



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Crisis preparedness in food, animals and plants

WORKING GROUP
ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED

Sections

Plant Health

Seed and Propagating Material for Agriculture and Horticulture

Propagating material and plants of fruit genera and species

Propagating material of ornamental plants

Vine

Forest reproductive material

2 JUNE 2022

SUMMARY

SECTION A **Information and/or discussion**

1. Union Regulated non quarantine pests (RNQPs) under the Union legislation and the way forward

The Commission explained that RNQPs are currently regulated under both plant health and plant reproductive material legislation, with overlap of certain provisions between the two. Consultation of plant health and plant reproductive material competent authorities and stakeholders have shown that there is a demand for simplification and clarification of the rules regarding RNQPs. The Commission presented its views on the way forward as regards the regulation of RNQPs. The identification of RNQPs, their thresholds and specific measures would be laid down under the plant health law only whereby the issuance of a plant passport would certify compliance with requirements as regards quarantine pests and RNQPs. Plant reproductive material certification would cover quality pests as well as the identity and quality of the material, whereby the issuance of an official label / supplier's label would certify compliance with those requirements. In addition, the plant reproductive

material legislation would refer to compliance with plant health requirements. The Commission reminded that already today it is up to the Member States to decide which competent authorities conduct the plant health checks as regards quarantine pests and RNQPs.

An exchange of views with Member States took place. Member States welcomed the Commission's initiative of organising a joint meeting for plant health and plant reproductive material experts. All Member States agreed about the need to simplify the legislation and avoid duplications of provisions under the two different legal frameworks. Several Member States informed that they would consult their competent authorities and stakeholders before expressing an opinion.

There were several questions from Member States regarding the plant passport, imports and the plant health requirements per category of plant reproductive material in the marketing directives. The Commission confirmed that it will remain possible to combine plant passports with official labels. Plant passports are required for seeds in case of requirements concerning quarantine pests or RNQPs. With regard to imports the Commission will study the possibilities for reporting about compliance with RNQP requirements. The Commission pointed out that there are certain issues to be addressed such as imports to private persons and imports of non-certified seed. In relation to detailed RNQP requirements in the marketing directives per category of plant reproductive material, the Commission reassured Member States that it is its intention to transfer those requirements to the plant health legislation.

The Commission invited Member States to send feedback regarding any outstanding issues that would need to be addressed upon transfer of RNQP requirements to the plant health legislation and asked to send written comments by 16 June 2022.