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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 non-compliances notified by Member States and the actions taken.

The Commission presented the non-compliances due to the presence of pests for the period between 16 May and 12 June 2022. In non-EU trade the Commission highlighted the non-compliances due to (i) Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus on seeds of tomatoes from Israel, Kenya, Peru and Jordan and peppers from China, (ii) *Spodoptera frugiperda* on cut flowers of *Eryngium* from Ecuador and Zimbabwe, and on *Rosa* from Kenya, (iii) *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on cut flowers of *Rosa* from Ethiopia and Kenya and on *Persea americana* from Cameroon, (iv) *Bactrocera dorsalis* on mangoes from Mali, Burkina Faso, and from Cote d'Ivoire, and (v) *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on lemons from Argentina, Eswatini and South Africa.

The Commission also noted the non-compliances due to (i) *Neoleucinodes elegantalis* on eggplants from Suriname, (ii) *Xanthomonas citri* pv *citri* on Tahiti limes from Brazil; and (iii) *Thrips palmi* on eggplants from Mexico; (iv) the non-compliances of different pests on logs of *Juglans nigra* from US and (v) the non-compliances of wood packaging material from China and India.

The Commission also presented the evolution of third country non-compliances due to pests since the beginning of 2022. China, Israel, Kenya, Brazil, Peru, United States, Mexico, Uganda, Thailand, Cameroon, India, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Suriname and Colombia were the countries with more than 10 non-compliances due to pests, by order of number of non-compliances. Member States and the Commission highlighted the non-compliances due to *Spodoptera frugiperda* on *Asparagus* from Peru, *Bactrocera dorsalis* on mangoes, and Tomato brown Rugose Fruit Virus on seeds of tomatoes and peppers. The Committee agreed to continue with launching the procedure of follow-up actions by means of written communication and meetings. In addition, the Commission will also make an assessment for those cases where additional actions need to be taken. The Committee also agreed to monitor closely the evolution of those non-compliances.

In EU trade, the Commission highlighted the non-compliances of *Ripersiella hibisci* on *Callistemon* and of *Chamaerops humilis* from Italy (reported by the Netherlands) and the non-compliances due to *Meloidogyne chitwoodi* on ware potatoes from Germany

(reported by the Netherlands) and on seed potatoes from the Netherlands (reported by Romania).

The Commission presented an update of the follow-up actions taken with Brazil and Egypt as a follow up to non-compliances of *Xanthomonas citri pv citri* and *Ralstonia solanacearum* respectively, and an update to the audit programme.

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

The Commission presented the overview of the outbreaks notified by the Member States in the period from 16 May to 8 June 2022.

Belgium informed on the first finding of *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens pv. flaccumfaciens*, which was isolated from plants of *Vicia faba*. Phytosanitary measures are taken.

Czech Republic has informed on the presence of *Aleurocanthus spiniferus* on plants of *Citrofortunella microcarpa* in its territory. The finding is the outcome of trace forward investigations. Eradication and monitoring measures were put in place.

Italy reported the first finding in its territory of the non-regulated pest *Ripersiella maasbachi*. The pest was found in roots of *Camelia* plants. Eradication measures are in place. Furthermore, Italy gave information related to the findings of *Geosmithia morbida* and the measures taken.

Portugal informed the Commission about a finding of *Xylella fastidiosa* subspecies *multiplex* in *citrus sinensis* on 8 June 2022. The notification is related to a single plant found infected in a private garden in area of Porto.

Portugal informed that it is going to intensify the surveillance in *Citrus sinensis* and measures against the spread of *Xylella* both inside and outside the demarcated area in its territory.

Portugal provided the overview of the new national legislation already in force after this finding:

- The DGAV updated the list of host plants adding the *citrus sinensis*(sweet orange).
- The *citrus sinensis* is now a “priority” according to this list and the destruction and removal of infected trees and specified plants is mandatory.
- The infected tree has been already removed to reduce the pressure of infection by the pest.
- No orange trees orchards are present in the Porto demarcated area.

So far Member States confirmed no other finding in the Union of *Xylella* in orange trees.

A.03 EFSA newsletter on horizon scanning for new pests; EPPO monthly reporting service on pests.

The Commission presented highlights from the EFSA newsletter on horizon scanning, issue of June 2022, and EPPO’s reporting service of May 2022.

A.04 Exchange of views on the future implementing act under Article 54(3) of the Official Controls Regulation on the reduced frequencies of plant health inspections.

The Commission presented the written comments received from some Member States after the Committee meeting in May, and its reaction thereto. Some additional comments were made in the meeting. Several Member States emphasized a need for a voluntary nature of using frequency rates lower than 100% for identity and physical checks, thus allowing those Member States that would wish so to carry out inspections at a higher level. The Commission will now proceed with its internal consultations and will come back to the Committee with the official proposal in due time.

