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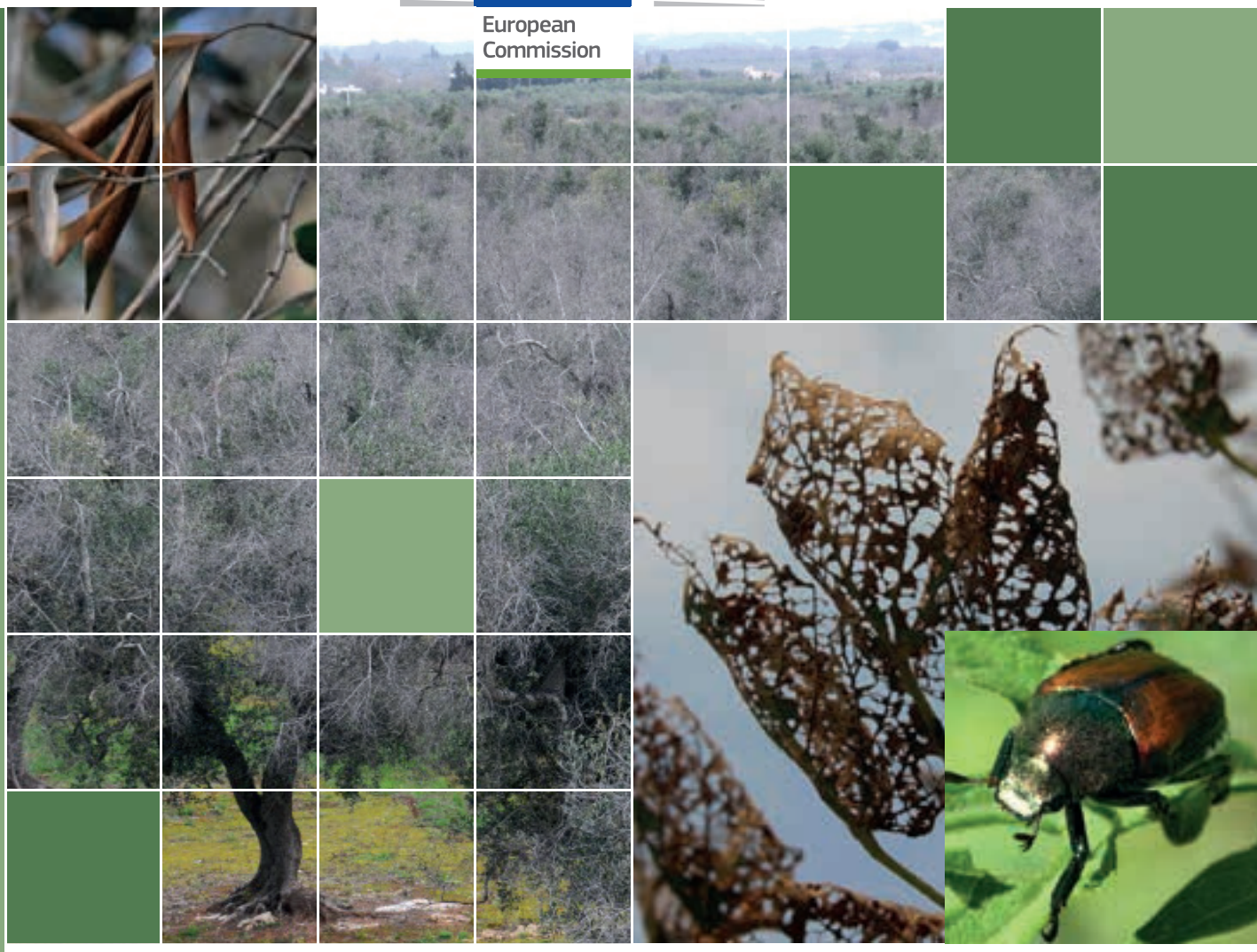

Food and Veterinary Office

# Harmful Organisms

## in the European Union

# Annual report 2014

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Food and Veterinary Office
**Plant health, Food of plant origin and food quality**

# Harmful organisms in the European Union

# Annual report 2014

***Executive summary***

*Article 16 (1) and (2) of Directive 2000/29/EC, requires that Member States immediately notify the European Commission and other Member States, of the presence or appearance of harmful organisms found on their territory or part of it, as well as the measures taken to eradicate or avoid the spread of the harmful organism concerned. This is required whether the harmful organisms are regulated (specifically listed in European Union (EU) legislation) or not.*

*The European Commission analyses and reports on these notifications on a continuous basis and provides monthly reports on notifications received to the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed, section Plant Health, in order to assist risk management decisions at EU level. This report provides an overview of the notifications received from Member States in 2014, as well as the main trends in the period 2010 to 2014.*

*The total number of notifications received annually has remained relatively stable since 2010. In 2014, a total of 220 notifications were received from 27 Member States. Approximately two thirds of these related to regulated harmful organisms. 19 were updates to previous notifications.*

*Some of the notifications received in 2014 give rise to concern because of the seriousness of the particular harmful organisms and because of their first finding or their spread in the EU territory. Some of these harmful organisms are currently non–regulated in the EU. However, because of the potential risk they present, they are listed in the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation Alert list, i.e. identified as good candidates for a Pest Risk Analysis. At EU level, actions have been planned or are being taken with a view to addressing these risks.*

*As in previous years, the number of notifications varies significantly between Member States which could reflect a different interpretation of Member States' obligations pursuant to Article 16 (1) and (2). Furthermore, despite some improvement compared to previous year, notifications still present a consistent lack of certain information which hinders the risk management decision process and capacity to have a clear picture of the effectiveness of phytosanitary measures implemented and of the status of the different harmful organisms in the EU.*

*The adoption of Decision 2014/917/EU in December 2014, which sets out detailed rules for the implementation of Article 16 (1) and (2), combined with the development of a web-based notification system and a common protocol for notifications, are expected to foster the harmonisation of practices between Member States. This should help timely decisions at EU level for an increased level of protection of the EU territory against phytosanitary risks.*

