



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED  
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 23 FEBRUARY 2017 - 24 FEBRUARY 2017  
(Section Plant Health)**

**CIRCABC Link:** <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/b8ee2344-7102-41d8-8c2d-b4b236109431>

**A.01 Evaluation of recent import interceptions with harmful organisms by Member States and the need for further actions.**

A brief overview was given of the interceptions with harmful organisms reported from 18 January 2017 to 15 February 2017. The interception of *Aleurocanthus spiniferus* found on *Camellia japonica* plants was analysed. *Aleurocanthus* spp is a regulated harmful organism included in the Directive 2000/29/EC related to plants of *Citrus* L., *Fortunella* Swingle, *Poncirus* Raf., and their hybrids, other than fruit and seeds. Furthermore, in 2017, several interceptions have been notified of *Spodoptera littoralis* on *Lactuca sativa* originating in Egypt. Other notifications highlighted were the commodities originating in Nigeria found infested with *Bemisia tabaci*.

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

The main outbreaks were addressed. Spain explained the measures taken in relation to the outbreak of *Xylosandrus crassiusculus*, a non-regulated organism. Slovenia has carried out a short Pest Risk Assessment (PRA) for this harmful organism and UK a national PRA. Member States will provide additional information. On the basis of this information, a possible follow up will be considered.

Italy informed that the outbreak in its territory of *Curcurbit yellow stunting disorder virus*, a non-regulated organism, was not causing important damages. From the time being, no specific follow up would be necessary.

The first finding of *Chili veinal mottle virus* was notified by Italy. The virus was found in chili plants in a glasshouse in Rome. Tomato plants are also host for this harmful organism. The symptoms may be the cause of significant yield losses. However, there is only limited information available. As soon as additional information is provided, a follow up may be needed.

**A.03 Presentation by Spain on the situation and official controls for *Xylella fastidiosa*.**

Spain updated the Committee on the state of play of *Xylella fastidiosa* in its territory. *Xylella* has been found in the Balearic Islands with positive cases confirmed in Mallorca, Menorca and Ibiza. Different actions are being carried out by the Spanish authorities including the prohibition of the movement of the susceptible plants outside the territory of the Balearic Islands. Infected trees are felled and monitoring of the host plants within 100 m around the infected trees is on-going.

**A.04 Presentation by the Commission of the conclusions of the audit carried out in Italy on 14-22 November 2016 to evaluate the situation and official controls for *Xylella fastidiosa*.**

During the audit it could be observed that important progress was made in the control of *Xylella*, but that more action was needed and non-compliances needed to be addressed. Italy presented a state of play on the progress made since the audit. The intensive screening of the buffer zone and the adjacent 20km containment zone has finished and the felling of positive trees in the 20 km strip is being organised, as well as the testing of the surrounding trees.

**A.05 Presentation by the Commission of the overview report of Member States survey results from the 2016 campaign related to *Xylella fastidiosa*, followed by an exchange of views.**

The overview of Member States' survey results showed that more than 20.000 samples originating in the so far 'pest free' areas of the Union have been taken and tested in 2016, all negative. In the demarcated areas in Italy, France, Spain and Germany more than 155.000 samples have been taken and tested – mainly by Italy - to identify the status and orientate the control measures. A revision at early stage of the Commission reporting template was requested.

**A.06 Presentation by the Commission of the overview of Member States action plans for the 2017 campaign against *Xylella fastidiosa*, followed by an exchange of views.**

The plans for the 2017 *Xylella* campaigns in Member States are risk- based, but not very detailed at this stage. The Commission insisted on the systematic use of the EPPO diagnostic protocol for the testing of samples. Member States were invited to communicate possible expectations for further coordination of EU guidelines for sampling.

**A.07 Presentation by the Commission of the overview report of Member States survey results from the 2016 campaign related to *Gibberella circinata*, followed by an exchange of views.**

On the basis of the Member States' survey reports, it can be concluded that the fungus is only known to be present in the same countries, i.e. Spain and Portugal as in the previous years. No other Member States reported positive findings. As new outbreaks

are found in the 2 Member States, it was questioned if the emergency measures are sufficiently effective. It was concluded to schedule a discussion in a forthcoming meeting on the basis of preparatory work done by the Commission Working Group on the review of the listing of regulated organisms.

**A.08 Overview of the dossiers received for the years 2014 and 2015 regarding emergency measures - Union contribution to eradicate, contain and protect against the spread of pests.**

The Commission presented the 38 dossiers submitted by Member States related to Emergency Measures, covering the years 2014 and 2015. They have been evaluated and co-funded in 2016 through the Commission Decisions 2016/1599 and 2016/ 8397. The Member States welcomed the presentation and no specific issues were raised.

**A.09 Presentation of the revision of the Commission Working document "Guidelines for applicants for EU Funding of Plant health Emergency Measures"(SANTE/10527/2016).**

Postponed.

**A.10 Follow-up given to the conclusions of the Commission Working Group on response to emerging risks from imports held in Brussels, 29-30 November 2016.**

The Commission presented the follow-up actions regarding the non-compliances due to the presence of harmful organisms in commodities originating in third countries. The Committee supported the actions. The Commission recognised the very useful work of this group, helping to establish a methodology for reacting to interceptions. In the future, the Commission will inform more in detail on the follow-up actions in the specific point of the agenda related to the evaluation of the recent import interceptions allowing a more pro-active and inclusive approach with all Member States during each PAFF.

**A.11 Exchange of views on the elements to be included in a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision (EU) 2015/789 as regards measures against *Xylella fastidiosa*.**

The Commission indicated that a draft Commission Implementing Decision is being prepared to address as soon as possible additional 'Xylella requirements' for pre-basic mother plants and pre-basic material of specified fruit species as identified in the *Xylella* emergency measures, grown in open air. Also an update of the list of specified plants will be included in the text. The text will be presented in the upcoming Standing Committee meeting. The revision of other elements in the *Xylella* emergency measures will also be initiated, but separately.

**A.12 Exchange of views on the conditions to be included in the draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning the prolongation of the emergency measures for the introduction of wood packaging material from China.**

The measures to be taken in case of findings of infested wood packaging material were discussed in relation with the phytosanitary risks of this material for the forestry environment while awaiting the implementation of the measures. Questions were raised about the value and the standard final destination of wood packaging material, which is often only used in a one-way transport for the most risky trade lines. It was concluded that more information would be needed before taking further decisions about the measures. The Commission agreed to organize a bilateral meeting with Chinese authorities in order to find a common solution.

**B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision authorising Member States to provide for a temporary derogation from certain provisions of Council Directive 2000/29/EC as regards the movement of true potato seeds of *Solanum tuberosum* L. originating in the European Union.**

The text was withdrawn as questions had been raised about the legal basis for such derogation. The Commission indicated that the new requirements for true potato seed will now be included in a draft Commission Implementing Directive amending the Annexes of Council Directive 2000/29/EC. An in-depth discussion on the content of the measure took place, relating to the appropriateness of requirements concerning the so-far unregulated *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* organism and the pest free area guarantees for Potato spindle tuber viroid (PSTVd).

**Vote postponed**

**B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2005/51/EC as regards the period during which soil contaminated by pesticides or persistent organic pollutants may be introduced into the Union for decontamination purposes.**

Although one Member State had asked the prolongation of the Decision, questions were raised about the limited potential use of it. It was agreed to limit the prolongation until December 2019, allowing an evaluation of the use over the next 2 years before deciding on the further future.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/159 as regards the procedures for the submission of applications for grants and requests for payment in respect of the emergency measures against plant pests.**

Postponed.