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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*
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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Evaluation of recent import non-compliances notified by Member States and the actions taken (including recurrent non-compliances in plants originating in China).

The Commission presented the non-compliances due to the presence of pests for the period between 21 April and 23 May 2023. In non-EU trade the Commission highlighted the non-compliances due to (i) Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus on seeds of tomatoes from China, Türkiye, Russian Federation and Peru, and of peppers from Türkiye and China, (ii) *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on cut flowers of *Rosa* from Kenya, on *Capsicum annuum* from Uganda and on *Punica granatum* from South Africa, (iii) *Spodoptera frugiperda* on cut flowers of *Eringium* from Zimbabwe, on *Zea mays* from Senegal and on *Capsicum chinense* from Suriname, (v) *Bactrocera dorsalis* on *Mangifera indica* from Burkina Faso and Mali, (vi) *Thrips palmi* on *Momordica charantia* from Mexico, and (vii) *Meloidogyne enterolobii* on *Sagetaria* from China. The Commission also informed the Committee of a number of non-compliances of other Union quarantine pests: *Thrips palmi*, *Anastrepha*, *Anastrepha fraterculus*, *Bactrocera*, *Bactrocera latifrons*, *Ceratitis cosyra*, *Xanthomonas citri* pv *citri*, *Zeugodacus cucurbitae*, *Scolytinae* and *Leucinodes orbonalis*.

The Commission presented an update on audits and on the follow-up actions to the non-compliances due to (i) *Meloidogyne enterolobii*, *Resseliella citrifrugis* and Tomato Brown Rugose fruit Virus on commodities from China, (ii) *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on commodities from Israel, (iii) *Chloridea virescens*, *Spodoptera frugiperda* and Tomato Brown Rugose fruit Virus on commodities from Peru.

In EU trade the Commission highlighted the non-compliance due to (i) *Meloidogyne enterolobii* on *Ficus microcarpa* originating in the Netherlands, reported by Austria, (ii) *Phytophthora ramorum* on *Rhododendron* originating in Germany, reported by Austria, (iii) Citrus tristeza virus on *Citrus sinensis* originating in Italy, reported by Malta.

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.

The Commission presented the overview of the outbreaks that were notified from 18 April to 21 May 2023.

Germany updated on the outbreak situation of *Saperda candida*. The pest is present only on an island and eradication measures are in place. Furthermore, Germany gave an overview of the eradication efforts for *Aromia bungii*.

Portugal gave information related to the outbreak situation of *Unaspis citri* in the Azores.

In addition, Italy gave a detailed presentation on the very recent outbreak of *Ceratocystis ficicola*. The pest is not regulated in the EU. Measures are in place. Based on the impact observed thus far, an evaluation on whether we are dealing with an emerging problem for fig trees needs to be taken.

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 May 2023.

A.04 Exchange of views on a possible renewal of the derogation for import of coniferous bonsai from Japan (Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1217).

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1217 will expire at the end of December 2023. The Committee discussed the implementation of the derogation and the recent interceptions from Japan. Germany presented information about recent findings of pests on coniferous plants from Japan, some of which out of the scope of the derogation. The Commission invited the members of the Committee to provide feedback on this issue before the next meeting.

A.05 Exchange of views on temporary measures against the introduction into and spread within the Union territory of *Bactrocera* spp.

The Commission presented a non-paper regarding possible temporary measures against the introduction into and spread within the Union territory of *Bactrocera* spp. The measures are based on existing international standards and guidance. They involve delimiting surveys as well as the establishment of demarcated areas, where eradication measures and measures to prevent the spread of the pest apply.

In order to further develop the draft, the Commission asked the Member States, in particular those which have already contingency plans or measures in place, to submit written comments within three weeks.

A.06 Exchange of views on potential need for EU regulation for *Crisicoccus pini*, *Phenacoccus solenopsis* and *Xylotrechus chinensis*.

The discussion related to the above-mentioned pests continued. The EFSA pest categorisation and the information provided by the Member States where the pests have been reported were the basis of these exchanges.

Based on the current information, the following has been decided:

- a) *Phenacoccus solenopsis*: No EU action will be taken for this pest given the presence of the pest in several EU countries and the limited impact observed thus far.
- b) *Xylotrechus chinensis*: The determination of the subspecies that is present in the EU affecting only *Morus* plants in all outbreak areas and no other known host plants is needed. Monitoring of the pest is ongoing, no impact in *Vitis* plants has been observed thus far in all outbreak areas.
- c) *Crisicoccus pini*: The discussion is ongoing for this pest.

A.07 Report of the Working Group of 25 May 2023 on “Regulation of new pests and de-regulation of Union quarantine pests”.