## Table of Contents

## Abbreviations and definitions used in this report

| | |
|---|---|
| Annexes I and II | Annexes of Directive 2000/29/EC listing harmful organisms which are totally banned (Annex I) or banned if present on specific plant and plant products (Annex II) from entry into and spread within the Union territory. |
| Article 16 | Article 16 of Directive 2000/29/EC |
| Commission | European Commission |
| The Directive | Council Directive 2000/29/EC of 8 May 2000 on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community |
| EPPO | European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation |
| EPPO A1/A2 lists | Lists of harmful organisms absent from (A1) or only present locally in (A2) in the EPPO region, recommended for regulation as quarantine harmful organisms, as approved by EPPO Council in September 2013. These can be consulted on EPPO website at: http://www.eppo.int/QUARANTINE/quarantine.htm |
| EPPO Alert list | Harmful organisms possibly presenting a risk to EPPO member countries (early warning) as last updated in January 2014. This can be consulted on EPPO website at: http://www.eppo.int/QUARANTINE/Alert_List/alert_list.htm |
| EU | European Union |
| EUROPHYT | European Union notification system for plant health interceptions |
| First finding | Notification related to a harmful organism which is detected for the first time in the territory of the notifying Member State |
| Harmful organism | Defined in Article 2 (e) of Council Directive 2000/29/EC as any species, strain or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent injurious to plants or plant products |
| ISPM | International Standard on Phytosanitary Measures |
| New finding | Notifications of harmful organisms which are not first findings. |
| Outbreak notification | A notification from a Member State to the Commission and the other Member States, informing of a recent development in the situation or status of a harmful organism in their territory or part of it, in accordance with Article 16 (1) or (2). It can be a "first finding" or a "new finding" as defined in this report. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Outbreak | According to ISPM n°5 'A recently detected pest population, including an incursion, or a sudden significant increase of an established pest population in an area' as defined in ISPM n°5. In this report, it also includes pest findings that do not constitute “populations”. |
| Plants | ‘Living plants and specified living parts thereof, including seeds’ as defined in Article 2(1)a of Directive 2000/29/EC. This includes cut flowers, vegetables, leaves and foliage. |
| Regulated harmful organisms | Harmful organisms specifically listed in EU legislation, in Directive 2000/29/EC or addressed by EU emergency Decisions |
| Standing Committee | Standing Committee on on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed, section Plant Health |
| Update | Notification providing complementary information on a previous outbreak notification. This information can be related to the spread, the successful eradication or any other development or information that was not available at the time of the notification of the harmful organism. |

# 1 INTRODUCTION

The objective of this report is to provide an overview of harmful organisms whose presence on European Union (EU) territory was notified by Member States to the European Commission (hereafter "the Commission") in 2014 pursuant to Article 16 (1) and (2) of Council Directive 2000/29/EC (hereafter "the Directive").

The report presents key statistics on the notifications received in 2014, as well as trends in the period from 2010 to 2014.

All statistics presented in this report are based on data provided by the notifications. Information on harmful organisms has also been taken from pest risk analyses (PRAs) carried out by Member States and from the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO)'s website.

# 2 LEGAL BACKGROUND AND DEFINITIONS

Article 16 (1) and (2) of the Directive requires that Member States immediately notify the Commission and other Member States, of the presence or appearance of harmful organisms found on their territory in areas where their presence was previously unknown, as well as the measures taken to eradicate or avoid the spread of the harmful organisms concerned. These notifications are required whether the harmful organisms are regulated or not.

Regulated harmful organisms are either listed in the Directive and/or covered by an emergency measure. The listing of harmful organisms in the Directive is organised in two annexes depending on whether the harmful organisms are totally banned from entry into and spread within the EU (Annex I) or banned when present on specific plants or plant products (Annex II). Each of the two Annexes includes two parts (A and B), "part A" being divided into two sections (I and II). Harmful organisms relevant to the whole European Union (EU) territory are listed in parts A, which include "Section I" for those harmful organisms not known to occur in the EU and "Section II" for those known to occur in the EU. Harmful organisms which are only relevant to protected zones (zones recognised as such for specific harmful organisms, which are not endemic or established but could establish given favourable conditions) are listed in parts B. Hereafter, the position of a regulated harmful organism listed in the Directive will be specified as follows: Annex IAI, IAII, IB, IIAI, IIAII or IIB.

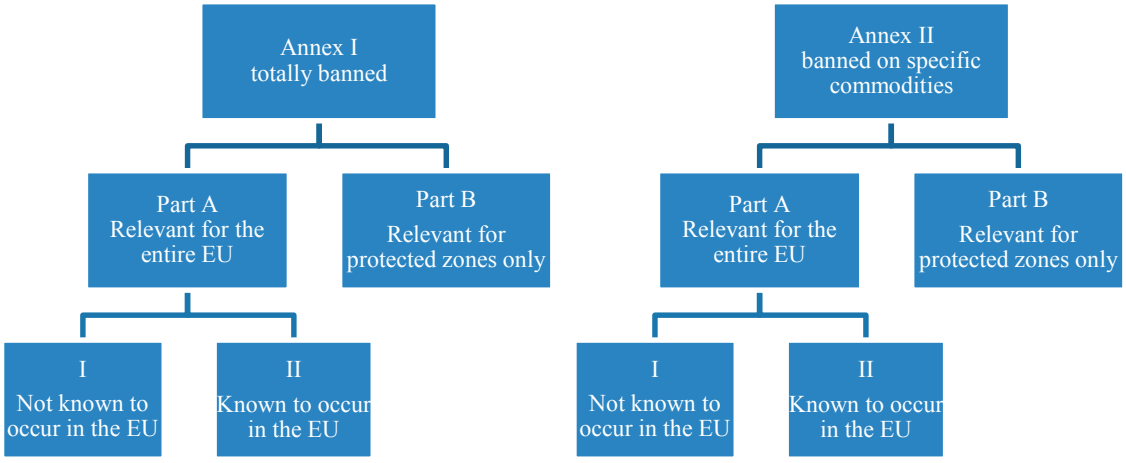


*Figure 1. Organisation of Annexes to Directive 2000/29/EC listing harmful organisms*

Some regulated harmful organisms are subject to a compulsory survey:

- Member States which have protected zones, have to conduct official surveys for the harmful organisms for which they have protected zones recognised;
- Certain potato pests and diseases that occur in some parts of the EU territory have to be surveyed by all Member States;
- Most of the emergency measures require an annual survey of the Member States' territory.

In all cases, annual reporting on survey results to the Commission and other Member States is required, without prejudice to the immediate reporting on findings required by Article 16.

The notifications under Article 16 (1) and (2) aim at informing the Commission and the other Member States of a recent development in the situation or status of a harmful organism in their territory or part of it:

- A recent detection of a harmful organism in an area where it was not known to be present, irrespective of the size of the population detected (including isolated pest findings) and the likelihood of its present or future establishment in the area. This type of notification is referred to hereafter as an "outbreak notification" (see notably section 4 and 4.1);
- The spread, the successful eradication or any other development or information that was not available at the time of the initial outbreak notification and that clarifies the situation of the harmful organism in a specific area. This type of notification is called hereafter an “update”. The reporting on updates was not explicitly required by the EU legislation in force during the year 2014 (see notably section 4.2.3).
- When a notification concerns a harmful organism which is detected for the first time in the territory of the notifying Member State, it is referred to in this report as a "first finding" (see section 4.2.1). This might also be a first detection of a harmful organism in the EU territory or in the EPPO region. Notifications of harmful organisms which are not first findings are called hereafter "new findings" (see section 4.2.2).