A.05 Overview of EFSA's Pest Monitoring Scoring tool results for the non-EU regulated pests identified by media and scientific monitoring.

Information was shared on the pests that were identified from September 2021 to June 2022 during the horizon scanning and analysed via the Pest Monitoring Scoring tool. 14 of these pests have scored positive. The main reasons for inclusion were also highlighted. A follow-up discussion will take place on the need to request a pest categorization for these pests. For the pests present in EU, it is important to have more detailed information of the observed impact in the EU.

A.06 Exchange of views on draft EU measures against *Agrilus planipennis* outbreaks.

The Committee exchanged views on draft EU measures against *Agrilus planipennis* – a priority pest which is approaching the EU borders. Several Member States are actively working on contingency plans for this pest. The Commission invited Member States to provide written comments by 20 August 2022. The measures will be discussed again at the PAFF of September.

A.07 Exchange of views on a draft EU measure related to Israel's system approach against *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*.

Israel has requested a derogation from the upcoming import requirements for oranges in relation to *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* and a recognition of their systems approach which does not include a cold treatment. Israel's system approach has been evaluated by EFSA. The conditions under which such a systems approach could be meriting a derogation/equivalence have been discussed.

A.08 Information 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 establishing measures for the containment of Grapevine flavescence doree phytoplasma within certain demarcated areas.

The Commission presented the overview of the comments received during the four weeks' public consultation in the Better Regulation Portal 'Have your Say'. Minor changes have been introduced after discussion with the Member States

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation establishing measures for the containment of *Ceratocystis platani* (J.M. Walter) Engelbr. & T.C. Harr. within certain demarcated areas.

The Commission informed that no comments were received during the four weeks of public consultation on this draft proposal. An exchange of views took place. The Commission introduced minor changes to the text.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation as regards temporary measures to prevent the entry into, the movement and the spread within, and the multiplication and release in, the Union of *Meloidogyne graminicola* (Golden & Birchfield).

The Commission presented the text. An exchange of views took place. The Commission introduced minor changes to the text.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 as regards certain plants for planting of *Malus domestica* originating in Ukraine.

The Commission presented to the Committee a proposal for delisting certain plants for planting of *Malus domestica* originating in Ukraine from the list of high risk plants, and correcting the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019, as regards certain plants for planting of *Malus domestica* originating in Serbia.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation establishing emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of Rose Rosette Virus and repealing Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/1739.

The Commission presented the text. An exchange of views took place. The Commission introduced a few relevant changes to the text.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation, amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 (high risk plants) to delist certain plants for planting of *Malus domestica* from Turkey.

Two Member States presented data and opinions of their national reference laboratories to the Committee, concerning some of the pests identified in the scientific opinion of *Malus domestica* plants for planting from Turkey. Following the discussions, it was concluded that import requirements are necessary for those plants for planting in relation to *Diplodia bugarica*. However, no import requirements are necessary concerning *Cicadatra persica*, *Malocosoma parallela* and *Pyrolachnus pyri*, as there is no evidence of serious damage to *Malus* plants. The Commission will present a proposal for delisting those plants for planting from the list of high risk plants in a subsequent Committee meeting.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation, amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 (high risk plants) to delist unrooted cuttings of plants for planting of *Jasminum polyanthum* from Uganda.

The Commission presented a draft Implementing Regulation for delisting unrooted cuttings of plants for planting of *Jasminum polyanthum*, originating in Uganda, from the list of high risk plants. Suggestions were made to the text, particularly, the need for consistency between the text and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/419 concerning *Jasminum polyanthum* originating in Israel. The Commission will look into those comments and present an amended version of the draft text in a subsequent Committee meeting.

C.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on the prohibition of introduction, movement, holding, multiplication or release of certain pests pursuant to Article 30(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The Commission presented a draft Implementing Regulation, establishing the list of pests for which temporary harmonized action should be taken to prevent their entry into the Union territory. The Commission will reflect on a standardized procedure for adding other pests to this list. The pests present on this list shall be added to Traces to facilitate the work of the inspectors at import and ensure those pests are checked during import control. The Commission also clarified to the Committee the reason behind including those pests in the prohibition list. The proposal will be presented to the Committee for vote in the meeting of July 2022.

M.01 *EFSA pest surveillance and network*

EFSA briefly presented the timeline of the latest mandate on surveillance and informed Member States that the deadline for the grants based on Article 36 to develop survey cards of three groups of plants as part of the crop-based approach (fruit trees, conifers and palms and ornamentals) is 16 September 2022.

EFSA also informed about the establishment of a network on plant pest surveillance as requested by the Commission in the last mandate, to create a forum of exchange of experiences and a network to train the trainers for each Member State on statistically-based surveys. An official letter will be sent to the COPHs to appoint the representatives of their Member State in the network. The initiative was very well received by Member

States, who in the past have asked for this type of initiative, as they would like to have further training on statistically-based surveys.