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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 pests by Member States and the actions taken.

The Commission discussed the interceptions for the period between 14 December 2020 and 24 January 2021 as well as follow-up actions to notified non-compliances. The Commission highlighted the twenty five interceptions of *Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus* (ToBRFV), mostly on tomato seeds from China, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Israel, Peru and Thailand, but also on seeds of *Capsicum annuum* from Israel and Taiwan. The Commission also discussed the interceptions of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Capsicum* species from Rwanda, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, and on *Rosa* from Kenya and Zambia, the interceptions of *Spodoptera frugiperda* on different commodities (asparagus from Peru, maize from Senegal, celery and *Xanthosoma* from Suriname and on *Kalanchoe* from Tanzania), the interception of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on *Citrus* from Bangladesh and the interception of *Bactrocera dorsalis* on *Psidium guajava* from India. It was agreed to monitor the development of the relevant interceptions. A Member State informed that fake phytosanitary certificates accompany consignments from Lao People's Democratic Republic. It was agreed to follow-up on this information through the relevant channels.

Regarding the follow-up actions, due to recent worrying interceptions of ToBRFV in tomato seeds from Guatemala, the Commission has sent a letter requesting a meeting and an investigation dossier. The Commission informed that continuing follow up actions are ongoing with other exporting countries who have been notified of ToBRFV interceptions. The Commission also informed about the upcoming audits, including the audit to Argentina on the export certification system for citrus.

A.02 Evaluation of recent outbreaks of pests 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 10 December 2020 to 24 January 2021.

The Netherlands gave a presentation on the ongoing work on the identification of pathotypes of *Synchytrium endobioticum*.

Further discussion took place on the cause of outbreaks of *Eotetranychus lewisi* on *Euphorbia pulcherrima* plants. In Portugal for the first time the pest is found in continental Portugal. An eradication approach is followed in all cases.

Spain, Italy, France and Portugal provided an update on the outbreaks of *Xylella fastidiosa* in their territories. Actions have been taken to trace back and trace forward the plants of *Dodonea viscosa* found infected in Canosa di Puglia. Plants already moved to France have been found and destroyed.

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

The EFSA media newsletter and the EFSA scientific literature newsletter of January 2021 and the EPPO Reporting Service No. 1 of 2020 were disseminated to Member States.

A.04 Exchange of views on reduced frequencies of import inspections for 2021 on fruit, vegetables, cut flowers and wood originating in UK (GB).

The Commission informed about ongoing considerations regarding the extension of the currently applied reduced import inspection frequency system for certain categories of fruits from non-EU European countries also to the UK. The Commission will inform the Committee on further developments in this regard.

A.05 Exchange of views on a possible derogation for the import of US oak logs with bark from the US under an integrated systems approach against *Bretziella fagacearum*.

The Commission gave a short update on the state of the dossier. Following the adoption of the relevant EFSA commodity risk assessment, US recently sent written comments on its content. The Commission will assure an appropriate follow-up and will keep Member States informed.

A.06 State of play on the Single Market Programme.

The Commission informed Member States that the SMP Regulation has been agreed during the last political trilogue on 8 December 2020: the Regulation is expected to be adopted by spring 2021 (most likely March 2021). As a consequence the SPM Financing Decision (FD) and related Work Programmes (WP) 2021-2022 will be adopted most likely by April/May 2021. The submission by Member States of veterinary and phytosanitary programmes to be implemented in 2021-2022 might then take place in June 2021 and the grants are expected to be signed by September/October 2021. It has been clarified that, in relation to EU financial support, a retro-activity clause will apply from 1st January 2021 in order to co-fund the activities implemented by January, even if the related grants will be signed later. Member States will be kept informed by the Commission during the coming Committee and detailed information will be provided on the procedures and templates to be used to submit phytosanitary programme, claims etc. The Commission reminded Member States that a letter was sent to COPHs, Permanent Representations and contact points on 16 December 2020 to clarify and inform on the steps to be taken by January 2021, waiting for the adoption of the SMP and related FD and WPs.

A.07 Exchange of views on containment measures for *Trioza erytreae* under Article 28.2 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The Commission presented and discussed with Member States the containment measure for *Trioza erytreae*. Member States were asked to communicate the containment areas, making distinction between infested zone and buffer zone at the level of administrative region. The Commission clarified that when the smaller administrative region is only partially included in the respective infested zone or buffer zone, Member States should provide further details of the delimitation during the annual reporting of Article 18(6) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031. The Commission asked Member States to send written comments within two weeks for a follow-up discussion at the forthcoming PAFF meeting.

A.08 Exchange of views on containment measures for Tomato leaf curl New Delhi virus under Article 28.2 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The Commission presented and discussed with Member States the containment measure for Tomato leaf curl New Delhi virus. Member States were asked to communicate the containment areas, making distinction between infested zone and buffer zone at the level of administrative region. The Commission clarified that when the smaller administrative region is only partially included in the respective infested zone or buffer zone, Member States shall provide further details of the delimitation during the annual reporting of Article 18(6) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031. The Commission asked Member States to send written comments within two weeks for a follow-up discussion at the forthcoming PAFF meeting.