The Commission analyses notifications on a continuous basis and provides monthly reports on notifications to the Standing Committee on plants, Animals, Food and Feed, section Plant Health (hereafter "the Standing Committee") in order to assist management decisions at EU level.

## 3 REPORTING BY MEMBER STATES

Commission implementing Decision 2014/917/EU laying down the format and information that needs to be notified, was adopted on 15 December 2014 and therefore did not impact notifications of the year 2014. As, the Commission had not yet created a reporting template for use by Member States or established the minimum information to report concerning the appearance or presence of harmful organisms in their territory, throughout 2014, the majority of Member States used the EPPO format for notifications which ensured a certain consistency of notifications. However, overall, the level of information provided remained far below the comprehensive range of data required under Decision 2014/917/EU. Furthermore, Member States' practices were not harmonised on a number of aspects such as the terminology used, updates, harmful organisms detected in

the context of compulsory annual surveys and reporting of non-regulated harmful organisms. The adoption of Decision 2014/917/EU combined with the development of a web-based notification system and a protocol for notifications are expected to significantly improve the harmonisation of practices between Member States.

## 4 NOTIFICATIONS

In 2014, Member States sent 220 notifications concerning harmful organisms detected on their territory. The number of notifications has been relatively stable since 2010, except for 2011 due a peak of notifications of *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (red palm weevil) mainly by Italy. Of the 220 notifications in 2014, 19 concerned updates of previous notifications. Over the period 2010 to 2014, the notifications of updates has remained minimal, which in practice means that the Commission receives only limited information on the effectiveness of phytosanitary measures taken for eradicating and/or preventing the spread of the notified harmful organisms. The absence of systematic follow-up information from the Member States makes it impossible to have a clear picture of the status of the different harmful organisms in the EU. Figure 2 below gives an overview of the number of notifications over the period 2010 to 2014.

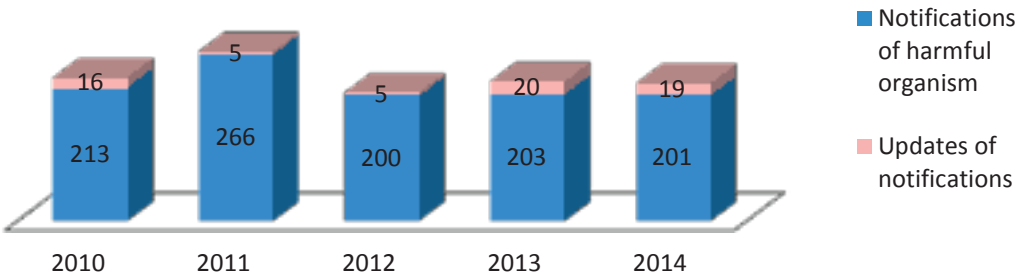


*Figure 2. Number of notifications per year (2010-2014)*

### 4.1 Notifications per Member States

In 2014, 27 Member States made notifications. The number of notifications varies significantly across Member States as reflected in Figure 3 below.

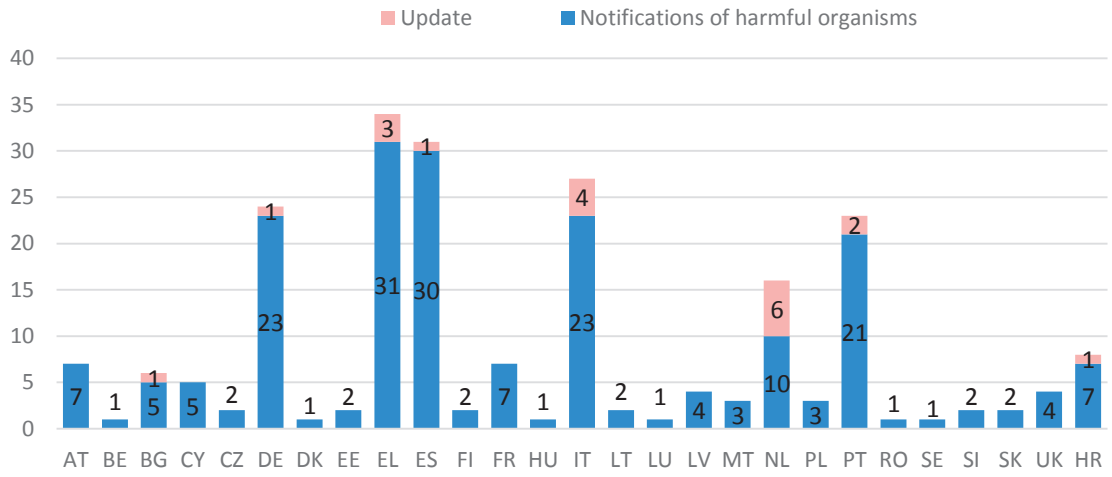


*Figure 3. Number of notifications per Member State in 2014*

Figure 3 shows that, in 2014, the level of notifications made by five Member States was significantly higher than other Member States. Together, they accounted for almost two thirds of all the notifications for the year. These Member States were also part of the small number of Member States that notified updates in 2014. Nevertheless, updates only accounted for a small proportion of the notifications that they sent during the year.

In the period 2010 to 2014, the number of notifications sent by each Member State each year was generally fairly consistent from year to year, as illustrated in Figure 4 below. With 252 notifications, Italy is by far, the Member State with the highest number of notifications (22% of the total), followed by Spain (16% of the total), Germany (9% of the total) and Greece (8% of the total).

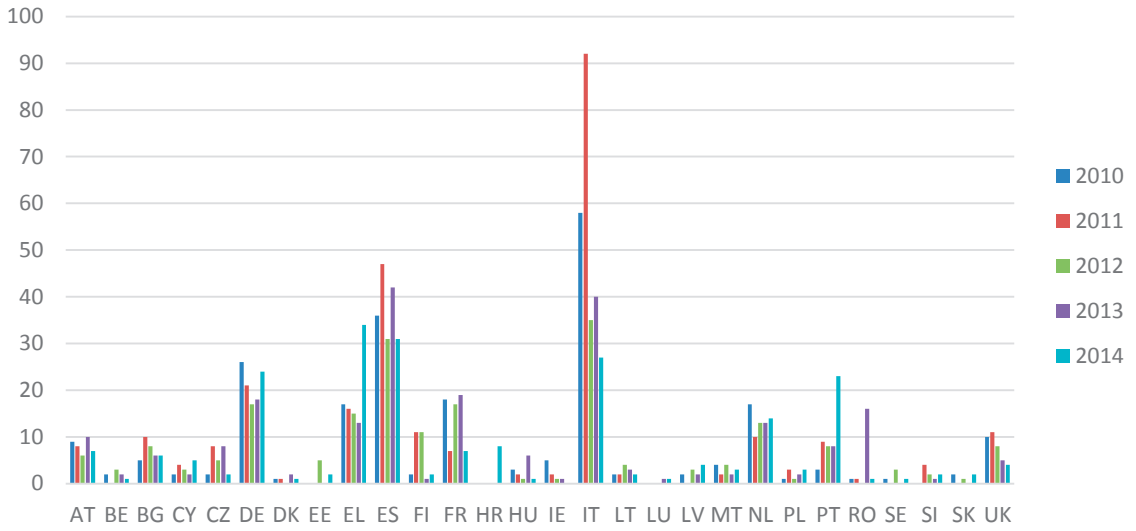


*Figure 4: Number of notifications per Member State and per year from 2010 to 2014*

The differences between Member States might be explained by several factors such as the survey programmes implemented, geographical and climatic factors as well as national practice on notification. For instance, Italy reports on all harmful organisms detected while Germany reports on those for which a risk assessment was completed and concluded that they constitute a medium or high risk for their own or the EU territory.

