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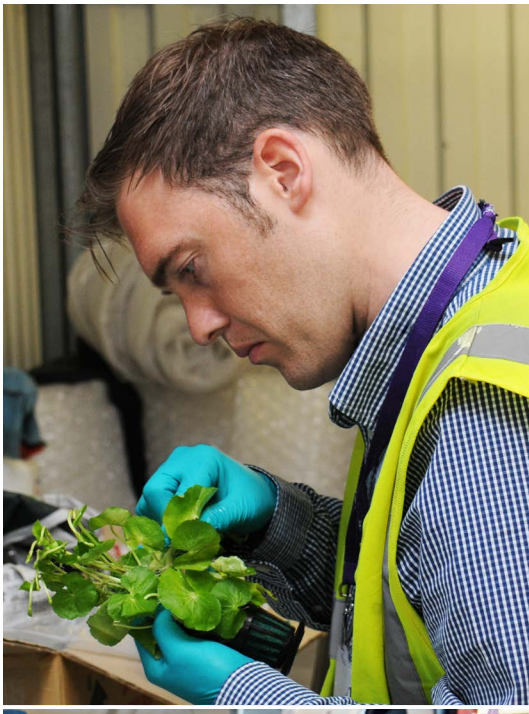

DG Health and Food Safety

Europhyt Interceptions

Annual Report 2018

Health and Food Safety

Further information on the Health and Food Safety Directorate-General is available on the internet at: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_food-safety/index_en.htm

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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Health and food audits and analysis

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EUROPHYT-INTERCEPTIONS
EUROPEAN UNION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM
FOR PLANT HEALTH INTERCEPTIONS
ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Executive summary

EUROPHYT- Interceptions *is the plant health interception, notification and rapid alert system for EU Member States (MSs) and Switzerland, managed by the European Commission. This report presents key statistics on non-EU country interceptions from 2018 and provides analysis of trends in interceptions based on annual figures for the period 2014-2018.*

In 2018, EUROPHYT- Interceptions *received a total of 9,053 notifications concerning consignments intercepted due to non-conformities with EU requirements, of which 8,720 were of non-EU country origin. The total number of notifications due to the presence of harmful organisms (HOs) exhibited an increase over the previous year, although still lower than 2014. This rise was attributable to increased interceptions of thrips on a wide range of commodities from a diverse range of non-EU countries, increased eggplant fruit borer interceptions, predominantly from West Africa, increased nematode interceptions on wood packaging material (WPM) from Belarus, and an increase in citrus black spot interceptions from Brazil and Argentina.*

There was a profound increase in seed interceptions in 2018, largely due to interceptions on small and medium sized postal packages, led by Germany and the United Kingdom, with the absence of a phytosanitary certificate as principal non-conformity. HO interceptions in seeds however remained very low.

Fruit and vegetables (particularly peppers, Solanum *other than potato and tomato, mango, citrus, basil, and various gourds), cut flowers, WPM, and planting material remained the main commodities intercepted with HOs.*

Interceptions of fruit flies, white flies and false codling moth on fruit and vegetables fell during 2018, whereas increases were recorded in thrips, citrus black spot, leafminers, fall armyworm and citrus canker.

As regards cut flowers, the pronounced increase in HO interceptions was mainly attributable to false codling moth interceptions on roses from East Africa and white fly on Chyrsanthemum *spp.*

There was no marked change this year in WPM interceptions with HOs. Both China and India recorded decreases in their respective interception rates, but interceptions for Belarus increased, and, to a lesser extent for the Ukraine, the Russian Federation and Vietnam.

With respect to planting material, Bemisia tabaci *(non-European populations) continued to be the most intercepted HO, followed by* Hirschmanniella *spp. (nematodes).*

Species identification of HOs in notifications decreased during 2018. Further efforts should be pursued for more detailed taxonomic reporting towards supporting EUROPHYT- Interceptions *to more effectively support measures of the MSs and the Commission with respect to risks from imports. Despite on-going efforts by MSs, EUROPHYT-* Interception *notifications are still not submitted within the two working days stipulated in EU legislation and there is still a need for improvement.*

Acronyms

CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EPPO	European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation
EU	European Union
EUROPHYT-*Interceptions*	The EU notification and rapid alert system dealing with interceptions for plant health reasons of consignments of plants and plant products imported into, or traded within, the EU
FCM	False Codling Moth
HOs	Harmful organisms
ISPM	International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures
MSs	EU Member States (are also, except United Kingdom, referred to individually in tables and figures of the report by their two-letter ISO code)
Non-EU countries	For statistics in this report, countries other than MSs and Switzerland (are also referred to individually in tables and figures of the report by their two-letter ISO code)
NPPO	National Plant Protection Organisation
PC	Phytosanitary Certificate
WPM	Wood packaging material

Table of Contents

1. Introduction

1.1 EUROPHYT- *Interceptions*

EUROPHYT- *Interceptions*[1] is an on-line web-based rapid alert system for plant health interceptions in the European Union (EU), originally established according to the provisions of Commission Directive 94/3/EC of 21 January 1994[2].

The basis for EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* is the obligation for EU Member States (MSs) (and Switzerland (CH)) to rapidly notify harmful organisms (HOs) and other plant health risks found during import controls. Notifications of such interceptions are in turn disseminated EU wide and to the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) of the country of export. Similarly, interceptions made in intra-EU trade of material that do not meet EU phytosanitary requirements, are also subject to notification and dissemination.

Since its inception, EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* has been hosted, managed and continuously developed by a dedicated team within the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety ensuring day-to-day monitoring and management of the system and database, as well as co-ordinating on-going system maintenance and upgrades. EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* personnel also perform a range of periodic reporting functions[3] and provide a dedicated helpdesk to provide on-going support to both MSs and non-EU National Plant Protection Organisation stakeholders. As of 31 December 2018, the EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* database held a total of 123,420 individual notifications (covering the period from its inception in 1995).

