and its vector *Phyllocoptes fructiphilus*.

Voted in the meeting of 6 September.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision establishing measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of *Fusarium circinatum* Nirenberg & O'Donnell (formerly called *Gibberella circinata*) and repealing Commission Decision 2007/433/EC.

The draft Decision was presented by the Commission, highlighting the amendments made since the last meeting. The draft was presented for vote and unanimously accepted by Member States.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation 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, and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 690/2008 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019.

The Commission presented the outcome of the consultation of stakeholders. The Commission explained the changes in the current draft as compared to the former version. The Commission announced to upload on CIRCA two documents clarifying certain aspects of the new legislation. An exchange of views on outstanding issues took place. Member States were asked to send their proposals for addressing the aforementioned issues.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on the format of a poster with information on phytosanitary import restrictions for travellers and clients of postal services.

The Commission presented a first text for an implementing act, together with the proposed poster. The draft Implementing Regulation will be presented at a forthcoming Committee meeting.