A.09 Exchange of views on containment measures for *Pomacea* under Article 28.2 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

Postponed.

A.10 Exchange of views on amendment of the EU measures for *Anoplophora chinensis*.

The Committee held a first exchange of views on the planned amendment of the EU measures for *Anoplophora chinensis* (citrus longhorn beetle). The measures are intended to be brought in line with the new Plant Health Law and to take into account all new information in relation to this pest.

A.11 State of play of the renewal of declarations from third countries about the pest status of *Xylella fastidiosa* in their territory.

The Commission presented the state of play with regards to the declarations received from third countries and the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2020/1201 (the *Xylella* Regulation).

The Commission recalled that in October 2020 a letter was sent to all the countries that were considered free from *Xylella*, based on previous declarations, in order to receive their updated declarations by 31 December 2020. A reminder letter was sent to third countries not responding, asking to reply by 25 January 2021. A discussion took place on how to handle the missing declarations or those not in line with the *Xylella* Regulation. An agreement was reached on deleting from the DG SANTE website the declarations of the countries who did not respond to the two letters. As regard the third countries who sent an incomplete or non-precise declaration, the

Commission will send a final request giving one week time to react. At the end of that period, the declarations will be out of the website and trade of *Xylella* host plants will stop.

A.12 Exchange of views on a derogation from Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 concerning the introduction into the Union of plants for planting *Fragaria L.* from Chile.

The Commission explained the changes compared to the previous version and asked Member States to provide their opinion on the provision concerning the certification scheme. Member States were asked to submit written comments by 11 February 2021.

A.13 State of play of the reporting obligations based on derogations and emergency measures for wood import.

The Commission presented an overview of the derogations in place for wood commodities from certain origins. In particular, the Commission enquired about the use of kiln drying certificates from the industry under the derogations for soft wood from the US and Canada. Member States did not report any phytosanitary non-compliance.

Thanks to the possibility to retrieve trade and interceptions information from TRACES, Member States will no longer need to send annual reports for the updated derogations. The Commission shared the overview table of the import controls on wood packaging material, requesting Member States to verify the data and amend as needed.

A.14 Exchange of views on phytosanitary aspects of EU-UK trade as of 1 January 2021 onwards.

The Commission offered an update on the progress of its proposals for two Decisions of the European Parliament and the Council recognising equivalence on agricultural seeds and forest reproductive material originating in the UK. Those Decisions are expected to be adopted during spring 2021. It also explained that the proposals did not cover seed potatoes, due to the non-alignment of the UK with the EU plant health rules, and did not cover certified vegetable seeds because such equivalence is not set out for other third countries apart from Moldova.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible technical 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 the Draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715 as regards procedures for the establishment and use of ADIS and EUROPHYT, the issuance of electronic official certificates, animal health certificates and animal health/official certificates, the use of electronic signatures, and the functioning of TRACES.

The draft amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715 ('the IMSOC Regulation') was presented by the Commission with a view of obtaining the opinion

of the “Plant Health” section of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF).

The Commission informed that the draft received a favourable feedback from the European Data Protection Supervisor on 14 January 2021 and completed the open public consultation.

Regarding the integration of interception data into entry documents and the list of reference data, the Commission shared technical documents aimed at comparing the interception document and entry document and at explaining the functioning of the new entity created in TRACES to help manage approved operators and establishments. Regarding the use of iRASFF to be adapted to accommodate non-compliances in the area of plant health, the Commission made a demonstration of the platform currently used for notifying non-compliances in the area of food, feed and food contact material.

As requested by some Member States, the Commission confirmed that Article 4(4) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1715 was so far implemented in an informal manner through the numerous consultations of Chief Plant Health Officers, PAFF experts and TRACES experts since June 2020 on the proposed change regarding internal and external interceptions and committed to consult Member States’ experts on future developments of TRACES in a more formal way and to provide training on the use of the iRASFF platform for plant experts.

The Commission informed of its intention to launch the written procedure in accordance with Article 8 of the standard rules of procedure of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed to obtain the Committee's opinion on the draft.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annexes II to XIV of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 establishing uniform conditions for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and the Council, as regards protective measures against pests of plants.

The Commission continued the discussion with the Member States on the first amendment of the Annexes of Implementing Regulation 2019/2072. Member States were asked to send written comments by 12 February. The Commission will subsequently proceed with a view of submitting a formal draft at one of the forthcoming meetings of the Committee.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation allowing for the containment of Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma within certain demarcated areas.

The Commission requested Member States to communicate the containment areas by 5 February 2021.

C.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation allowing for the containment of *Popillia japonica* Newman within certain demarcated areas.

The Commission presented the draft Regulation detailing the containment of *Popillia japonica*. The Committee briefly discussed the draft and agreed to provide comments to the Commission, if any, by 5 February 2021.