1.2 Support to risk management decisions

In addition to its function as a rapid alert system, the EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* database has increasingly served as an effective risk assessment and risk management policy support tool. In this respect, the Non-EU trade Alert List, published each month on the DG Health and Food Safety website: Non-EU trade alert list - European Commission, acts as a platform to both capture interception trends with respect to plant health risks from non-EU country imports, but also as a basis to communicate these risks across the spectrum of stakeholders involved in trade and non-EU country imports. It helps encourage relevant parties to deal with such risks at source.

The Alert List ranks non-EU country trades and HO interceptions based on a set of specific criteria. It is updated monthly, covering the preceding 12 months, and as such, gauges trends in plant health risks on an on-going rolling monthly basis, i.e. it effectively provides an

[1] The rapid alert system for plant health interceptions formerly known as EUROPHYT has, since November 2015, been renamed EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* to distinguish it from other modules under the EUROPHYT IT portal.

[2] Commission Directive 94/3/EC of 21 January 1994 establishing a procedure for the notification of interception of a consignment or a harmful organism from third countries and presenting an imminent phytosanitary danger. OJ L 32, 5.2.1994, p. 37.

[3] Monthly and annual data extracts are published on-line, along with other EU plant health related information at http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosafety/index_en.htm

indication, and on-going overview, of trends with regard to certain phytosanitary risks for the EU from imports. In addition, the Alert list is used as a risk management tool by the Commission. The Alert List, published in January 2019 (i.e. covering the entire 12 month reference period for 2018) is given in Table 8.1, as well as a graphical representation of the month-on-month evolution of interception totals for the same period (based on data presented in Table 8.2), given in **Fig. 8.1** of the annex.

In addition to the individual import interception notifications, which are automatically generated and immediately sent to the competent authorities of the country of export, the Alert List provides a transparent overview that constitutes the main basis for EU interaction with the country of origin for achieving increased compliance with the EU's phytosanitary import requirements. Furthermore, the Alert List has established itself as a principal tool in the annual and multi-annual work planning for plant health audits conducted by Directorate F.

1.3 Objective/Aim

This report aims to provide an annual overview of the highlights and most pertinent interceptions notified during 2018[4,5]. Furthermore, it evaluates, where relevant, the overall and principal trends over the period 2014-2018 within the context of EU actions or measures taken. The data presented in the figures in this report is sourced from the EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* database. This information is also provided in tabular format in the Annex. In some instances, further analysis, based on EUROPHYT- *Interception* data, is used to reflect on trends and provide explanations. As the additional data used to review various additional points is very numerous, these have not been captured in the Annex.

Given that the principal plant health risk to the EU arises from non-EU countries (non-EU countries, other than CH) detailed analysis of intra-EU interceptions is excluded. Despite this, some overall statistics for interceptions within the EU over the reference period are given in section 2 (**Fig. 2.1** and Table 2.1 of the Annex).

2. Notifications

EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* received an overall total of 9,053 notifications during 2018, 12.2% higher than that recorded for 2017. Of this figure, 8,720 originated from non-EU country consignments, whilst the remaining 333 represented interceptions from intra-EU trade, representing a 13% increase and a 5.7% decrease relative to the previous year, respectively. **Fig. 2.1** gives an overview of the number of interceptions for non-EU countries and MSs over the period 2014 to 2018.

[4] All public data of EUROPHYT - Interceptions, including those in this annual report, are prepared in line with Regulation EC (No) 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data.

[5] Data presented in this report has been extracted and presented based on notification date.

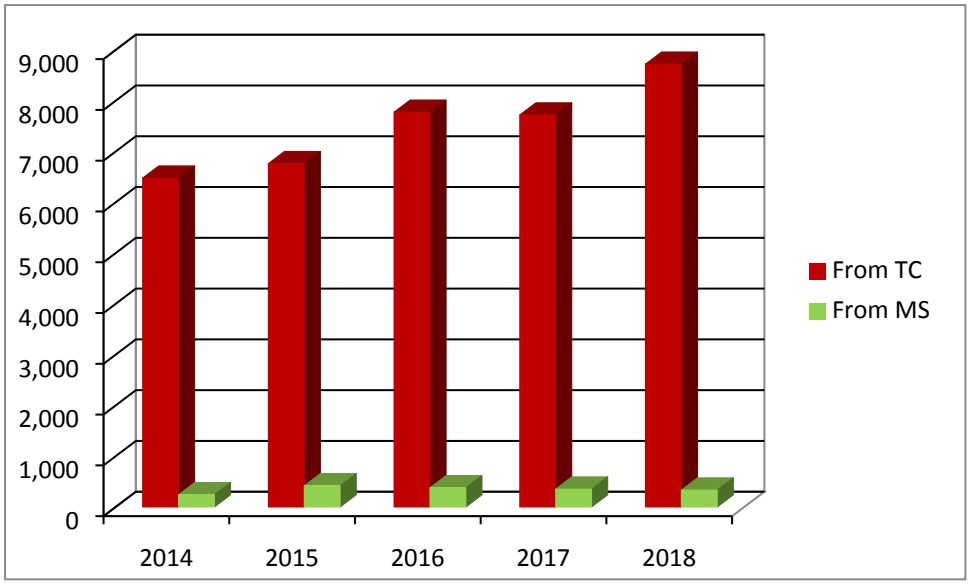


Fig. 2.1. Total number of notifications to EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* (2014-2018) recorded from non-EU countries and intra-EU trade for all reasons (see also Table 2.1 of the Annex).

