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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed

Section *Plant Health*

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SUMMARY REPORT

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

The Commission highlighted the two interceptions of Tomato brown rugose fruit virus from Israel, one on seeds of *Solanum lycopersicum* and one on seeds of *Capsicum*. The Commission also highlighted the interception of *Anthonomus eugeni* on *Capsicum annuum* from Mexico and the first interception this year of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Citrus reticulata* from Israel. The continuing interceptions on *Citrus maxima* from China, one for *Xanthomonas citri pv citri* and one for *Bactrocera* were also presented as well as the five interceptions of *Spodoptera frugiperda*, two on *Zea mays* from Senegal one on *Capsicum* from Suriname, one on *Apium* from Suriname and one on *Capsicum chinense* from Suriname. Finally, the Commission noted the twenty nine interceptions of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*, one on *Capsicum* from Kenya, twenty five on *Rosa* from Uganda, one on *Rosa* from Kenya, one on *Rosa* from Zambia.

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

The Commission presented the overview of the outbreaks notified by the Member States in the period from 14 January to 9 February.

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

The EFSA media newsletter and the EFSA pilot of scientific literature newsletter of February 2020 and the EPPO Reporting Service No. 1, of January 2020 have been disseminated to Member States. The EFSA media newsletter is published at the EFSA Journal and the EPPO Reporting Service can be found at the EPPO website.

Certain articles have been highlighted, concerning pests for which containment measures are under discussion or pests that are not regulated in the EU. Furthermore, emphasis is given to the information on new diagnostic tools and control methods of EU regulated pests.

A.04 State of play on the presence and control measures concerning *Xylella fastidiosa* in Italy, France, Spain and Portugal.

Italy informed that the 2019 survey campaign of the Demarcated Area in Apulia has been completed and felling activities are expected to be concluded soon. No findings have been detected in the buffer zone. Italy also informed that 8 nurseries have been authorized in line with Decision (EU) 789/2015 to move certain specified plants out of the demarcated area. Concerning the presence of *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* in Tuscany, the outbreak area remains limited to Monte Argentario where survey and felling activities are ongoing.

France informed that new ornamental host plants have been identified as part of the 2019 survey activities carried out in the demarcated areas of PACA region. All infected plants have been removed, while the preventive felling of the *multiplex* host plants located in the infected zones is ongoing. No nursery has been authorised to move specified plants out of the demarcated areas located in PACA and in Corsica.

Portugal informed that the presence of *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* remains limited to the area of Porto. 240 positives have been detected so far as part of the ongoing survey activities. Removal of host plants is ongoing in line with EU Decision. Host plants found infected so far are typical of the Mediterranean area (e.g. *Lavandula dentata*, *Ulex*, oleander, *Quercus suber*). Movement of specified plants out of the demarcated area is prohibited.

Spain informed that as part of the 2019 survey activities carried out in Balears new host plants have been found infected by *Xylella fastidiosa*. At the present time, the subspecies *multiplex*, subsp. *fastidiosa* and subsp. *pauca* are the only ones detected on the islands. Concerning the outbreak area of Madrid, no further findings have been detected so far. In Alicante (Valencia), survey and felling activities are ongoing. Prohibitions on movement of specified plants out of the demarcated area of Alicante, Balears and Madrid remain in place.

A.05 Presentation of EFSA risk assessment of the entry of *Pantoea stewartii* subsp. *stewartii* on maize seed imported by the EU from the USA.

EFSA presented the scientific opinion regarding the risk assessment of the entry of *Pantoea stewartii* subsp. *stewartii* on maize seeds imported by EU from the USA. The full text of the opinion was published on EFSA's website.

The Commission thanked EFSA for the profound analysis and will start a discussion with Member States about the appropriate follow-up during the next meeting.

A.06 Continuation of the discussion on the 2019 citrus fruit import control results concerning citrus black spot (Decision (EU) 2016/715).

