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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*
18 - 19 November 2021

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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Evaluation of recent import interceptions with pests by Member States and the actions taken.

The Committee discussed the interceptions for the period between 17 October and 15 November. On non-EU trade, the Commission highlighted in particular the five interceptions of Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus on seeds of *Solanum lycopersicum* from China, Israel, and Thailand, and on seeds of *Capsicum annuum* from India; the forty seven interceptions of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on *Citrus fruits* mainly from Zimbabwe and South Africa; the interception of *Bactrocera dorsalis* on *Psidium guajava* from India; the interceptions of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Citrus paradisi* from South Africa, and on *Citrus sinensis* from Zimbabwe; the interceptions of *Spodoptera frugiperda* on *Asparagus officinalis* from Peru and on *Capsicum chinense* from Suriname; and the interceptions of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Rosa* sp. from Kenya; the interception of *Spodoptera frugiperda* on *Rosa* sp from Kenya. On EU trade the Commission highlighted the interception of Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus on fruits of *Solanum lycopersicum* from the Netherlands (reported by Austria). It was agreed to monitor the development of the interceptions and discuss further on actions needed. For the specific cases of interceptions of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* and *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on citrus fruits, there is an ongoing discussion in points A.05 and A.06 of the agenda.

On follow-up actions to interceptions, the Commission reported on the letters received from EU and non-EU stakeholders regarding the potential measures for *Phyllosticta citricarpa* and *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on citrus fruits and on the meeting with Zimbabwe on the high number of interceptions *Phyllosticta citricarpa* and *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on citrus fruits. It also reported on the planned and ongoing audits of the period.

A.02 Evaluation of recent outbreaks of pests notified by Member States and the control actions taken (including situation of *Aromia bungii* and *Anoplophora glabripennis* in Italy).

The Commission presented the overview of the outbreaks notified by the Member States in the period from 16 October 2021 to 9 November 2021.

The Netherlands presented the information related to the actions taken when pests belonging to the group of non-European *Scolytinae* are found.

Xylella

Italy informed about a recent finding in the region Lazio on an isolated tree of *Prunus dulcis*. The positive result for *Xylella fastidiosa* has triggered an outbreak notification dated 9 November 2021. The subspecies has yet not been identified although Italy suspects it could be multiplex, because the olive trees in the proximity of the finding are not affected and because of the relative proximity with the outbreak of Monte Argentario.

A.03 EFSA newsletters on horizon scanning of media and literature for new and emerging plant health risks; EPPO monthly reporting service on pests.

The EFSA media newsletter and the EFSA scientific literature newsletter of November 2021 and the latest EPPO reporting service were shared with the Committee.

A.04 Outcome of EFSA's Pest Monitoring Scoring tool for the non-EU regulated pests identified by media and scientific monitoring.

EFSA presented the outcome of the PeMoScoring of the non-regulated pests identified in the past 5 months. Information related to the uncertainties due to taxonomic changes and impact were also been presented. Some of the pests are present in the EU. A decision on the mandate to EFSA will be taken after a follow-up discussion with Members States.

A.05 Exchange of views on the revision of the import requirements for citrus fruits from South Africa against *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*.

The Committee discussed the potential need for revision of the import requirements for citrus fruits from South Africa against *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (false codling moth).

There was a general agreement that action should be taken in response to the interceptions of false codling moth from South Africa, considering amongst others the application of cold treatment, while taking into account the limitations of the method and the need for verification of its implementation. The Commission brought forward additional elements to consider such as the need for other third countries to be included in the measures, the type of citrus to be covered by the measures etc. Discussions will continue at the next Standing Committee.

A.06 Exchange of views on the renewal of the measures against *Phyllosticta citricarpa* in respect of citrus fruits originating in certain third countries.

The Committee discussed the renewal of the measures against *Phyllosticta citricarpa*. There was general agreement that Zimbabwe should be included in the emergency measures, given the high number of interceptions for *Phyllosticta citricarpa* this year. Member States expressed their concern about the high administrative burden derived from the need to verify that consignments en route from Argentina originate from eligible sites of productions, and it was considered whether the professional operators should be involved in this process. Discussions will continue at the next Standing Committee.

A.07 Exchange of views and common position on the minimum reduced frequencies of import inspections on fruit, vegetables, cut flowers and wood for 2022.

Following to the discussion in the previous Committee meeting, the Commission presented the revised proposal of a draft list of commodities and their origin(s) (“trades”), to which a reduced frequency of physical and identity checks should apply as of 1 January 2022. After a discussion, the Committee agreed on the revised proposal. It has, however, requested the Commission, in relation to trades of cut roses, to ensure the EFSA opinion on the risk of introduction of false codling moth through this pathway be available as soon as possible, and to closely monitor these trades until the availability of the EFSA opinion. The Commission shall publish the agreed list of the reduced frequencies of the DG SANTE website.