The ongoing EU activities on horizon scanning and the analysis of dossiers of High Risk Plants resulted in the identification of a big number of pests of concern that are not regulated in the EU. Risk assessments are now available for many of these pests. While the potential regulation of each pest needs to be evaluated individually, some general conclusions can be drawn. The importance of the identified uncertainties during the risk assessment and of the potential impact of these pests was highlighted. For pests present in the EU territory the information and experience of the Member States where the pest is found is very important. A conclusion whether or not to regulate needs to take that experience into account. Available control methods are also of importance. The exercise to review the listing of approximate 100 unregulated pests will start, based on the general lines established during the working group discussion. Regarding the potential de-regulation of Union quarantine pests, this exercise will not only cover pests that are included in Annex IIB of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 but also pests from Annex IIA of that Regulation.

A.08 Exchange of views on the revision of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 as regards the listing of protected zone quarantine pests.

The Commission presented a non-paper outlining the updates in Annexes III, IX and X of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 in relation to protected zones recognised for a temporary period in Ireland and in the UK (Northern Ireland), and to the revocation of the protected zone status for *Erwinia amylovora* in certain Member States. Some Member States raised additional elements that need to be reflected in the Regulation, which the Commission has taken note of. The Commission will now proceed with its internal consultation process and will submit the text for a vote in one of the forthcoming Committee meetings.

A.09 Exchange of views on the use of a CHED-PP for the import of commodities regulated under Article 73 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The Commission presented the current situation regarding the issuance of Common Health Entry Documents (CHED) for plant products under Article 73 of the Plant Health Regulation, and the lack of clear reference under Article 40(1)(c)(iii) of the IMSOC Regulation to Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2019/66. The Commission explained that a CHED-PP shall be issued for all plant products where at least 1% of these consignments shall be checked according to Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2019/66, whereas the other 99% could be bulk validated in TRACES. A more harmonized approach between the Member States for the 1% of consignments that are being checked was not obtained. The Commission insisted that notifying the outcome

of official controls through a CHED-PP for the 1% of consignments of goods under Article 73 of the Plant Health Regulation was crucial and necessary. The Commission also suggested that the interceptions data for these consignments shall be presented in a future Committee meeting to assess with the Member States if more than 1% shall be inspected. To conclude the point, the Commission stated that it will draft an amendment of Article 40 of the IMSOC Regulation in order to clearly refer to Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2019/66, on checks to be carried out on at least 1% of the consignments.

A.10 Overview of Member States 2022 survey activities for *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*.

Postponed.

A.11 Information on import-export issues between the EU and UK(GB).

No issues 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 item raised.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on measures to prevent the establishment and spread of *Popillia japonica* Newman and on measures for the eradication and containment of that pest within certain demarcated areas of the Union territory.

The Commission presented to the Committee the outcome of the stakeholder consultation and explained that the unclarity about the movement of plants within or out of the demarcated areas is out of the scope of the Implementing Regulation presented for vote, which focuses only on the eradication and containment measures against the pest. The Commission presented a revised text and explained that, given the large range of host plants, the text was amended to restrict the surveys to the specified plants instead of the host plants.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on a derogation from Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 concerning the introduction into the Union of naturally or artificially dwarfed plants for planting of *Chamaecyparis* Spach, *Juniperus* L. and certain species of *Pinus* L., originating in the Republic of Korea, and repealing Decision 2002/499/EC

The Commission presented to the Committee the final version of the draft measure. It is based on the derogation which expired in the end of 2020 and includes an updated list of pests of concern associated with the commodity. The draft was proposed for a vote to the Standing Committee.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

- B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation establishing a derogation from Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 as regards the introduction into the Union territory of tubers of *Solanum tuberosum* L., other than those intended for planting, originating in certain regions of Lebanon.**

Postponed.

Vote Postponed

- B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex VII to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 as regards the introduction into the Union of certain forms of wood originating in Canada and the United States.**

The Commission presented to the Committee a draft legal act, which takes into account the comments raised by Member States during the last Committee meeting and afterwards in writing. The Commission reiterated its intention not to modify the special requirements which are in place, but to convert them from temporary into permanent measures. No Member State objected to this approach or to the draft.

As the consultation of the Commission services was not completed in time for the meeting, the vote was postponed.

Vote Postponed

- B.06 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 *Crataegus monogyna* originating in the United Kingdom.**

The Commission presented a draft Implementing Regulation to the Committee to allow the import of *Crataegus monogyna* from UK without specific additional restrictions. No issues raised.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

- B.07 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* originating in the United Kingdom and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1213 as regards the phytosanitary measures for the introduction of those plants for planting into the Union territory.**

A draft Implementing Regulation with the measures was presented to the Committee by the Commission. Discussions took place concerning uncertainties on the distribution and possible impact of *Colletotrichum aenigma* in the EU. The Commission clarified that the measures concerning that pest are precautionary, pending the availability of a full risk assessment on the pest.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.