Following the review of the 2019 citrus export season the following was agreed at the Committee:

With regard to Decision 2016/715, no amendment of the Decision will take place yet. For Argentina, the Committee will wait for the results of the audit that will take place in March to discuss the next steps. For South Africa, close monitoring and close contacts with the country will continue. If an audit takes place, the export certification for CBS will also be audited.

With regard to *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*, see point A.07 below.

With regard to *Elsinoe fawcettii* and in view of possible measures for Bangladesh, Uruguay and Guatemala, the Commission will get in contact with the countries involved and will request detailed information on actions taken, on the existence of pest free areas and on the risk mitigations measures already in place.

A.07 Continuation of the discussion on the 2019 import controls for the compliance with the special requirements against the introduction of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (false codling moth).

Following the review of the 2019 interceptions of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* the following was agreed at the Committee:

With regard to *Citrus*, the Commission has the intention to mandate EFSA to assess the systems approaches for the management of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on citrus, and this assessment will be used as a basis for discussing further actions.

With regard to *Capsicum* sp. and in view of possible measures for Uganda, Rwanda and Kenya, the Commission will get in contact with the countries involved and will request detailed information on actions taken and on the risk mitigation measures already in place. In addition, for Uganda and Rwanda assistance will be offered in the form of Sustained Training Mission.

With regard to *Rosa* sp. the Commission will get in contact with the countries involved and demand tangible actions for improvement.

A.08 Exchange of views of the Committee on amending the Annex to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 establishing a provisional list of high risk plants, plant products or other objects, within the meaning of Article 42 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 and a list of plants for which phytosanitary certificates are not required for introduction into the Union, within the meaning of Article 73 of that Regulation.

The Commission presented an updated version of the proposed amendments to the Annex to Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 as a follow-up to the discussion in the Committee meeting of 23-24 January. Those amendments included the exemption of pollen from the scope of the Regulation and improved structure of the measures in order to facilitate implementation. Some Member States already expressed agreement with the proposed amendments.

A.09 Presentation of the report of the Commission from 14 to 24 May 2019 in order to evaluate the situation and control of red neck longhorn beetle (*Aromia bungii*) in Italy, followed by an exchange of views.

The Commission presented the main conclusions and recommendations of the audit report on the red neck longhorn beetle (*Aromia bungii*), which took place from 14 to 24 May 2019. Italy updated on the follow-up measures taken in response of the recommendations. The Commission invited Italy to share its updated legislation.

A.10 Overview report of the Member States 2018/2019 survey results for *Anoplophora chinensis*, *A. glabripennis* and *Aromia bungii* in their territories.

The Commission made an overview of the Member States survey reports for *Anoplophora chinensis*, *A. glabripennis* and *Aromia bungii* for 2018 and updated on the pest status for these three pests, as follows:

Anoplophora chinensis – 4 demarcated areas in Croatia, 6 demarcated areas in Italy and a new outbreak in France;

Anoplophora glabripennis – 10 demarcated areas in Italy, 9 demarcated areas in Germany, Finland – 1 demarcated area; Austria – 1 demarcated area, France – 4 demarcated areas.

Aromia bungii – 1 demarcated area in Germany and 3 demarcated areas in Italy.

It was noted that the rigorous application of the EU harmonised measure for several years has resulted in eradication of several outbreaks of *Anoplophora glabripennis*.

A.11 Exchange of views on the use and location of sentinel trees for monitoring for *Anoplophora glabripennis* in demarcated areas.

The Committee exchanged views on the use of sentinel trees for monitoring of *Anoplophora glabripennis* in the demarcated areas. Member States shared their experience with the use of sentinel trees (also in the context of *Anoplophora chinensis* surveys) and discussed on the possible conditions for such use, taking into account the benefits vs. risks. The Commission invited Member States to send further technical information on this issue before deciding on the follow up.