A.08 Exchange of views on the follow-up actions regarding non-regulated pests for which actions have been taken under Article 29 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The Commission presented a follow-up on discussions held during the previous PAFF and COPHs meetings concerning non-regulated pests intercepted between 2019 and 2021. A harmonised approach for intercepting non-regulated pests, the criteria for selecting intercepted pests for PRA, Risk assessment or Pest categorisation, and the list of pests retained for PRA/Risk assessment/Pest categorisation were presented to the Committee. The Committee commented that some of the pests selected for PRA/ Risk assessment/Pest categorisation are known not to have impact in the Union, based on Preliminary Risk Assessments carried out in some Member States, and see no need for further analyses. Pests for which a pest risk assessment is needed have been identified.

A.09 Exchange of views on the situation of *Meloidogyne chitwoodi* and *M. fallax* in the Union territory.

The Commission informed on the latest available information from survey results and outbreak notifications. A number of Member States explained the measures taken in relation to findings. The Committee also exchanged on the implementation of the survey methodology and the eradication/containment measures.

A.10 Exchange of views on a draft Regulation establishing a derogation from Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 as regards the requirements for the introduction into the Union of oak logs with bark originating in United States.

The Commission presented a revised draft Regulation following the discussion at the October meeting. The Committee discussed the proposal and the Commission will prepare a new version following the discussions. The Commission might consult Member States in writing on the next revision of the text.

A.11 Exchange of views on import requirements for tubers of *Ullucus tuberosus* originating in Peru in relation to a possible amendment of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 (high risk plants).

The Commission presented the draft Annex to the Regulation to delist tubers of *Ullucus tuberosus* from Peru as prohibited commodity and the special requirements for its introduction into the EU. The Committee discussed the approach and the Commission will prepare a draft Regulation that will be presented in the forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

A.12 Exchange of views on import requirements for fruits of *Momordica charantia* from Sri Lanka, Thailand, Mexico, Suriname and Honduras in relation to a possible amendment of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 (high risk plants).

The Commission presented draft measures for delisting *Momordica charantia* fruits originating in Honduras, Mexico, Sri Lanka and Thailand from the list of high risk plants (HRP). The Commission explained that the risk mitigation measures proposed by Suriname are deemed insufficient, thus their exclusion from this draft Regulation. It was clarified that, from a legal point of view, this Regulation should be an amendment to Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 rather than to Regulation (EU) 2020/1213. The comments by the Committee concerning the text will be taken into consideration and a final version of the text will be presented to the Committee in one of the upcoming meetings. All five third countries involved will be informed on the line taken subsequently.

A.13 Presentation by HADEA of the approved Phytosanitary Programmes for Union financial contribution for 2021-2022.

The Committee was informed about the final outcome of the evaluation and distribution of the available budget in line with the priorities set out in the Annex to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the Programme for single market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, and European statistics and the adoption of the work programme for 2021-2024. The Commission also explained the budgetary situation and stressed that no additional budget could be made available to cover the co-funding of the entire programmes. As a result, for 2021, only priority 1 pests could be co-funded, while in 2022, priority 1 and to a very low extent priority 2 pests could be co-funded. Several Member States expressed concerns over the fact that they would receive very little co-funding comparing to previous years. This will result in their inability to complete the programmes as planned. They have called for a revision of the criteria and priorities for co-funding for the next round of programmes. The Commission took note and agreed to prepare a revision of the priority setting.

A.14 Information point on import-export issues between the EU and UK(GB).

The Commission is preparing the legal texts to simplify the certification for the movement of plants, other than plants for planting, fruits, vegetables and cut flowers from GB/UK to NI/UK retailers.

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 dorée phytoplasma within certain demarcated areas.

The Commission discussed the measure with the Member States. The focus was the definition of the demarcated areas. New data are required from the Member States prior to further action.

Vote Postponed

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on the measures for introduction into the Union of plants of strawberry (*Fragaria L.*), intended for planting, other than seeds and originating in Chile, on official controls and checks performed to ensure the application of plant health rules and on the amendment of Annex VI to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.

The Commission informed Member States that Chile cannot meet the requirement as regards areas, production sites or production places being free from *Eotetranychus lewisi*. Member States agreed that the Commission will write a letter to Chile to recall the stricter rules in relation to *Eotetranychus lewisi*. The vote on the draft Commission Implementing Regulation is postponed until further notice.

M.01 ToBRFV

The Netherlands informed about certain issues with the additional declarations required under Regulation 2020/1191 in connection with Article 71(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031. The reference to Article 9(1) or 9(2) is required, and consignments coming from China should be accompanied by compliant phytosanitary certificates. The Commission offered to facilitate the communication with Chinese authorities through the delegation in Beijing to avoid possible trade disruptions.

M.02 *Xylella*

The Netherlands informed about some issues with the Additional Declarations of consignments coming from the United States with regards to *Xylella fastidiosa* host plants and the requirements of Article 29(c) of Regulation (EC) 2020/1201. The conditions listed in that Article should be reflected in the additional declarations, with regards to the specific reference to the 'place of origin'. The Commission considers that the Dutch approach is correct. The Commission also acknowledges that the mentioned Article could be better re-worded. To this purpose, an in-depth discussion on *Xylella fastidiosa* will be scheduled for a forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

M.03 *Popillia japonica*

Germany informed that on 17 November 2021 an adult insect was captured in a trap near a railroad line in Baden-Wuerttemberg, in a transit area between Italy and Germany, that most probable hitchhiked from the infested area. The official notification is under preparation.