2.1 Reasons for interceptions

Fig. 2.2 gives a breakdown by non-conformity for all non-EU country interceptions in 2018, showing also the evolution over the reference period 2014-2018. The basic data are provided in the Annex (Table 2.2)[6]

The six principal reasons for interceptions in 2018 were (in descending order of incidence): absence of phytosanitary certificates (PCs), non-compliant WPM, HOs, PC problems with additional declarations, incomplete, illegible or fake PCs, and prohibited goods.

The figure for PC problems with additional declarations increased by 96% over the previous year, representing a 14% portion of the total number of all non-EU country interceptions in 2018. Similarly, the figure for the absence of PCs also increased during 2018, by 87% over the previous year (representing a 38% portion of the total number of all non-EU country interceptions in 2018, and a year-on-year increase since 2014). Interceptions of HOs increased 15.9% over the previous year (the first rise over the reference period, but still 29% lower than 2014), as did figures for incomplete, illegible or fake PCs (11.5% over the previous year, representing 486 interceptions in 2018).

Interceptions of WPM, non-compliant with ISPM 15, decreased considerably in 2018 (down 32% compared to 2017), continuing a downward trend since 2016. Similarly, prohibited goods also recorded a decrease in 2018 of 23% (see **Fig. 2.2** and Table 2.2 of the Annex).

[6] In this report the totals always refer to the number of intercepted consignments in that particular category. If there was more than one reason of interception in the case of a consignment (e.g. presence of a harmful organism and absence of phytosanitary certificate) or more than one HO was intercepted, the interception is counted separately in each of the relevant categories, however only once concerning the overall number of interceptions. Consequently the totals may be lower than the sum of subcategories. Furthermore, some sub-categories include more than one reason for interception, depending on the comparison of the data table, and therefore, there could be slight differences in numbers reflected in different data tables and/or figures.

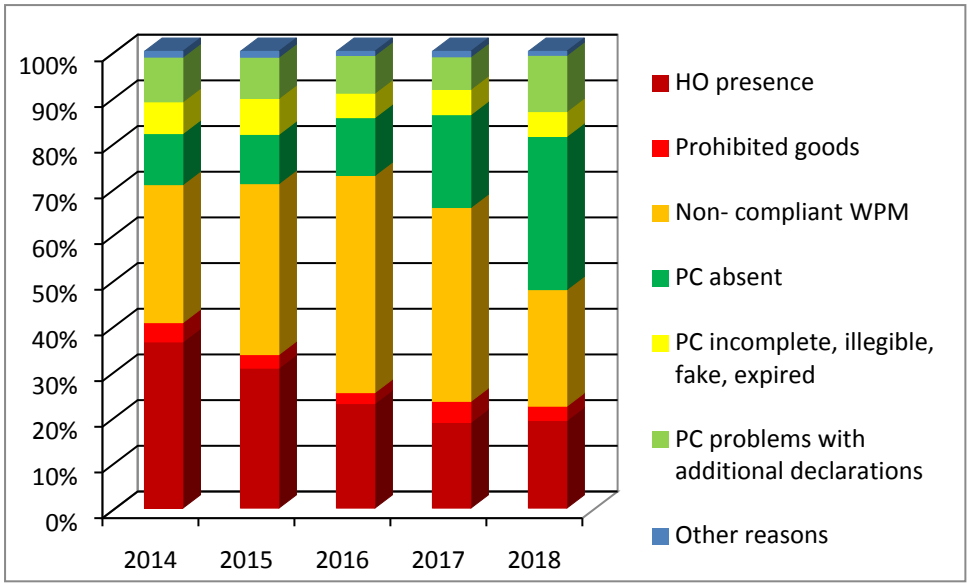


Fig. 2.2. Reasons and evolution of interceptions of consignments from non-EU countries over the reference period 2014-2018.

The trend for HO interceptions from non-EU countries over the current reference period, as well as the trend for all other reason for interceptions, based on raw data available in Table 2.3 of the Annex can be seen in **Fig 2.3**.

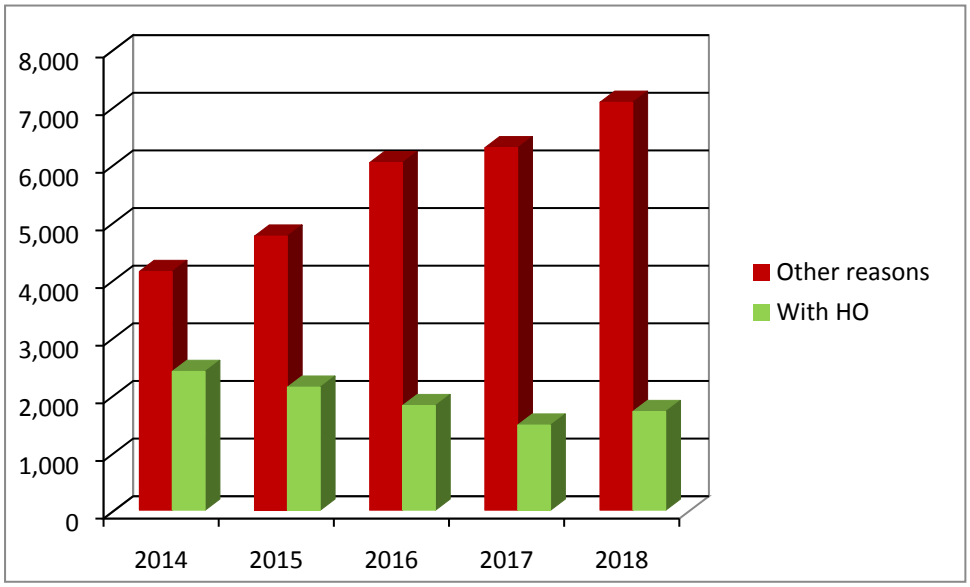


Fig. 2.3. Evolution of interceptions of HOs and for other reasons from non-EU countries over the reference period 2014-2018.

