



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

sante.ddg2.g.5(2016)620603

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 16 DECEMBER 2015 - 17 DECEMBER 2015
(Section Plant Health)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/b8d6ea68-71b0-48c6-8ba0-45cdecddf3b8>

A.01 Overview of new outbreaks of harmful organisms notified by Member States.

An update on the state of art of the outbreaks of *Xylella fastidiosa* in France and Italy was given. The Netherlands reported the first suspicion of the presence of *Rhagoletis completa* on walnut trees. Furthermore, Czech Republic provided extra information on the finding of *Eutypella parasitica*, a non-regulated organism causing canker of *Acer pseudoplatanus*. The first finding of *Icerya Seychellarum* was reported by Spain in mango orchards, which is as well a non-regulated harmful organism.

A.02 Presentation by the Commission of the report of the Commission expert working group on 10-11 November 2015 on Guidelines for the survey of *Xylella fastidiosa* in the Union territory, followed by an exchange of views.

The Commission presented the EU Guidelines for the survey of *Xylella fastidiosa* in the Union territory. The Guidelines, endorsed by the Committee, aimed at ensuring the highest possible level of early detection of outbreaks of *X. fastidiosa* in the Union territory and harmonise survey activities annually carried out across the Union, while taking into consideration the level of Member States' specificities as regards risk factors.

A.03 Presentation by the Commission of the preliminary conclusions of the FVO audit from 9 to 20 November 2015 in order to evaluate the situation and official controls for *Xylella fastidiosa*.

Despite positive developments, serious shortcomings were still reported specifically regarding the removal of plants and survey activities in the concerned area as foreseen in Decision (EU) 789/2015. The Committee was informed that the draft report was sent to the Italian Authorities for further comments before being published.

A.04 Presentation by the Commission of an overview report of a series of FVO audits in Member States for the control of *Anoplophora chinensis* and *A. glabripennis*, followed by an exchange of views.

The overview was based on the audits carried out between March 2014 and March 2015 in Italy, Germany, France and Austria. Main recommendation points were that more coordination could be adopted between Member States and between affected regions, the need for rapid and systematic measures in response to new outbreaks. Several Member States were requested to be very vigilant for these organisms.

A.05 Presentation by the Commission of an overview report of Member States' reports of imports for scientific purposes as referred to in Directive 2008/61/EC, followed by an exchange of views.

The Committee concluded that there is a need for an update of the Directive and its annexes and for a more harmonized model for Member States' reports, and suggested a Commission Expert Working Group to deal with the issue in the second half of 2016. The Commission noted the suggestion and will explore possibilities to address it.

A.06 Exchange of views on the request submitted by Cyprus for the revision of the specific requirements for the recognition of protected zones against *Daktulosphaira vitifoliae*.

Cyprus presented its concerns over the currently applicable plant health requirements for Protected Zones with regard to *Daktulosphaira vitifoliae*, and requested the requirements be strengthened in the light of the EFSA '*Scientific Opinion on the risk to plant health posed by Daktulosphaira vitifoliae* (Fitch) in the EU territory, with the identification and evaluation of risk reduction options'. While the Committee supported the request in principle, it pointed out that a difference should be drawn between plants for planting of *Vitis* and fruit of *Vitis*, in line with the referred EFSA opinion. The Commission shall prepare a proposal of the revised requirements for one of the forthcoming meetings of the Committee.

A.07 Exchange of views on the possible derogation from the standard import requirements for ash wood by recognition of the Canadian systems approach.

The request from Canada for recognizing the specific national systems approach to guarantee that ash wood is free from *Agrilus planipennis* was discussed and specific requirements were proposed. Such approach was welcomed as a positive development.

A.08 Exchange of views about the review of the special requirements for the import of Citrus fruit related to *Xanthomonas campestris* (all strains pathogenic to Citrus).

The Commission discussed with the Committee a possible update of the current legislative requirements of *Xanthomonas campestris*. Member States expressed their initial views and gave feedback for further elaboration of the documents.

A.09 Exchange of views about a possible inclusion of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* as well as special import requirements in the Annexes of Directive 2000/29/EC.

The possibility of regulating *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*, currently a non-regulated pest, has been discussed. The specifications of the specific import requirements were elaborated further.

A.10 Overview by the Commission on the main achievements of the Committee in 2015 and exchange of views on the main challenges for 2016.

The Commission presented an overview of legal acts and working group reports which had been handled in 2015. Suggestions for priorities in 2016 were made by the Committee.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the adoption of a financing decision regarding the Union financial contribution to emergency measures to control pests in Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, Spain and Italy for 2014 and 2015.

A draft text was presented.

Vote postponed

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision laying down the procedures for the submission of applications for grants and requests for payment, in respect of the emergency measures against plant pests referred to in Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The Commission presented a draft Decision and a number of specifications were discussed and clarified.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.