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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.

The Commission presented the non-compliances due to the presence of pests for the period between 14 December 2022 and 9 January 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, Israel, Peru, and Kenya and on seeds of *Capsicum annuum* from Vietnam, Peru, Guatemala and Israel, (ii) *Spodoptera frugiperda* on *Asparagus officinalis* from Peru, *Zea mays* from Senegal and *Solanum macrocarpon* from Suriname, (iii) *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on cut flowers of *Rosa* from Ethiopia and Uganda, *Punica granatum* from Israel, and on *Capsicum frutescens* from Kenya, (iv) *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on citrus from Bangladesh, and on oranges from Zimbabwe.

The Commission also noted the non-compliances due to (i) *Thrips palmi* on *Dendrobium* from Thailand, (ii) *Meloidogyne enterolobii* on leaves of *Amaranthus* and *Hibiscus* from People's Republic of Congo, (iii) *Xanthomonas citri* pv *citri* on *Citrus latifolia* from Brazil and Vietnam, on *Citrus aurantifolia* from Bangladesh and on *Citrus maxima* from China, (iv) *Neoleucinodes elegantalis* on *Solanum melongena* from Suriname and on *Solanum betaceum* from Colombia, (v) *Chloridae virescens* on *Asparagus officinalis* from Peru, (vi) *Leucinodes orbonalis* on *Solanum torvum* from Thailand, (vii) *Resseliella citrifrugis* on *Citrus maxima* from China, (viii) *Leucinodes pseudorbonalis* on *Solanum aethiopicum* from Uganda. The Commission also presented the evolution of third countries with more than 10 non-compliances due to pests since the beginning of 2022 and until 31 December 2022.

The Commission presented an update of the follow-up actions as regards the non-compliances due to (i) fruit flies on fruits from Cote d'Ivoire, and (ii) *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on citrus from Bangladesh and South Africa, and an update to the audit programme.

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.

In EU trade the Commission highlighted the non-compliances due to *Ripersiella hibisci*, on seedlings of *Trachelospermum* from Italy reported by Netherlands.

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 notified by the Member States in the period from 9 December 2022 to 9 January 2023.

Italy gave information about the state of art of the findings of *Bactrocera dorsalis*. Furthermore, an overview of the outbreak situation of *Meloidogyne graminicola* was given. They informed about the new finding in the demarcated area of the buffer zone of the area under containment. Eradication measures are in place.

France informed of the finding of *Geosmithia morbida* in *Juglans* trees in the area where the vector *Pityophthorus juglandis* was also found confirming the presence of thousand cankers disease. Surveys are ongoing in the area to define the outbreak situation further. Eradication measures have been taken.

Portugal gave an update of the outbreak situation of *Blissus insularis*, a pest of grass species used for turfs and pastures. The pest is not regulated in the EU. It has been identified at the Horizon scanning exercise and had a positive score in the PeMoScoring activity of EFSA used to decide which pests would be sent to EFSA with a mandate for a pest categorisation. Furthermore, Portugal informed about the recent findings of *Scirtothrips aurantii* in their territory. Investigations are ongoing.

Spain gave an overview of the *Tecia solanivora* outbreak situation and the changes in the demarcated areas.

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

The Commission presented highlights from EFSA's reporting service of December 2022.

A.04 Evaluation of the 2022 citrus import season.

The Commission and the Member States continued the discussion on the 2022 citrus export season. Regarding the non-compliances due to *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on citrus fruits from South Africa, a Commission audit took place in September, which made certain recommendations. It was agreed to wait for the action plan that South Africa must submit before any action from EU side is further considered. Regarding the non-compliances due to *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on citrus fruits from Argentina, an audit has been planned for February 2023. In addition, Argentina communicated a set of actions to reinforce their risk management system against *Phyllosticta citricarpa*. These actions will be implemented from the 2023 citrus season onwards. It was agreed to wait for the outcome of the Commission audit before considering any further action from EU side.

Regarding the non-compliances due to *Xanthomonas citri* pv *citri* on citrus fruits from Brazil, a revised set of actions has been requested from Brazil with the Commission's letter of November 2022. In addition, a Commission audit has been planned for June 2022. It was agreed to wait for the actions decided by Brazil before considering any further action from EU side.

A.05 Exchange of views on the revision of Regulation (EU) 2020/1191 on measures against ToBRFV.

Regulation (EU) 2020/1191 on measures against ToBRFV applies until 31 May 2023. The discussion on the way forward regarding the revision of the measures continued on the basis of the output of the views expressed by Member States during the Standing Committee of December 2022, as well as on a draft proposal from the Commission for internal movements and imports in the EU territory of tomato and pepper seeds and plants for planting.

A.06 Exchange of views on the revision of Decision (EU) 2015/983 as regards measures against *Anoplophora glabripennis*.

The Committee held an exchange of views on a possible revision of the existing measure, focusing on the list of specified plants and intensified surveillance. Member States were also invited to submit written comments. The revised text will be discussed in one of the next Committee meetings.