2.2 Member States and non-EU country Notifications

In the reference period 2014 to 2018, twelve countries (eleven MSs and CH) referred to in **Fig. 2.4** were responsible for over 90% of all notifications reported to EUROPHYT-*Interceptions*. Of these twelve, DE, the Netherlands (NL), the United Kingdom (UK), France (FR) and Latvia (LV) reported 2,680, 1,228, 1,192, 538 and 519 interceptions, respectively,

in 2018 (together accounting for 76% of the total number of all interceptions). DE retained its position as the MS with the highest number of interceptions in 2018, continuing its surge in notifications, this year being largely attributable to postal interceptions made almost exclusively on the basis of absent PCs (1,145), with only 6 attributable to the presence of HOs. In 2018, these checks now accounted for 79% of all DE notifications. NL increased its number of interceptions (up 70% over the previous year), largely due to increased notifications for *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (false codling moth (FCM)), *Spodoptera* spp. and eggplant fruit borer, amongst other species. The UK and FR also recorded modest increases. LV recorded a further drop in notification in 2018, down a further 63.8% over 2017, continuing a fall in WPM notifications from RU (similarly for LT (down 8% over the previous year)). AT, ES and PL also each recorded a modest drop in interceptions during 2018, whereas BE, IT and CH reported slight increases (see **Fig. 2.4**, and Table 2.4 of the Annex).

With regard to the number of interceptions relative to the estimated volume of imports of regulated articles[7], the interception profiles for FR, BE, ES, IT, CH and PL over the period under analysis (2014-2018) represent relatively low numbers of interceptions (Table 2.4 of the Annex). AT continues to intercept consignments in relatively high numbers relative to its relatively lower volume of imports. DE, NL and the UK, although with increased interceptions in 2018, are still relatively low (in addition to the inclusion of increased passenger and postal interception figures for DE), compared to the import volumes of these major European economies. Both LV and LT, although considered as MSs with relatively low volumes of imports, still exhibit appreciable levels of interceptions. The remaining MSs not highlighted in **Fig. 2.4**, each with varying low levels of reported interceptions (3 to 92), each represent, like LV and LT, countries with relatively low volumes of imports. Details of the numbers of interceptions notified by these MSs are given in Table 2.4 of the Annex.

[7] Regulated articles as described by Council Directive 2000/29/EC, subject to specific requirements, such as phytosanitary certificates and mandatory import control. Currently no exact information is available at EU level on the volume of imports, subject to phytosanitary controls. EUROSTAT data provides only indicative information, as the customs codes (TARIC) only to a limited extent correspond to the regulated articles, defined by the EU plant health legislation as subject to phytosanitary controls.

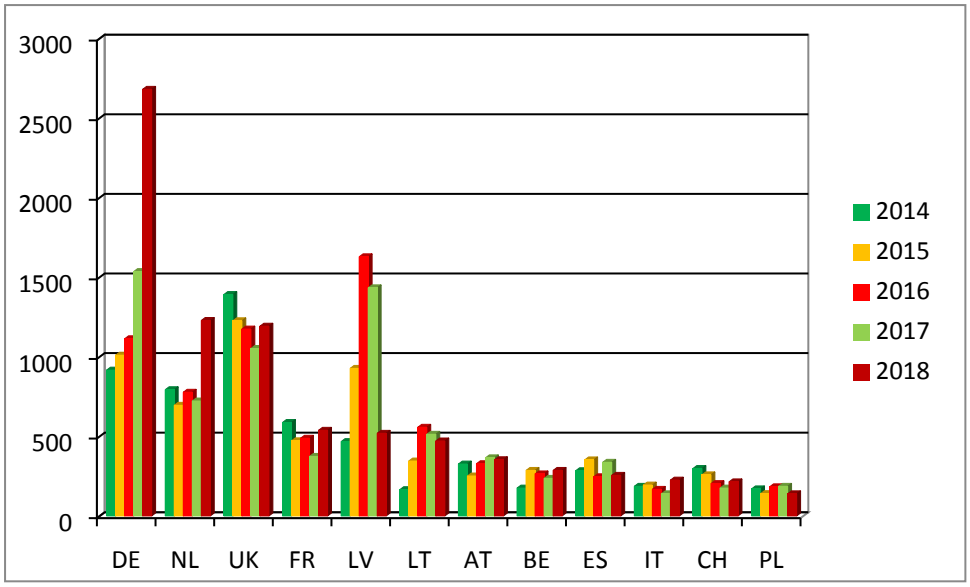


Fig. 2.4. MSs with the overall largest number of all notified interceptions in the period 2014-2018.

3. Interceptions of consignments imported from non-EU countries

Key points

There were a total of 8,720 interceptions from non-EU countries. These may be broken down as follows:

- Absence of phytosanitary certificates: 2,994 (34.3%)
- WPM (treatment) and other objects: 2,279 (26.1%)
- Presence of HOs: 1,712 (19.6%)
- Non-confirming phytosanitary certificates: 1,585 (18.2%)

For interceptions due to the presence of HOs, the main commodities intercepted were fruit and vegetables (62.4%), cut flowers (17.5%), Wood packaging material (12%), and planting material (5.3%).

- Based on recent trends, the main countries of origin of intercepted fruit and vegetables with HOs were Dominican Republic (DO), Suriname (SU), Nigeria (NG), Israel (IL), Brazil (BR), Ghana (GH), and Thailand (TH) (see **Fig. 4.5** and Table 4.5 of the annex).
- Based on recent trends, the main countries of origin of intercepted cut flowers with HOs were Tanzania (TZ), Kenya (KE), Colombia (CO), and Zimbabwe (ZW) (see Section 4.4).
- Based on recent trends, the main countries of origin of intercepted wood packaging

material with HOs were Belarus (BY), China (CN), India (IN), Ukraine (UA), and the Russian federation (RU) (see **Fig 4.**8 and Table 4.8 of the annex).

