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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***  
**19 - 20 February 2024**

**CIRCABC Link:** <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/2fef964-6d34-495a-b870-fa14e7b50f3d/library/87a66fba-3e60-411b-928e-a47fa99ddd89?p=1>

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**A.01 Evaluation of recent import non-compliances notified by Member States and the actions taken.**

The Commission presented an overview of non-compliances between 12 January and 14 February 2024.

In non-EU trade, the Commission highlighted the non-compliances due to (i) Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus on seeds of tomatoes from Israel, Türkiye, Guatemala, Thailand, China and Peru and on seeds of peppers from Türkiye, Thailand and China, (ii) *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Rosa* from Uganda and Kenya, and on peppers from South Africa, (iii) *Spodoptera frugiperda* on asparagus from Peru, strawberries from Egypt and basil from Ethiopia, (iv) *Bactrocera dorsalis* on *Annona squamosa* from Indonesia and mangoes from Uganda, (v) *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* on WPM from China, (vi) *Elsinoë* on *Citrus latifolia* from Brazil and Colombia and on *Citrus maxima* from China, (vii) *Xanthomonas citri* pv. *citri* on *Citrus hystrix* from Indonesia, *Citrus maxima* from China, *Citrus paradisi* from United States and *Citrus latifolia* from Brazil, and (viii) *Ralstonia solanacearum* on potatoes from Egypt.

In EU trade, the Commission highlighted the non-compliances due to (i) Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus on plants of tomatoes from Spain and on seeds of tomatoes from Italy, (ii) *Globodera pallida* on potatoes from Cyprus, (iii) Cotton Leaf Curl Gezira virus on *Lavatera clementii* produced in Belgium from cuttings originating in Israel and (iv) Fig mosaic virus, Fig badnavirus-1 (XXFB1) and Fig fleck-associated virus (XFFAV) on *Ficus carica* from France.

Member States expressed concern about the non-compliances of *Ralstonia solanacearum* on potatoes from Egypt. One Member State explained that following the positive laboratory result from a pest free area, other consignments from that area have been rejected, in line with Implementing Decision 2011/787/EU. To ensure a fast communication, the Member State that intercepted will write to Egypt to explain this and Member States agreed to increase vigilance on the imports of potatoes from Egypt.

The Commission also provided an update on audits and on the follow-up actions to the non-compliances.

The Committee agreed to continue with the procedure of follow-up actions by means of written communication and meetings and to monitor closely the evolution of those non-compliances.

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

Belgium has reported the first finding in its territory and in the EU of the non-regulated pest *Phytophthora pluvialis*. The pest was found in some water streams and neighbouring strands of *Pseudotsuga menziesii* in the southern part of the country as result of the work of a research project. Further surveys will be performed to determine the extent of the presence of the pest in the forestry areas. Surveys will include nurseries.

Denmark informed about the state of art and the measures taken after the first finding of *Meloidogyne chitwoodii* in its territory. The finding was a result of annual surveys, and it concerns one field. Eradication measures are in place, including prohibition of movement of plants and soil and disinfection of machinery that is moved.

Italy gave an update regarding the findings of *Bactrocera dorsalis* in the territory. In certain cases, the pest is found in traps, as part of the surveys in place for this pest.

Germany informed about the situation regarding *Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum*. The infested material found is ginger tubers. Eradication measures are in place. Furthermore, Slovenia informed on the follow-up actions after the first finding of the same pest in two greenhouses where ginger plants are grown. Eradication measures are in place. The official measures include prohibition of movement of plants and machinery/tools.

Lithuania has reported the pest finding of *Globodera pallida* in its territory in a field where ware potatoes are grown. Measures are in place in accordance with EU legislation and surveys will continue.

Given the outbreaks of *Spodoptera frugiperda* in Greece and Romania, Bulgaria gave a presentation on the territory survey activities for this pest. The pest was not found during the 2023 official survey campaign. Surveys with traps for this pest will be intensified in the 2024, following the principles laid down in the EU specific measure for this pest.

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

The Commission presented highlights from EFSA's newsletter on horizon scanning, issue of January 2024, and EPPO's reporting service of January 2024.

#### **A.04 Exchange of views on a harmonised administrative handling of plants and plant products regulated under Article 73 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 at import.**

Following an official letter from the Polish authorities, the Committee exchanged on the potential issuance of a Common Health Entry Document (CHED-PP) for regulated goods under Article 73 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031. Currently, this is not implemented in a uniform way.

The Committee could not conclude a common position, although all Member States acknowledged and agreed that a harmonised position was required. It was suggested to

move these regulated products under Article 72 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 and to apply uniform reduced frequencies on some of them.

The Commission will consider this approach and come back on this in a forthcoming Committee meeting.

**A.05 Exchange of views on a harmonised approach for documentary verification of compliance of tomato seed consignments at import with Regulation (EU) 2023/1032.**

The Commission clarified that paragraph 1, point (b) of Article 10 of Regulation (EU) 2023/1032 refers to traceability of the imported tomato seeds up to the production sites of the mother plants, which are required to be mentioned in the phytosanitary certificate.