The notifications of updates in the period 2000 to 2014 remained limited to certain Member States (15 in total). The Netherlands has sent every year the highest number of update notifications and accounted for one third of total updates notified over the reference period.

## 4.2 Reasons for notification

In 2014, out of the 220 notifications, 201 concerned outbreak notifications, i.e. notifications of a recent development in the situation or status of a harmful organism in the Member States' territory or part of it, in accordance with Article 16 (1) or (2). Of these 201, 55 (27%) concerned harmful organisms detected for the first time in a given Member State (first findings), and 146 concerned harmful organisms detected for at least the second time in the territory of the notifying Member State (new findings). In 2014, 3 of the 19 update notifications concerned the eradication of outbreaks. Figure 5 below shows that 2014 figures are fairly consistent with the previous year.

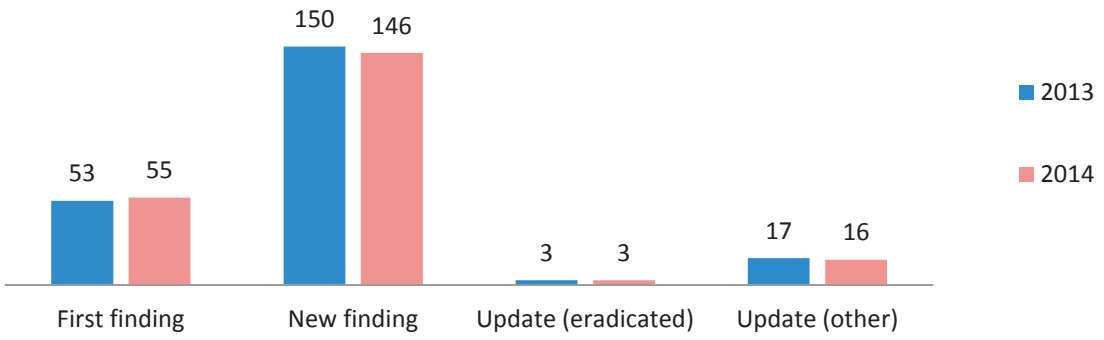


*Figure 5: Number of notifications per Member State and per year from 2010 to 2014*

### *4.2.1 First findings*

Some of these notifications are considered of particular concern because they relate to harmful organisms found for the first time in any part of the EU territory. In particular:

- *Erwinia* sp. assigned to the *E. pyrifoliae* taxon, a bacteria non-regulated in the EU, was officially reported for the first time in the EU, after its finding in two protected cultivations of strawberry fruit in the Netherlands (see also section 5.2.1);
- *Pseudacysta perseae* (avocado lace bug, non-regulated in the EU), a severe pest of avocado trees in America, was found for the first time in the EU, in Madeira Island (Portugal) (see also section 5.2.5);
- *Sirococcus tsugae* (fungus, non-regulated in the EU), affecting conifers in Canada and US, was reported for the first time by a Member State (Germany) (see also section 5.2.6);
- *Thrips setosus* (Japanese flower thrips, non-regulated in the EU), a vector for the EU regulated Tomato spotted wilt virus, was reported for the first time in the EU following its detection in one location in the Netherlands (see also section 5.2.8).

Other serious harmful organisms have been detected for the first time in continental EU, notably *Popilla japonica* (Japanese beetle, listed in Annex IAII), a serious polyphagous pest present for several years in one island of the Azores (Portugal), was reported by Italy after its detection in the Lombardy Region (see also section 5.1.3).

The very serious bacteria *Xylella fastidiosa* (listed in Annex IAI) which was reported for the first time in the EU by Italy in 2013 following its identification in the Puglia region, was the subject of several notifications by the Netherlands and then France as a result of trace-back activities following interceptions on *Coffea* plants imported from Costa Rica earlier in the year. These notifications highlighted the threat posed by certain commodities and origin and the importance of meticulous import controls by Member States. To address this specific risk, the Commission planned audits to Costa Rica and other relevant Third Countries to assess the effectiveness of the official control system with specific focus on plants for planting including *Coffea* plants (see also section 5.1.7).

Other notifications of first findings are of concern as they relate to potentially serious harmful organisms which had previously only been detected in limited EU locations. Among these, the following warrant mention:

- *Meloidogyne mali* (apple root-knot nematode, non-regulated in the EU) was reported for the first time by the Netherlands following its detection in several

locations of the country. This damaging Asian polyphagous nematode is also known to occur in a few locations of Italy (see also section 5.2.4);

- *Lissorhoptrus oryzophilus* (rice water weevil, non-regulated in the EU) had previously been only detected in Italy where it is spreading and was detected in 2014, for the first time, in France (see also section 5.2.3);
- *Thaumastocoris peregrinus* (Bronze bug, non-regulated in the EU), a potentially serious pest of Eucalyptus known to be present, with restricted distribution, in Italy, was detected for the first time in Portugal (see also section 5.2.7);
- *Xylosandrus crassiusculus* (Asian ambrosia beetle, non-regulated in the EU), reported for the first time in the EU by Italy in 2013, and found for the first time in France in 2014 (see also section 5.2.9).

### *4.2.2 New findings*

More than half of the new findings notified in 2014 involved a limited number of harmful organisms which every year represent a substantial proportion of the notifications of new findings:

- ‚*Erwinia amylovora* (fire blight), plum pox virus (Sharka), *Ralstonia solanacearum* (brown rot of potato) and *Clavibacter michiganensis* ssp.*sepedonicus* (Potato ring rot), which are harmful organisms known to occur in certain areas of the EU (listed in section II of Annexes I and II);
- *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (red palm weevil) and *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* (chestnut gall wasp) which are both covered by emergency measures;
- *Drosophila suzukii* (cherry drosophila), for which the Standing Committee decided in May 2012 that regulation was not appropriate.

Most of the regulated harmful organisms are found in the context of compulsory surveys or official inspections under the plant passport system. In light of these notifications, the Commission, after consultation with the Standing Committee, amends as required the definition of protected zones (e.g. in 2014 the list of territories in Spain recognised as protected zones with respect to *Erwinia amylovora*) or the EU legislation (e.g. in 2014, by repealing the emergency measures concerning *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* and recognising protected zones for this harmful organism).