- Based on recent trends, the main countries of origin of intercepted planting material with HOs were Malaysia (MY), Israel (IL), China (CN), Costa Rica (CR) and Thailand (TH) (see Section 4.2).

3.1 Type and origin of the consignments (all reasons)

Of the 8,720 non-EU country interceptions reported in 2018 for all reasons, 6,498 concerned plants and plant products (including fruits and vegetables, wood/bark, seeds, planting material, cut flowers, and other plant products), and 2,371 concerned objects (WPM and other objects)[8].

Although the overall pattern, in terms of general proportions between intercepted product class, has remained largely similar over the previous five years, 2018 saw increases in the numbers of interceptions of planting material (up 24.6%), cut flowers (up 31.5%) and fruit and vegetables (up 21.3%), but more markedly, in the interceptions of seeds, which surged 208.7% over the previous year, attributable, primarily, to documentary issues and non-compliance with special requirements.

Continuing a reversal in the upward trend since 2014, both WPM and wood and bark showed a decrease in 2018 (-20.3% and -61.3% respectively) also reflecting a reduction in notifications due to documentary issues and non-compliance with special requirements. These trends can be seen in **Fig. 3.1.** and Table 3.1 of the Annex.

EUROPHYT-*Interceptions* recorded interceptions from 125 different exporting non-EU countries in 2018 (slightly down from a total of 131 in 2017).

In 2018, three non-EU countries (China (CN), US, and the Russian Federation (RU)) were responsible for almost one third of the total number of interceptions for all reasons (30.2%).

The largest number of interceptions originated from CN – responsible for 12% of the total of all interceptions from non-EU countries in 2018, but representing an increase of 156% over the previous year, primarily for documentary non-compliant ISPM 15 reasons. The second highest number of interceptions was from the US, representing 9% (up 7.9% over the previous year). RU, which over the preceding three years was firmly the non-EU country with the largest number of interceptions, represented only 8.8% of all interceptions for 2018, a fall of 54.6% over 2017. This fall is largely attributable to reduced number of interceptions of non-compliant WPM by LV and, to a lesser extent, LT.

[8] Plants, plant products and objects as defined by Article 2 of Council Directive 2000/29/EC.

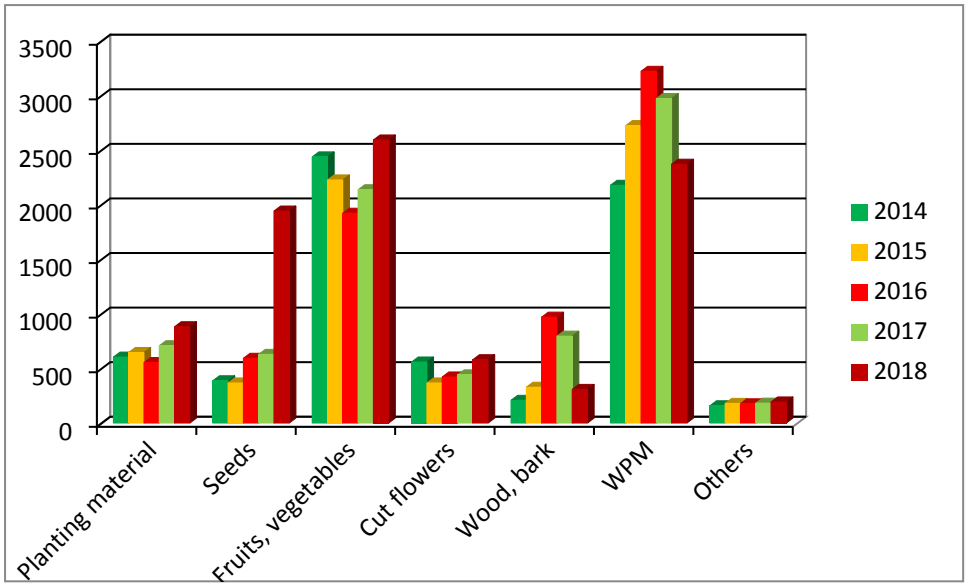


Fig. 3.1. Type of intercepted commodities from non-EU countries (2014-2018).

The remaining non-EU countries, of particular concern, in descending order for 2018, include Thailand (TH), Taiwan (TW), Malaysia (MY), Turkey (TR), India (IN), Belarus (BY), Vietnam (VN), Egypt (EG), Israel (IL), Kenya (KE) and Dominican Republic, each of which, with the exception of TR, IN and VN (down 7.2%, 11.3% and 24.2% over 2017, respectively)), recorded an upward trend over the previous year (see **Fig. 3.2** and Table 3.2 of the Annex). In the case of Belarus, the 14.2% increase was predominantly attributable to increased interceptions of nematodes on WPM. Taken together, these eleven countries accounted for 34% of all non-EU country interceptions in 2018.

