



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

sante.g.3(2024)9641412

Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Plant Health*
06 - 07 November 2024

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/2fef964-6d34-495a-b870-fa14e7b50f3d/library/08c8ef61-9250-4067-b0fb-aa8161216c04?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 15 October and 3 November 2024. Amongst the non-compliances in non-EU trade, the Commission highlighted the ones due to (i) *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens* on seeds of *Phaseolus vulgaris* from United States; (ii) *Spodoptera frugiperda* on *Rosa* from Rwanda, (iii) *Thaumatococcus leucocarpa* on *Rosa* from Kenya, on oranges from Zimbabwe, on litchi from South Africa and on pomegranates from Israel; (iv) *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on oranges from South Africa and Zimbabwe. The Commission also presented an update on audits and on the follow-up actions to the non-compliances.

For *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens* relevant measures were presented under point A.06. For *Phyllosticta citricarpa* and *Thaumatococcus leucocarpa* on citrus a dedicated discussion took place under point A.04. For the rest of 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.

Ireland informed of further findings of *Ips mexicanus* in traps. The demarcation has been enlarged however, there have been no findings of the pest on host plants. Monitoring is continuing.

Italy gave a presentation regarding the evolution of the outbreak of *Cricicoccus pini*, the measures taken, and the impact observed. The pest is not regulated in the EU.

Portugal informed of the recent first findings of *Scirtothrips dorsalis* in different locations in the southern part of the country. Eradication measures are in place.

Slovenia presented the recent finding of *Pantoea stewartii* subsp. *stewartii* and the measures in place aiming at eradication of the pest.

Spain presented the evolution of the outbreaks of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*.

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

EFSA presented its newsletter to the Committee for the issues of November. Commission's highlight of EPPO's reporting service of October was postponed to the next Committee meeting.

A.04 Evaluation of the 2024 citrus import season and exchange of views on the revision of the CBS import requirements under Regulation (EU) 2022/632.

The Commission presented an analysis of the 2024 citrus import season. Discussion focused on *Elsinoë*, *Xanthomonas citri* pv *citri*, *Phyllosticta citricarpa* and *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*. For *Elsinoë*, certain Member States expressed concern about the number of non-compliances and highlighted the importance of import controls. Discussion on *Elsinoë* took place also in October, where it was agreed to hold a meeting with Member States' experts. Based on the Commission's alternative proposal, the Committee agreed that the European Reference Laboratory for bacteria organises a seminar with the relevant National Reference Laboratories to discuss the diagnostic protocols. The EURL would be ready to organise that seminar from January 2025 onwards. In the meantime, the EURL will continue working on improving the protocol and no additional measures will be taken until clarification can be provided on the type of non-compliances. For *Xanthomonas citri* pv *citri*, some Member States expressed concern about the high number of non-compliances and proposed that temporary measures are taken. While those concerns were noted, reference was made to last year's discussion as well as the work that has started in IPPC on the commodity standard for citrus fruits and the Committee agreed that no measures are taken for the moment as regards *Xanthomonas citri* pv *citri*. For *Phyllosticta citricarpa*, the discussion focused on the way forward as regards the temporary measures for citrus fruits originating in Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Uruguay and Zimbabwe (Regulation (EU) 2022/632), which expires on 31 March 2025. Member States expressed concern about the high number of non-compliances on citrus fruits originating in South Africa. Based on the analysis, the Committee agreed to prolong the measures for Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, and to remove citrus fruits from Uruguay from the scope of the Regulation. The Commission will present a draft Regulation to the Committee at the meeting of December 2024. For *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*, Member States noted the improvement of the situation on oranges after the obligatory step of cold treatment was introduced in the special requirements as regards *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*, while a Member State noted that mandarins should also be imported into the Union under a prescribed cold treatment. The Committee agreed that for the moment there is no technical justification to prescribe cold treatment for mandarins. The discussion also focused on the equivalent requirements for the introduction into the Union of fruits of *Citrus sinensis* Pers. originating from Israel, in view of the risks posed by *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (Regulation (EU) 2022/1659), which expires on 31 May 2025. Based on the analysis of the relevant imports, the Committee agreed to make those measures for Israel permanent. The Commission will present a working document to the Committee at the beginning of 2025.

A.05 Exchange of views on the revision of the measures against *Ralstonia solanacearum* on ware potatoes from Egypt (Decision 2011/787/EU).

On request of a Member State, the Commission verified the support of the Committee for a proposal with additional more stringent requirements about management of the

waste resulting from the packaging or processing of potatoes originating from Egypt. After discussion, the Committee concluded that the proposal was not proportionate to the risk.

The Commission will process with internal consultations before sharing a revised draft Regulation with Member States and with the NPPO of Egypt.

A.06 Exchange of views on draft measures against *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens pv flaccumfaciens*.

Due to the non-compliances of *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens pv flaccumfaciens* at EU borders and the outbreaks reported of this pest in the EU, a discussion took place regarding the possibility to take additional measures for this pest. It was decided that temporary measures are needed, offering more assurances that the commodities traded or moved within the Union are free from the pest. Furthermore, the need to intensify the surveys in the EU was discussed.

A.07 Exchange of views on the revision of Annex V (RNQP requirements) of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.

The Commission informed the Committee on the outcome of the Working Group organised to discuss the changes of Annex V of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 in view of the upcoming amendment of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 that will require that third countries include information regarding RNQPs in the phytosanitary certificate.