Amongst other new findings notified in 2014, the following were considered of particular concern:

- Three new outbreaks of *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Asian Longhorn beetle, Annex IAI) were detected in Germany (Bavaria). With 18 outbreak notifications since 2010, *A. glabripennis* is one of the Annex IAI harmful organism most often detected in the EU (see also section 5.1.2);
- *Trioza erytreae* (Asian citrus psyllid, listed in Annex IAII), vector of the very serious citrus disease Huanglongbing/citrus greening, until then only known to be present in Madeira (Portugal) and in the Canary Islands (Spain), was first reported in continental EU after its detection in different locations of Galicia (Spain) (see also section 5.1.6);
- Italy notified new *Xylella fastidiosa* infestations as well as new vectors and new host plants in the Lecce region (see also section 5.1.7);

– Italy notified the finding in the Lombardy region, of *Pityophtorus juglandis,* a vector of the fungus *Geosmithia morbida*, causal agents of the thousand cankers disease, a serious disease of black walnut trees which was first found in Italy in 2013 (see also section 5.2.2).

### *4.2.3 Updates*

Most of the updates received in 2014 aimed at providing information on the official control measures taken or on the results of the measures implemented. Amongst these notifications, Germany updated the situation of *Strauzia longipennis* (sunflower maggot, listed in Annex IAI as "*Tephritidae* (non-European)"), found for several years in two Federal States, and provided information on official measures in place to control this harmful organism (see also section 5.1.5).

Three updates relating to eradication were notified by the Netherlands. The first confirmation of eradication concerned the outbreak of Tobacco ringspot virus (listed in Annex IAI) which was detected in 2010. The second notification was related to *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (false codling moth, non-regulated in the EU) which was found at one production glasshouse of *Capsicum annum* in October 2013. The third update confirmed the absence in its territory of *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus,* in follow-up to the finding of a single adult beetle in a private garden notified in July 2014.

## 4.3 Harmful organisms notified

### *4.3.1 Distribution on taxonomic groups*

All outbreak notifications received in 2014 provided the species name of the harmful organisms detected. The figure below shows the proportion of notifications of 2014 per taxonomic group of the harmful organisms involved.

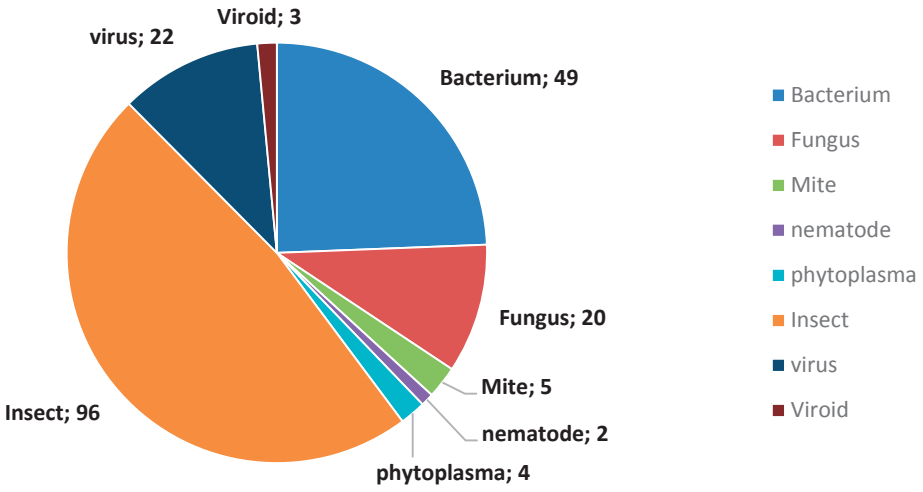


*Figure 6. Distribution of notifications on taxonomic group (2014)*

In 2014, 50% of the outbreak notifications concerned insects and mites, which is fairly consistent with the figures of the previous years (50 to 55% in the period 2010 to 2013). By comparison, it is interesting to note that every year more than 90% of the harmful organisms detected by import controls are insects and mites.

### *4.3.2 EU regulatory status*

In 2014, about two thirds of the outbreak notifications concerned regulated harmful organisms. This proportion has been relatively stable (between 68% and 75%) in the period 2010 to 2014. Figure 7 shows the distribution in 2014 according to the regulatory status in the EU of the harmful organisms. Distinction is made between those covered by emergency measures and those listed in Directive 2000/29/EC, i.e. the section(s) of the Annexes to the Directive where they are listed. Harmful organisms covered by both an emergency Decision and the Directive are included in the category "Emergency measures", and those listed in several sections of the Annexes are indicated in the most general section (e.g. harmful organisms listed in Annex IAII and IB have been allocated to IAII).

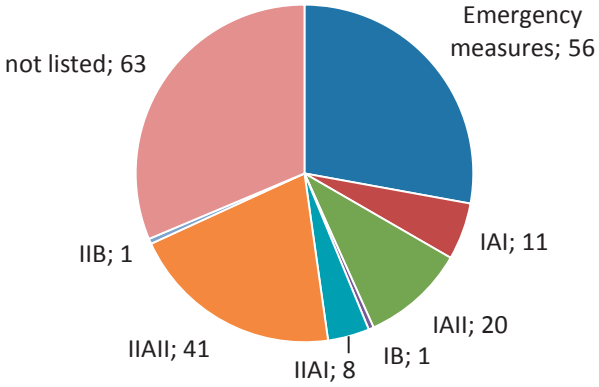


*Figure 7. Distribution of notifications per EU regulatory status of harmful organisms (2014)*

The distribution in 2014 is fairly consistent with 2013. However, under the category "Emergency measures", the repeal of emergency measures related to *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* (Western corn rootworm) in February 2014 and *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* (chestnut gall wasp) in September 2014 resulted in the absence or the limitation respectively of notifications concerning these pests. Notifications related to *Xylella fastidiosa* fall under this category following the adoption of emergency measures in February 2014 (see also sections 4.2.1 and 5.1.7). With respect to Annex IAI, an increase of notifications concerning *Rhagoletis completa* (walnut husk maggot) was noted. As this harmful organism is present with restricted distribution in seven Member States, its regulatory status shall be reviewed by the relevant Commission Working Group.

### *4.3.3 EPPO categorisation of non-regulated harmful organisms*

Out of the 32 different species of non-regulated harmful organisms reported in 2014, 12 were, in 2014, listed in an EPPO pest list (EPPO A1 and A2 lists of pests recommended for regulation as quarantine pests or the EPPO Alert list of pests possibly presenting a risk to EPPO member countries). Table 1 provides details of these harmful organisms and the number of notifications received since 2010.