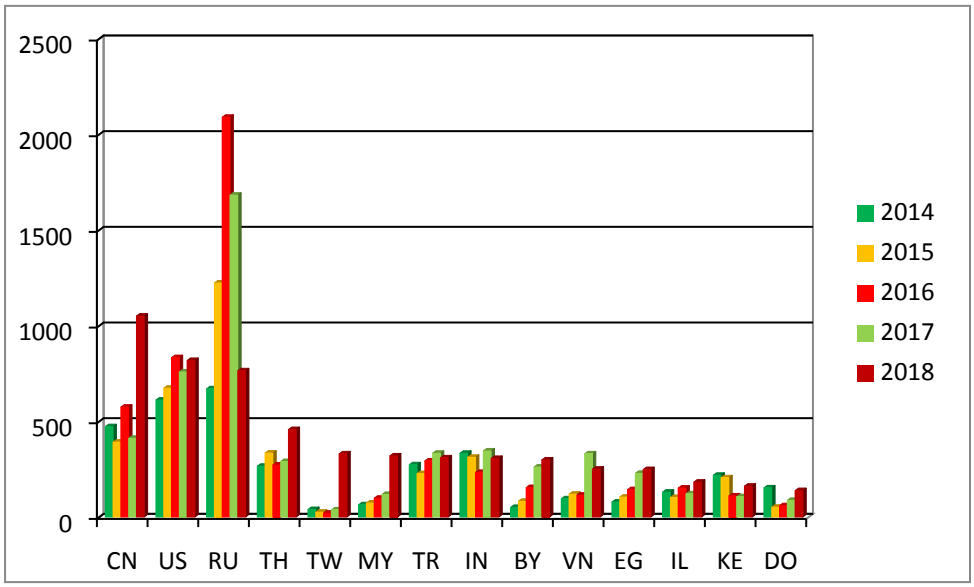


Fig. 3.2. Non-EU countries with the highest number of interceptions (all reasons) (2014-2018).

3.2 Intercepting MS

Of the MSs responsible for the greatest number of interceptions of consignments from non-EU countries in 2017, DE was responsible for 31%. This was an increase of 75% over the previous year, and largely attributable to increased interceptions of absent and incomplete PCs. Despite this increase, the incidence of HO interceptions for DE remained the same (77 interceptions recorded both in 2017 as well as in 2018) (see also section 2.2). NL and the UK both recorded increases in the number of interceptions over the previous year (up 70.1% and 13.3%, respectively). In the case of NL, this was partly due to increased FCM and *Spodoptera* sp. interceptions.

LV, which was a prominent notifier during 2017, reported a 64% drop in notifications during 2018, largely attributable to decreased interceptions of non-compliant WPM from the Russian Federation (see also sections 2.1 and 3.3).

The eight MS, and CH, highlighted in **Fig. 3.3** were responsible for over 92% of all non-EU country HO interceptions in 2018. The MS with the greatest number of HO interceptions was NL with 477 interceptions or 27.9% (up 33.6% over the previous year, and general range of 300-360 since 2014), followed, in descending order, by the UK with 464 or 27.1% (up 0.7% over 2017), FR with 184 or 10.8% (up 12.9% over the previous year), BE with 124 or 7.2% (up 33.3% over 2017).

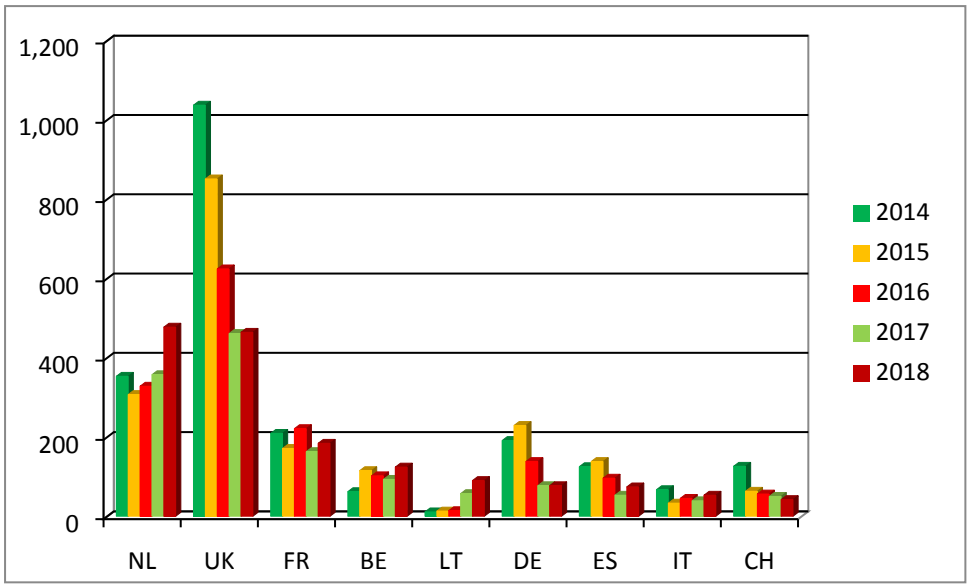


Fig. 3.3. Member States intercepting the highest number of consignments with harmful organisms (2014-2018).

3.3 Interceptions with harmful organisms

1,712 of the non-EU country notifications in 2018 concerned HOs (15.9% higher than in 2017), reversing a consistent downward trend over the reference period (but still with an overall fall of 28.9% since 2014). Of these 1,712 notifications, 1,503 were of consignments of plants and/or plant products (18.6% higher than in 2017), again, reversing a consistent

downward trend since 2014 (but overall 30.7% down since then). In 2018, 212 notifications were attributable to objects[9] (only 1.9% lower than in the previous year (216)) (see **Fig. 3.4** and Table 3.4 of the Annex).