A.07 Exchange of views on measures to prevent the entry, establishment and spread within the Union territory of *Candidatus Liberibacter africanus*, *americanus* and *asiaticus*.

The Commission and Member States discussed the comments submitted by Member States on the technical elements of a future draft for measures to prevent the entry, establishment and spread within the Union of *Candidatus liberibacter africanus*, *americanus* and *asiaticus*. Based on that discussion the Commission will share a new version with Member States after which Member States will have 10 working days to submit new comments. The new version will be discussed in the March Committee meeting.

A.08 Exchange of views on measures to prevent the entry, establishment and spread within the Union territory of *Spodoptera frugiperda*.

The discussion on the way forward regarding the measures for *Spodoptera frugiperda* continued. The focus was on the broad host range and the differences between the cultivation systems (greenhouse versus open fields) and climatic conditions where the hosts are grown. The risk from natural spread of the pest from neighbouring areas and the risk due to trade needs to be reflected in the survey plans. Members States were requested to send comments till 10 February.

A.09 Exchange of views on potential need for EU regulation for *Arboridia kakogawana*, *Crisicoccus pini*, *Phenacoccus solenopsis*, *Toumeyella parvicornis*, *Xylotrechus chinensis* and *Zaprionus indianus*.

Postponed.

A.10 Exchange of views on the requirements for a possible amendment of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 (high risk plants) to delist tubers of *Ullucus tuberosus* from Peru, from the list of high risk plants.

The Commission presented to the Committee an overview of the scientific opinion on the commodity risk assessment of tubers of *Ullucus tuberosus* from Peru and the possible outcomes for the dossier. The Committee concluded that the commodity

should be prohibited. A draft Implementing Regulation prohibiting this commodity shall be presented to the Committee in a subsequent meeting.

A.11 Interim report on the Commission audit series for plant health import controls.

The Commission presented to the Committee the feedback report of the highlighted findings discovered during plant health import control audits. The discussion was focused on the partial unloading of consignments, the compliance monitoring of Article 73 goods of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 and the reporting of non-compliant passenger luggage. The Commission informed that another discussion will be held when the audit series for plant health import controls is completed and the overview report available.

A.12 Report of the Commission Working Group on surveillance, followed by an exchange of views concerning further guidelines.

The Commission presented the outcome of the working group on surveillance held in November 2022 and reminded Member States of their obligation to submit the multiannual survey programme via EUROPHYT Plant Health Surveys. The Committee agreed that the deadline for the submission of the multiannual programmes will be set up after the discussion of the priorities at the meeting of the Chief Officers on Plant Health (COPHs).

The Commission informed the Committee that a new working group will be organised in February to discuss the justifications for not surveying priority pests and the guidelines to harmonise the reporting activities.

A.13 Outcome of the evaluation procedure of the phytosanitary programmes submitted by Member States for Union financial contribution for 2023.

The list of phytosanitary programmes approved for EU co-financing for 2023 and associated funding has been presented by HaDEA to Member States as per Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2021/690. The next steps related to the grant agreements preparation were also explained and all Member States were requested to provide the necessary information to HADEA via the corporate eGRANT IT tool in order to finalise and sign the grant agreements by 31 January 2023.

A.14 Exchange of views on 2024 co-financing programmes and re-allocation of priorities within existing budgets for 2024-2027.

The Commission presented the current budget distribution of the phytosanitary programme. The Committee discussed the possible redistribution of the budget between the categories and priorities. Member States expressed concern on reducing the budget available for the surveys, which allow for early detection of pests.

The Commission informed that the point will be discussed at the meeting of the chief officers on plant health (COPHs) in early February and will then be rediscussed in this Committee. The Commission highlighted that any change in the programme will have to be voted in March, in order to be adopted before the next submission in May.

A.15 State of play of the declarations by third country on their *Xylella fastidiosa* status.

The Commission presented the current state of play of the declarations received from third countries on their *Xylella fastidiosa* status.

The Committee agreed to keep a flexible approach to retain the third countries' declarations as valid until 28 February 2023. The Commission will present to the next PAFF Committee in February 2023 the new declarations received.

A.16 Exchange of views on the request and dossier from Moldova for a derogation from Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 - Annex VI for plants for planting of *Vitis* sp.

The Commission informed that the Republic of Moldova submitted a request and a dossier for a derogation from Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 to export plants for planting of *Vitis* sp. to the EU. The dossier will be evaluated by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). A different dossier related to the PRM requirements for *Vitis* sp. will be addressed under the specific PRM legislation.

A.17 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 Decision on emergency action against a plant pest in the Union and third countries.

Vote Postponed

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 *Malus domestica* and certain plants for planting of *Berberis thunbergii* originating in Türkiye and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1213 as regards the phytosanitary measures for the introduction of those plants for planting into the Union territory.

Vote Postponed

B.03 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 *Ligustrum delavayanum* and *Ligustrum japonicum* 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.

The Commission presented to the Committee a draft Implementing Regulation to delist certain plants for planting of *Ligustrum delavayanum* and *Ligustrum japonicum* from the United Kingdom.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.