A.12 Exchange of views on the phytosanitary containment measures for Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma, *Ceratocystis platani*, *Aleurocanthus spiniferus* and *Toxoptera citricida* under Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The Commission presented the general approach to be followed when legislating the containment measures of the pests included in the list of Annex IIB to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. More specifically, the principles of the control measures to be taken in the areas of the EU where a containment approach is to be followed in relation to Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma, *Ceratocystis platani*, *Aleurocanthus spiniferus* and *Toxoptera citricida* were detailed. The Commission requested the Member States to examine the proposed measures and to communicate the containment areas for the pests presented.

A.13 Exchange of views on a possible amendment of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 concerning the regulation of and measures against *Aleurotrachelus trachoides*, *Ceratothripoides brunneus*, *Ceratothripodes claratris*, *Meloidogyne mali* and *Trirachys sartus*.

The Commission presented possible measures necessary to address the potential plant health risk coming from *Aleurotrachelus trachoides*, *Ceratothripoides brunneus*, *Ceratothripodes claratris*, *Meloidogyne mali* and *Trirachys sartus*.

In some cases, this potential risk requires additional measures, in some other cases, it is sufficiently low not to require any further amendment of the import requirements.

Member States were asked to examine the elements presented by the Commission and send comments in writing within two weeks. During the next meeting, the Commission will discuss the comments and present measures for a second batch of organisms.

A.14 Exchange of views on the wood packaging material requirements as laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2125 and Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1137.

The Commission informed that the emergency measures on wood packaging material will not be prolonged. The legal basis that can be used to have specific official controls is Regulation 2017/625 and the Delegated Regulation 2019/2125. Member States were in favour to modify the latest, to compensate what will be missing once Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1137 will expire (June 2020).

The Commission will soon convene an Expert Group to start the process of amending Delegated Regulation 2019/2125.

A.15 Presentation by France of the Report by ANSES on host species of *Phytophthora ramorum*.

The study assessed the vulnerability of 136 forest tree species and 47 forest shrubs in a semi-quantitative manner. Larch and sweet chestnut are of major concern. When infections occur in Rhododendron nurseries and the pest can subsequently spread to forests, there are few measures available to combat the pest because of its high adaptive capacity to attack new hosts.

A.16 Presentation of a report on import data of wood commodities and its relation to new plant pests.

The Commission presented a report containing import data of wood commodities and a gap analysis on existing EU import measures in relation to non-regulated pests for which pest risk assessments are available. This document is a background document aiming at facilitating the exchanges with Member States on forthcoming discussions on regulation of wood commodities.

A.17 Tomato Brown Rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV) state of play: outbreaks, interceptions, detection methods and expected pest risk assessment (PRA)

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 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/66 as regards post-import checks of plants for planting and CHED requirement.

The Commission informed about the need to remove from the draft text the requirement for CHED-PP in relation to plants under Article 73 of Regulation 2016/2031. Many Member States supported that removal. Other Member States expressed concerns on the performance of post import checks, especially regarding traceability issues and practical arrangements between Member States receiving the material and Member States where the material is destined. The results of the feedback consultation mechanism through the Better Regulation Portal were also analysed and addressed.

The Commission will reflect on how to improve the draft text and have it discussed in the next PAFF meeting.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2012/138/EU as regards the specific import conditions and conditions for movement in respect of specified plants to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of *Anoplophora chinensis* (Forster).

Postponed

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation concerning types or species of plants for planting for which the exemption referred to in Article 83(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 does not apply and repealing Commission Directive 92/105/EEC.

The Commission presented a draft text amending the Annex to the draft Regulation, whereby organisms specified in control and emergency measures, relevant for plants for planting, are listed. The Committee briefly discussed the proposal and agreed to provide written comments to the Commission by 6 March 2020.

M.01 Tomato Brown Rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV) state of play: outbreaks, interceptions, detection methods and expected pest risk assessment.

The Member States affected by the disease provided an update on the situation of the outbreaks. The Commission took note that the disease is spreading. A discussion took place on how to better tackle the situation and whether the current emergency measures are considered adequate.

Member States were requested to send suggestions on how to improve the current measures in force for ToBRFV (Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/1615).

The Commission will start preparing a draft for such measures to be more effective.