The Commission presented a non-paper including the changes discussed during the Working Group and invited Member States to send written comments within 3 weeks. The Commission will then proceed with the preparation of a draft Regulation that will be presented to the Committee in a forthcoming meeting.

A.08 Exchange of views on a possible revision of Regulation (EU) 2022/1927 as regards the list of demarcated areas for containment of *Aleurocanthus spiniferus*.

The Commission informed that Member States having the pest in their territory have requested to have certain areas under containment, therefore the Annex of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1927 has to be revised.

One Member State reported the difficulties to eradicate or contain the pest and questioned whether the pest should continue being listed as quarantine pest. The Commission explained that the aim of the eradication and containment measures is the protection of the areas where the pest is not yet present and informed that in order to discuss the possible de-regulation of the pest, new technical and scientific information will need to be provided.

In relation to the update of the containment areas, the Commission informed that, once all the information will be received, it will start with the preparation of the draft legal act to amend the list of containment areas and will inform the Committee accordingly.

A.09 EFSA pest categorisations of non-EU *Scolytinae* on coniferous and non-coniferous hosts.

EFSA presented the outcome of the two pest categorisations and explained the methodology used to map the non-EU *Scolytinae* and identify the ones that have most

significant impact. A database is available with information on those species containing more than 6000 species.

A.10 Exchange of views on the potential revision of EU listing of non-EU *Scolytinae*.

Based on the outcome of the EFSA pest categorisations a discussion took place on whether the current listing of non-EU *Scolytinae* should be revised. The various levels of impact have been noted, together with the invasive nature of those species and the unpredictability of their behaviour once they enter new areas. Import measures exist for a number of *Scolytinae* and assurances of pest freedom can be provided by the phytosanitary certificate issued for the plants of planting that are exported to the EU. However, for wood commodities this is not the case, as a phytosanitary certificate is not required for all imported wood commodities.

The discussion will continue in the one of Committee next meetings.

A.11 Exchange of views on the renewal of the measures to prevent the introduction into and spread within the Union of *Aromia bungii* (Decision (EU) 2018/1503).

Postponed.

A.12 Exchange of views on the renewal of the measures to prevent spread within the Union of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (Decision 2012/535/EU).

The Committee discussed a possible update of the measures to prevent the spread within the Union of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (Decision 2012/535/EU). The discussions focused on the experience with the management of this pest, the effectiveness of the clear-cut belt currently applied, demarcation of outbreak areas, surveillance and the available scientific basis for update of the measures. The question will be put on the agenda for further discussion at the next Committee meeting.

A.13 Results of 2023 annual surveys for *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* and checks on internal movements of the related commodities.

The Commission presented the results of the 2023 annual surveys for *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* and the Committee discussed the state of play of the outbreaks in the EU.

A.14 Outcome of the budget reallocation exercise for phytosanitary programmes for the year 2024.

HaDEA informed the Committee about the outcome of the budget reallocation exercise for 2024 phytosanitary programmes. Based on the requests received, amendment of the grant agreements will be done before the end of November 2024.

A.15 Preliminary outcome of the budget allocation for the phytosanitary programmes 2025-2027.

HaDEA presented information about the applications for co-funding 2025-2027 received by 26 Member States, and the total eligible requests at co-funding rate 20/30% and the preliminary outcome of the budget allocation. The assessment letters have been sent to the Member States. The provisional budget is still subject to changes and the final approved budget will be presented at the Committee meeting in December 2024. The Grant agreements will be signed via the e-Grant IT-tool before 31 January 2025.

A.16 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 avium*, *Prunus canescens*, *Prunus cerasus*, *Prunus pseudocerasus* and *Prunus spinosa* originating in the United Kingdom, and 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 changes made to the text following internal consultations. No substantial comment was raised by the Committee.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annexes IV, V, XI and XIII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 as regards the listing of Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV) as regulated non-quarantine pest and the respective measures to prevent its presence, and repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1032.

The Commission presented the feedback received after the public consultation which ended on 4 November. Most of the thirteen comments received were already addressed and discussed during previous Standing Committee meetings, and the outcome of the discussions has been reflected in the draft Regulation. The Committee also considered some new proposals. However, after discussion, it was agreed not to include them in the draft Regulation, mostly because the points proposed are either not covered by the scope of the draft Regulation, e.g. non-professional operator awareness, or on the contrary already covered, e.g. testing of small lots of seeds and plants for planting.

The draft Regulation will be revised based on the latest comments provided by Member States during the meeting. The vote will be taken through written procedure with a deadline of 12 November.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on the conditions for a 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.

The Commission presented a revised version of the draft Implementing Regulation to the Committee, which included more clarity on how to handle the plants once they are introduced into the Union, as discussed during the previous meeting.

The Commission requested Member States to provide written comments, if any, by 13 November. The final draft will be shared for information with Member States before

consulting Guatemala and carrying out the stakeholder consultation, and it will be presented for vote in a forthcoming meeting.

C.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on the conditions for a 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 Kenya into the Union.

The Commission presented a revised version of the draft Implementing Regulation to the Committee, which included more clarity on how to handle the plants once they are introduced into the Union, as discussed during the previous meeting.

The Commission requested Member States to provide written comments, if any, by 13 November. The final draft will be shared for information with Member States before consulting Kenya and carrying out the stakeholder consultation, and it will be presented for vote in a forthcoming meeting.