*Table 1. Non-regulated harmful organisms notified in 2014 and present in one of the EPPO lists*

| Name of the Harmful organisms | Year of listing | Number of notifications | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2014 | 2010 to 2014 |
| **EPPO A1/A2 lists** | | | |
| *Drosophila suzukii* (cherry drosophila, insect) | 2011 | 25 | 57 |
| Candidatus *Liberibacter solanacearum* (zebra chip disease, bacterium) | 2012 | 1 | 4 |
| *Phytophthora rubi* (root rot of raspberry, fungus) | 1991 | 1 | 1 |
| **EPPO Alert list** | | | |
| *Diplocarpon mali* (marssonina blotch of apple, fungus) | 2013 | 2 | 3 |
| *Geosmithia morbida* and *Pityophthorus juglandis* (fungus causing the thousand cankers disease and its insect vector) | 2014 | 1 | 1 |
| *Thaumastocoris peregrinus* (bronze bug, insect) | 2012 | 2 | 2 |
| *Meloidogyne mali* (apple root-knot nematode) | 2014 | 1 | 1 |
| *Pseudacysta perseae* (avocado lace bug, insect) | 2015 | 1 | 1 |
| *Singhiella simplex* (ficus whitefly, insect) | 2014 | 1 | 1 |
| *Sirococcus tsugae* (fungus) | 2015 | 1 | 1 |
| *Thrips setosus* (Japanese flower thrips, insect) | 2014 | 1 | 1 |
| *Xylosandrus crassiusculus* (Asian ambrosia beetle, insect) | 2009 | 1 | 3 |

As mentioned in Section 4.2.2, the Standing Committee decided in May 2012 not to regulate *Drosophila suzukii*.

## 4.4 Source of the infestation notified

The source of the infestation is key information for the prevention of further introduction into and spread within the EU territory. However, it is often difficult for Member States to ascertain or even make assumptions on the origin of the harmful organism detected, as illustrated in figure 8 below.

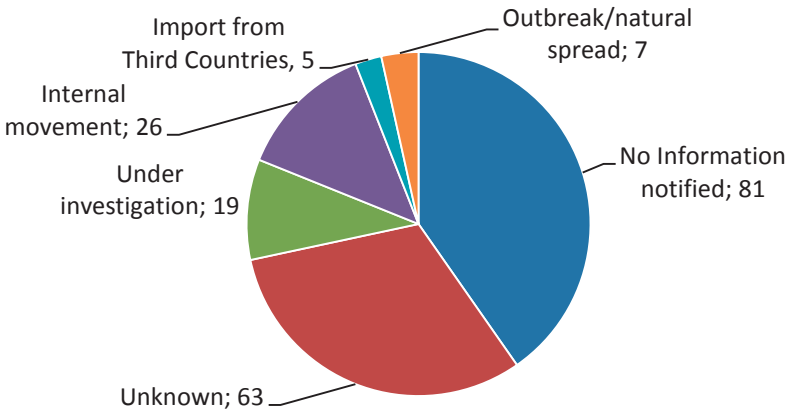


*Figure 8. Information provided on the source of the harmful organisms notified in 2014*

In 2014, a large proportion of the outbreak notifications (72%) either did not make any reference to the source of the infestation or stated that it was unknown. Out of the 201 outbreak notifications, only 57 provided information on the possible source of the

infestation. As regards movements within the EU, infested planting material is often considered as the likely source of the infestation.

### 4.5 Phytosanitary measures notified

In 2014, most of the outbreak notifications (90 %) contained information on the Member States' decision to implement or not official phytosanitary measures in response to the finding notified, as illustrated in Figure 9.

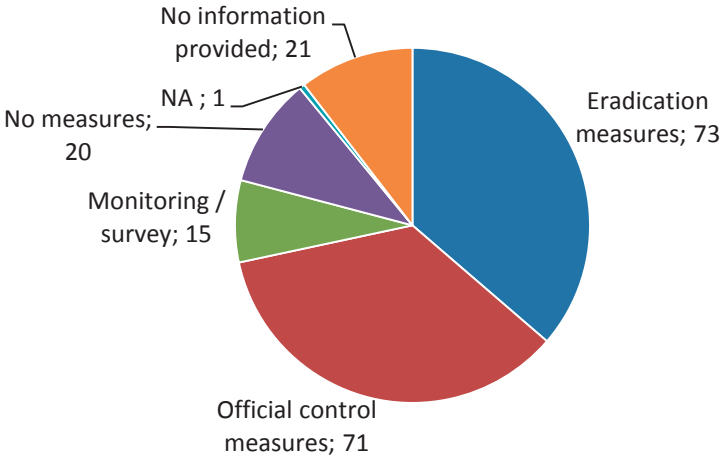


*Figure 9. Phytosanitary measures reported in the notifications in 2014*

In the majority of cases (72 %, 144 notifications), the Member States notified the current or future implementation of official phytosanitary measures, indicating in more than half of the cases that the objective was eradication.

In 17 % of the notifications, Member States declared the absence of control measures and/or their limitation to the performance of monitoring or survey activities. A number of these notifications concerned regulated harmful organisms (e.g. *Trioza erytreae*, *Rhagoletis completa*) or potentially serious non-regulated harmful organisms (*Thrips setosus*, *Sirococcus tsugae*, *Lissorhoptrus oryzophilus*, *Phytophthora rubi*). In one third of these notifications, the decision to take control measures was delayed pending the results of the survey activities. In some cases, the Member States justified the absence of measures by the absence of observed damage, the investigation of effective control measures and the fact that the harmful organism concerned was not regulated.

## 5 FOCUS ON SPECIFIC HARMFUL ORGANISMS

This section focuses on a range of regulated and non-regulated harmful organisms which stand out in 2014 because of the potential risk they represent for the EU territory or because significant developments were notified in 2014. For each of the harmful organisms highlighted, key features on the harmful organism, details of notifications in 2014 and status in the EU are provided, as well as action taken at EU level. Regulated and non-regulated harmful organisms are presented separately in alphabetical order.

### 5.1 Notifications related to regulated harmful organisms

#### *5.1.1* Anoplophora chinensis *(citrus longhorn beetle)*

In 2014, *Anoplophora chinensis* was found in Croatia, where intensive surveys and trace back activities revealed a second outbreak in the country. During the same year, Italy notified a new outbreak of *A. chinensis*, the first one in the Tuscany region. In both

Member States, demarcated areas and eradication measures were taken. In addition, Germany notified the new finding of a single adult beetle in Bavaria. The tree from which the beetle had emerged and presented a single exit hole, was destroyed and, based on official investigations and surveys performed subsequently, it was concluded that the pest neither could have established nor spread.

In 2014, the Netherlands and Denmark still had four and two areas respectively under intensive monitoring in the surroundings of previous findings of *A. chinensis*, for verifying the absence of the pest. In Italy, additional demarcated areas are in place, in the Lazio region since 2008 with no recent finding of *A. chinensis*, and three in the Lombardy region where the pest is under containment and infested trees are eliminated every year.