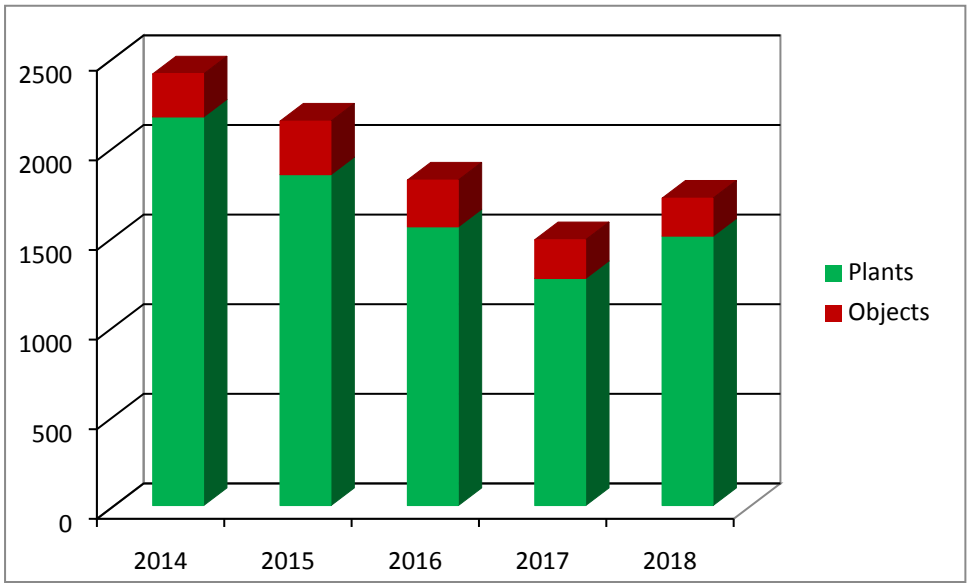


Fig. 3.4. Consignments from non-EU countries intercepted with harmful organisms (2014-2018).

Of the HO interceptions in 2018, 62.4% involved fruit and vegetables. The number of interceptions was up 4.5% over the previous year, reversing a year on downward trend since 2015, but still maintaining this commodity class's dominant position for HO interceptions over the reference period. However, despite this, HO interceptions on fruit and vegetables in 2018 are down 40.7% since 2015.

This is followed by cut flowers (17.5%). This commodity class has surpassed WPM for second most prominent position, up 98.7% over the previous year. WPM remained largely static in 2018 (206 interceptions compared to 205 in 2017), but edging lower over the reference period (down 12.7% since 2014). Planting material, representing 5.3%, increased 55.2% over the previous year.

Both seeds and wood/bark continued their small share of the total number of annual HO notifications in 2018 (19 and 9, respectively). While the number of interceptions for seeds remained at the same level over the reference period, interceptions for wood and bark have registered a clear year on year decrease over the reference period (down 80% since 2014) (see **Fig. 3.5**. and Table 3.5 of the Annex).

[9] Defined as any other material or object, other than plants or plant products, capable of harbouring or spreading pests, e.g. WPM.

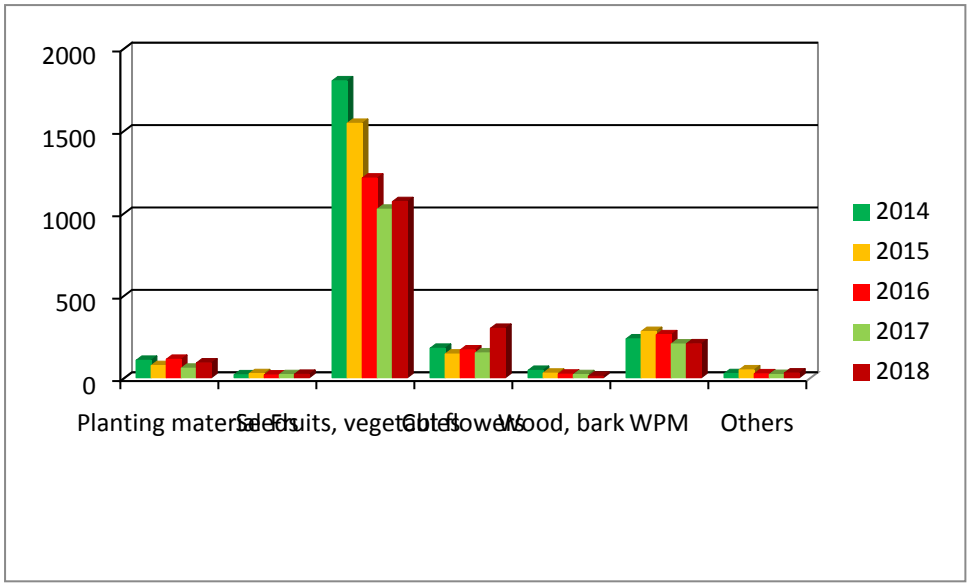


Fig. 3.5. Type of consignments from non-EU countries, intercepted with harmful organisms (2014-2018).

The eleven non-EU countries with the highest number of interceptions of HOs in 2018, accounting for 49% of all HO interceptions made in 2018, are given in **Fig. 3.6** (see also Table 3.6 of the Annex).

