BAAYEN Robert (SANCO)

From: Andy Gordon [andyg.gordon@btopenworld.com]
Sent: jeudi 7 juillet 2011 16:31
To: BAAYEN Robert (SANCO)
Subject: RE: Options for future plant health regime

Dear Robert,

I am now able to pass on comments from EFNA on the above. Thank you again for clarifying the position with regard to Invasive Alien Species. Unfortunately discuusions on the options took place in some of our member countries before I obtained your clarification and as there has been no time since then to consult with all members once again before 8th July, this response has not been cleared with all members. However, I feel that most members would opt for Option 3 rather than Option 4 if they fully understood the position.

1, EFNA is alarmed to report that not all of our members were consulted on this important issue via their own plant health authorities. It was only because EFNA have been receiving all documents from your unit that we have been able to consider this issue, which we feel might have greater implications for forest nurseries than most other sectors of the industry. Therefore we would like to thank you for this and request that we continue to be involved wherever possible in these discussions.

2. It is impossible for me to give you an unanimous reply for all member countries of EFNA. In some countries the question of costs proved of paramount importance and they voted for Option 2 and even Option 1.

3. The majority of members however did accept the need to re-inforce our efforts against the accidental introduction of pests and diseases and that inevitably this would involve some extra costs. They were therefore inclined to go for Option 3.

4. However after most members had come down in favour of this Option, there was renewed debate about Invasive Alien Species among those members still to make up their mind which caused members to chose Option 4. But once I had forwarded your reply of 5th June to them, they reverted to Option 3, EFNA's original position.

5. To summarise, EFNA does not have a unanimous position. A few members prefer that the new regime should involve no additional costs. However, in the knowledge that the current regime already covers invasive alien species of pests and diseases, and that Option 4 would involve **additional** invasive alien **plant** species, the majority of EFNA members have chosen **Option 3.**

I apologise for this rrather ambivalent reply!

Kind regards

Andy Gordon
Secretary,
EFNA