*A. chinensis* is listed in Annex IAI and covered by emergency measures since 2008 which have largely proven to be effective. Several Commission audits addressing the situation of *A. chinensis* were performed in 2014 in Italy and Germany and in previous years in other relevant Member States and in a Third Country exporting host material to the EU.

### *5.1.2* Anoplophora glabripennis *(Asian longhorn beetle)*

In 2014, three new outbreaks of *Anoplophora glabripennis* (listed in Annex IAI) were notified by Germany after their detection in Bavaria, one of the four Federal States affected by *A. glabripennis* infestations.

With 18 notifications since 2010, *A. glabripennis* is one of the Annex IAI harmful organisms the most often found in the EU in the past five years. In order to address this situation, since February 2013, measures on Wood Packaging Material of risk originating in China are implemented across the EU to mitigate the risk of introduction of *A. glabripennis*. In addition, a Commission working group was set up in 2014 to propose emergency measures on *A. glabripennis* (Commission implementing Decision 2015/893 adopted in June 2015). In addition, several Commission audits on longhorn beetles including *A. glabripennis* were performed in the Member States concerned and in a Third Country involved in export of high risk commodities to the EU. An overview report on the Member States audits was planned for 2015. All published reports can be found at http://ec.europa.eu/food/food_veterinary_office/index_en.htm).

### *5.1.3* Popilla japonica *(Japanese beetle)*

*Popilla japonica* is a Northeast Asian polyphagous insect which is recognised as a very serious harmful organism in the US where it was introduced some decades ago. In the EU, it is listed in Annex IAII and known to be present with restricted distribution in one island of the Azores (Portugal).

In 2014, Italy notified the first finding of the Japanese beetle in continental EU in an area adjacent to an international airport and military area in the Lombardy and Piedmont regions. It was notified that many different plant species were found infested and investigations were initiated to define the extent of the infestation and to enable control measures to be implemented. A mass trapping programme was initiated. Italy provided an update of the situation and measures in place to the Standing Committee meeting of October 2014. The Commission intends to follow up the situation in the context of an audit as soon as possible.

### *5.1.4* Strauzia longipennis *(sunflower maggot fly)*

*Strauzia longipennis* is a pest of sunflowers and other *Helianthus* species, listed as "non-European *Tephritidae*" in Annex IAI. It is present in the US and Canada where it is considered as a minor pest. It was notified for the first time in the EU by Germany, in 2010.

Germany notified in October 2014, an update on the situation of *S. longipennis* and control measures in place. Based on the monitoring conducted in 12 of the 16 Federal States in 2014, the presence of sunflower maggot fly was restricted to two Federal States (Berlin and Brandenburg). Control measures to suppress or contain the pest include movement prohibition for sunflowers, Jerusalem artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*) and soil from sunflower fields and beds from infested areas. Other measures such as monitoring of the insect, chemical treatments and/or specified cultural methods are compulsory in infested areas and recommended in their 20 km surroundings.

### *5.1.5* Trioza erytreae *(Asian citrus psyllid)*

*Trioza erytreae* (listed in Annex IAII), a vector of the very serious citrus disease Huanglongbing/citrus greening was first reported by Spain after its detection, in 2014, in different locations of Galicia. *T. erytreae* was until then only known to be present in Madeira (Portugal) and in the Canary Islands (Spain). To follow up on this notification, the Commission requested Spain to provide additional information on how the situation was addressed. In addition, Commission audits are planned to Spain (and Portugal where the insect has subsequently been found also).

### 5.1.6 Xylella fastidiosa

*Xylella fastidiosa*, a bacterium listed in Annex IAI, was first found in the EU in 2013, in the province of Lecce in Italy where a sudden decline of olives was observed. This finding was closely followed up by the Commission in consultation with the Standing Committee, and EU emergency measures were adopted in February 2014. In addition, a Commission audit was carried out to the affected area in February 2014, followed by 3 further audits since then to assess the situation and control measures implemented by the Competent Authorities. Amongst other exchanges of information with Italy, three notifications were received in 2014 in which Italy reported new vectors, new host plants and the extent of the infestation in the Lecce region (see also section 4.2.1).

Regarding the findings on *Coffea* plants referred to in section 4.2.1, an import ban on such plants from Costa Rica and Honduras has been introduced with Commission Implementing Decision 2015/789/EU to protect the EU from further introductions from these origins.

## 5.2 Notifications related to non-regulated harmful organisms

### *5.2.1* Erwinia *sp. assigned to the* E. pyrifoliae *taxon*

The Netherlands notified the first finding of *Erwinia* sp. assigned to the *E. pyrifoliae* taxon (Bacterium) on strawberry protected cultivations in two locations. Symptomatic fruits (often heavily misformed) were observed on 50% of the plants in the greenhouses. Affected crops were removed and a specific surveillance to investigate possible other occurrences and origin of the findings was performed in 2014.

This was the first official report of this harmful organism in the EU and on strawberry plants. However, similar symptoms had been observed on strawberry plants in one location of Belgium in 2011.

*Erwinia pyrifoliae* is present in Eastern Asia (Korea and Japan) where it causes fire blight in Asian (Nashi) pear orchards (*Pyrus pyrifolia*). A possible pathway could be plants for planting, possibly fruits, of P. *pyrifolia* and *P. communis* (European pears). *E. pyrifoliae* was added to the EPPO Alert list in 1998 and delisted after five years.

### *5.2.2* Geosmithia morbida *and its vector* Pityophthorus juglandis

The fungus *Geosmithia morbida* and its insect vector *Pityophthorus juglandis* are the causing agents of the serious thousand cankers disease, responsible for widespread mortality on black walnut trees *(Juglans nigra*) in the US. US scientific references describe the European chestnut (*Juglans regia*) as a possible host but with a lower susceptibility compared to the black walnut.

The first finding of the disease in the EU was notified in 2013 by Italy following its detection on a small number of black walnut trees in the Veneto region. The origin of the outbreak was assumed to be the introduction of the fungus and its vector with timber with bark of *Juglans* sp. imported from the US. Italy considered the risk of spread and the potential damage and impact in the area of the infestation to be high.

In 2014, Italy notified the finding of the vector *Pityophthorus juglandis* (Walnut twig beetle) in 7 isolated trees located in one municipality of the Lombardy region. Symptoms of the disease were not detected and it was therefore assumed that the vector was not associated with a virulent strain of *Geosmithia morbida*. After this new notification, the Commission requested Italy to provide an update on the situation of the two harmful organisms and the associated disease in its territory as well as the measures in place to control their spread. The Commission intends to follow up the situation in the context of an audit as soon as possible.