Numerous non-compliances of tomato seed consignments at import are linked to phytosanitary certificates with unclear traceability about the production site. The issue concerns mainly seeds originating from India and China. This situation results in non-harmonized practices among Member States at the points of entry as regards release or rejection of tomato seed consignments, due to different interpretations of the traceability information provided in phytosanitary certificates. In many cases, it is difficult for inspectors to evaluate whether the geographical origin provided in the phytosanitary certificate corresponds to a production site or to a larger area.

It was concluded that, even if the traceability information on certificates is unclear, it remains a national responsibility of the exporting country to ensure that the system is reliable.

The Commission will send a letter to the competent authorities of India to request clarification on its traceability system and to evaluate whether this system guarantees compliance with the EU import requirements. As regards China, an audit took place from the 12 to 27 October 2023 in China to evaluate the implementation of the relevant provisions of Regulation (EU) 2023/1032, and the competent authorities were informed about the EU traceability requirements.

In case of doubts at import, further phytosanitary reassurances might also be obtained by extra testing.

**A.06 Renewal of the measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Decision (EU) 2015/893).**

The Committee exchanged on the possible renewal of EU measures for the Asian longhorn beetle, in particular on the list of specified plants and import requirements. A dedicated working group will look more in detail into these issues and the results will be reported to the Committee. Further written comments are to be submitted to the Commission within 2 weeks at the latest.

**A.07 Exchange of views on the conditions for a possible derogation from Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 concerning the introduction of unrooted cuttings for planting of *Calibrachoa* spp. and *Petunia* spp. and their hybrids from Guatemala into the Union.**

EFSA presented the scientific opinion on Commodity Risk Assessment of *Petunia* spp. and *Calibrachoa* spp. unrooted cuttings from Guatemala. Following this presentation, the Commission presented a non-paper regarding the possible derogation on the introduction of these unrooted cuttings from Guatemala into the EU. Member States

raised some elements to be included in the draft. In order to further develop the draft, the Commission asked Member States to submit written comments within three weeks. The exchanges of views will continue in a forthcoming Committee meeting.

**A.08 Update of the measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of *Anoplophora chinensis* (Regulation (EU) 2022/2095).**

The Committee discussed a possible review of the measures, and more specifically the levels of destructive sampling at imports and integrating the import and movement requirements in the annexes of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.

**A.09 Main findings of the 2023 Commission audit to Cyprus regarding the outbreaks of *Spodoptera frugiperda* and *Diaphorina citri*.**

The Commission presented the main findings and preliminary conclusions of the DG SANTE audit of Cyprus which took place from 1 to 8 December 2023. This audit consisted of remote meetings and on the spot visits. The objectives of the audit were: to evaluate the situation and control measures applied in response to the *Spodoptera frugiperda* outbreaks and assess the implementation of provisions of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1134 and relevant provisions of Regulations (EU) 2016/2031 and 2017/625, to assess the situation in response to the *Diaphorina citri* outbreak and the implementation of the relevant provisions of Regulations (EU) 2016/2031 and 2017/625 and to assess the implementation of the surveys and contingency planning for *Candidatus Liberibacter* spp., the causal agent of the Huanglongbing disease of citrus.

**A.10 Information on the pests shortlisted for further assessment in the framework of the update of the list of priority pests.**

Following the discussions in November and December 2023, and the written comments by several Member States, the Commission updated the Committee on the lists of pests suggested for full assessment as potential priority pests by EFSA and JRC. The Committee was also updated on the work of EFSA in this regard.

**A.11 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 Regulation on emergency action against a plant pest in the Union and third countries.**

No issue raised.

**B.02 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 *Prunus persica*, *Prunus dulcis*, *Prunus armeniaca* and *Prunus davidiana* originating in Türkiye and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1213 as regards the phytosanitary measures for the introduction of those plants for planting into the Union territory**

The Committee raised concerns about the situation of equivalence as regards the EU Marketing Directives for plant propagating material between the EU and the third country. The Commission clarified that, until 31 December 2025, the Member States

are authorized to grant equivalence to third countries for the fruit plant propagating material. The Commission also informed the Committee that Türkiye has been informed on multiple occasions that it needs to submit a request for EU equivalence to the Commission if it intends to continue the export of the fruit plant propagating material to the EU beyond 2025. Other comments on the text were addressed in the Committee. The text can be presented for vote in the subsequent Committee meeting, following consultation with Türkiye.

**Vote Postponed**

**B.03 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* and certain plants for planting of *Berberis thunbergii* originating in Türkiye and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1213 as regards the phytosanitary measures for the introduction of those plants for planting into the Union territory**

The Commission presented the draft text and Annex to the Committee. The comments raised by the Committee were discussed and reflected in the text. One issue raised by the Committee concerning the position on the stem of the plants where the diameter is measured will be clarified with Türkiye. The text can be presented for vote in the subsequent Committee meeting.

**Vote Postponed**

**B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion 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 *Corylus avellana* originating in the United Kingdom.**

The Commission presented a draft act and Annex to the Committee. No concerns were raised by the Committee.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