### *5.2.3* Lissorhoptrus oryzophilus *(rice water weevil)*

*Lissorhoptrus oryzophilus* is considered as a major pest of rice in all non-EU countries where it occurs. In the EU, it was first found in 2004 in Italy, in the Po Valley in the Lombardy region. In 2014, Italy notified that the rice water weevil was found for the first time in the Emilia–Romagna region and that it had spread naturally or by transport with rice grain to other rice producing areas in the Lombardy and Piedmont regions. No control measures were implemented due to the low prevalence of the pest.

In 2014, France notified the first finding of *L. oryzophilus* in two rice plots in the Eastern part of its territory. Surveys were to be carried out with a view to establishing the distribution of the pest, following which possible control measures were to be considered for 2015.

### *5.2.4* Meloidogyne mali *(apple root-knot nematode)*

*Meloidogyne mali* is a polyphagous nematode causing severe galls on the roots of infested plants, thereby interfering with their water and nutrient uptake from the soil. The pest is only known to be present in Japan.

The first finding of *Meloidogyne mali* in the EU was notified in 2014 by the Netherlands, after its identification in an arboretum, in the region of The Hague. The Netherlands indicated that they would consider taking eradication measures if *M. mali* was identified in a nursery.

Scientific evidence suggests that *M. mali* was probably introduced during the breeding programme for elms to counter the Dutch elm disease during which, large numbers of elm rootstocks and seeds were imported from different countries. According to the preliminary risk assessment performed by the Netherlands, *M. mali* could possibly be found in ten other Member States (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and the United Kingdom), as they received rooted seedlings from the Netherlands after the breeding programme.

Based on this preliminary risk assessment, *M. mali* was added to the EPPO Alert list in 2014.

### *5.2.5 Pseudacysta perseae* (avocado lace bug)

*Pseudacysta perseae* pest is present in North, Central and South America where severe damage has been reported on Avocado trees since 1990. It was notified for the first time in the EU in 2014, after its finding on Madeira Island (Portugal). Portugal reported medium to severe infestations. Surveys had been carried out to determine the distribution of the pest and control measures were under evaluation in order to be applied during the following growing season.

Following this first finding, the avocado lace bug was listed in the EPPO Alert list. Plants for planting of hosts from countries where the pest occurs constitute its main pathway. The EU is not a large avocado producer. Spain is the main producer in the EU with some 80,000 tonnes in annual production. The spread of the avocado lace bug could have an economic impact on this production.

### *5.2.6 Sirococcus tsugae*

*Sirococcus tsugae* is known to be present in the US and Canada where it causes shoot tip blight and can cause seedling mortality. It was added to the EPPO Alert list in April 2015.

In 2014, it was reported for the first time in the EU by Germany, after its finding on old Atlas cedar trees, some of which were severely infested, in two locations of Lower Saxony. The infestation was not recent (first symptoms in 2011). Germany performed an express risk assessment, concluding that the harmful organism posed a medium plant health risk for Germany and the EU (low certainty of assessment). According to this, the distribution of *S. tsugae* is uncertain as its symptoms might have been attributed to *Sirococcus conigenus*, a fungus affecting conifers in temperate and boreal forests in Europe and North America.

### *5.2.7* Thaumastocoris peregrinus *(bronze bug)*

*Thaumastocoris peregrinus* (Bronze bug), is a severe pest of Eucalyptus species originated in Australia from where it has spread to South America and the Southern part of Africa in the past ten years. It was added to the EPPO Alert list in 2012.

The first finding of the bronze bug in the EU was reported in 2011 by Italy where it was found in the Lazio region. In 2014, Italy reported a new finding in the Sicily region and Portugal notified the first finding of the bronze bug in different locations of its territory. Both Member States intended to perform a survey to determine the distribution of the pest based on which possible control measures would be considered.

### *5.2.8* Thrips setosus *(Japanese flower thrips)*

*Thrips setosus* is a highly polyphagous species, known to occur in Japan and the Republic of Korea where it is considered a minor pest. It is a vector for Tomato spotted wilt virus (listed in Annex IIAII).

In 2014, the Netherlands reported the first finding of this insect in the EU. It was reported that a high incidence of *Thrips setosus* was found, almost all plants inside the greenhouse being affected with the presence of silvery spots and dark punctures on leaves. This was also observed on weeds (*Lamium purpureum*, *Heracleum sphondylium*, *Urtica dioica*) outside the greenhouse. The origin is unknown but could possibly have been linked to imports of cuttings from Japan. The first official measures consisted of a survey to determine the distribution of the pest, based on which possible official control measures would be considered.

The Netherlands performed a preliminary risk assessment which concluded that the harmful organism has the potential to cause significant damage on certain crops. *T. setosus* was added to the EPPO alert list in October 2014. (Subsequently, the Netherlands reported, in June 2015, that wider establishment of the pest was assumed and that no further measures would be taken.)

### *5.2.9 Xylosandrus crassiusculus (Asian ambrosia beetle)*

*Xylosandrus crassiusculus* is a non-European *Scolytidae* considered as a highly polyphagous pest of woody plants. Only Coniferae are apparently not attacked by this pest (non-European *Scolytidae* are only regulated in Annex IIAI for conifers).

In 2014, *X. crassiusculus* was found for the first time in France, in a forest of the South Eastern part of the territory. Eradication measures were taken and the origin of the infestation was under investigation. In the EU, it was only known to be present in Italy where it was detected in 2003 in Toscana, and then in Liguria and Veneto. It is now probably established in Liguria and Toscana.

*X. crassiusculus* is native toAsia and known to be present in some African countries, and part of North and Central America. It might present a risk to many woody plants in nurseries, plantations, orchards, parks and gardens. Plants for planting, cut branches, wood, packing wood material from countries where the pest occurs are possible pathways. *X. crassiusculus* has been on the EPPO Alert list since 2009.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

This report presents key statistics on harmful organisms found in the EU and notified to the Commission under Article 16 (1) and (2) by Member States. This overview focuses on notifications received by the Commission in 2014 as well as main trends in the period 2010 to 2014.

The year 2014 appears to be fairly consistent with previous years, with respect to the number of notifications received, the type of information notified and the harmful organisms concerned. A number of harmful organisms, regulated or non-regulated that were found in the EU in 2014, are considered to present a potential risk for the EU territory. The Commission has followed up on notifications of concern in order to ensure that key information was available at EU level for decision making.

As in previous years, the number of notifications varies significantly between Member States which could reflect a different interpretation of Member States' obligations pursuant to Article 16 (1) and (2). Furthermore, as in previous years, notifications still

present a consistent lack of certain information which hinders the risk management decision process and capacity to have a clear picture of the effectiveness of phytosanitary measures implemented and of the status of the different harmful organisms in the EU.

The adoption of Decision 2014/917/EU in December 2014, combined with the development of a web-based notification system and a common protocol for notifications are expected to foster the harmonisation of practices between Member States. This should help timely decisions at EU level for an increased level of protection of the EU territory against phytosanitary risks.

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