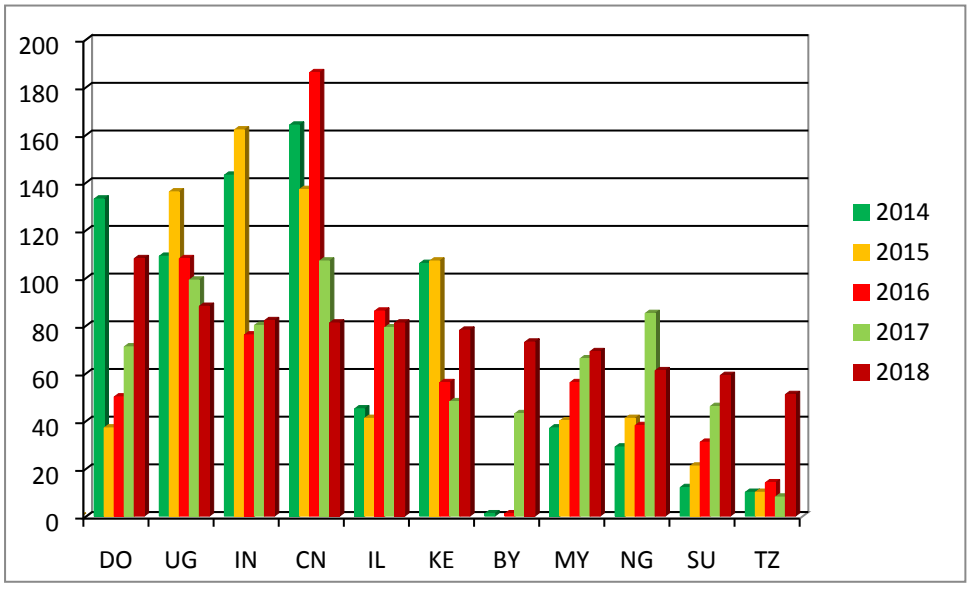


Fig. 3.6. Non-EU countries with the highest number of interceptions with harmful organisms (2014-2018).

DO, IN, IL, KE, BY, MY, Suriname (SU) and Tanzania (TZ) each recorded an increase over the previous year, of which DO, BY, MY, SU and TZ exhibited a clear and consistent upward multi-year trend (although TZ recorded a slight decrease in 2017). IN and IL, although also with a high number of interceptions in 2018 (with 82 and 81, respectively), have both remained largely static over the three years from 2016. Uganda (UG) and CN (see also

section 4.2), although cause for concern with respect to their interception profiles in previous years, each recorded a drop in HO interceptions for 2018, continuing a downward trend from 2016 and 2017, respectively. Whereas for NG, the previous high incidence of interceptions, in particular in 2017, saw a considerable decrease in 2018 (although still appreciably high).

Interceptions from the DO increased year on year to 108 in 2018, despite a plant health audit in 2015, and Commission initiated dialogue with DO with respect to the implementation of the audit recommendations. The main issues were fruit flies on mangoes and thrips on *Momordica* spp. and eggplant, as well as *Anthonomous eugenii* (pepper weevil) on peppers.

BY continued to record increased interceptions in 2018. All were related to WPM of which the majority were nematodes (see also section **4.5**). A European Commission plant health audit is scheduled for there during 2020.

Interceptions from MY also continued to consistently climb, although modestly, over the reference period (with a total of 69 interceptions in 2018, up 3 from 2017) with an interception profile largely the same as in 2017 (white flies on basil, *Erygium* spp. and *Corchorus* spp.), with the exception of increased notifications of plants for planting (mainly aquatics) with nematodes, but an absence of interceptions on WPM. A European Commission plant health audit to Malaysia took place in February 2019.

With the introduction of emergency measures on 1 June 2018 (Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/638) to prevent the introduction and spread of *Spodoptera frugiperda* (fall armyworm) within the EU, SU, continued with increased interceptions of this pest during 2018, as well as other *Spodoptera* spp., on both pepper and eggplants. Compared to 2017, both thrips and white fly interceptions from there were less pronounced during 2018. Based on the continuing risk of introduction into the EU of fall armyworm on interceptions from SU, and general upward trend over the reference period, a European Commission plant health audit is scheduled for there during the second half of 2019.

Despite a European Commission plant health audit to TZ in 2017, interceptions in 2018 increased considerably, in part due to increased white fly interceptions on *Eustoma* spp., but more particularly due to increased FCM (which was regulated on 1 January 2018) on cut roses from there.

The 14.3% fall in interceptions from Kenya reflects, as in 2016, fewer interceptions of a range of HOs on *Ocimum* spp., various planting material species (including leaf miners) as well as FCM on *Capsicum* spp. and cut flowers.

Despite a plant health audit there in November 2017, Kenya reversed a falling trend for interceptions during 2018, increasing 62.5% over 2017. This was largely driven by increased interception of FCM on roses, peppers and *Gypsophila* spp., again, as for TZ, largely due to its regulation on 1 January 2018. The increase was also, in part, the result of increased *Spodoptera littoralis* interceptions on basil.

With regard to India, although the EU emergency measures (Commission Decision (EU) 2014/237) requiring a fruit fly treatment for *Mangifera* spp., as well as banning the import of *Colocasia* spp., *Momordica* spp., *Solanum melangena* and *Trichosanthes* spp. were lifted two years previously (on 31 December 2016), their influence appears to have been maintained during 2018 with overall interceptions still remaining down from the high levels recorded in 2014 and 2015. Although, as in 2017, fruit fly remained low in 2018, as have the interceptions of the other main HOs experienced with Indian imports, in particular thrips (Thripidae) and white flies (*Bemisia tabaci*), interceptions on WPM decreased from 44 in 2017 to 35 in 2018 (still mainly *Sinoxylon* spp.). However, the overall total of 82 interceptions recorded from India in 2018 is slightly higher than recorded in the previous year. The Commission will continue to monitor the situation during 2019 and take appropriate action as necessary.

Despite a plant health audit to IL in March 2018, the total number of interceptions, predominantly white fly on basil, mint and origanum, as well as planting material, increased from 79 in 2017 to 81 in 2018. Leafminers on *Gypsophila* spp. were also of note. This included five interceptions of FCM on citrus. As for IN, the Commission will continue to monitor the situation during 2019 and take appropriate action as necessary.

UG and CN, both with high levels of interceptions, each recorded consistent downward trends over the reference period, from 2015 sand 2016, respectively. For UG, interceptions fell by 12.5% over the previous year, mainly to fewer HO interceptions other than FCM on pepper and to a lesser extent, roses. Although fruit fly interceptions on pineapple and *Momordica* spp. remained prominent. A follow-up plant health audit to the one carried out in 2016 is scheduled for autumn 2019.

CN continued a marked reduction in HO interceptions during 2018, mainly attributable to reduced wood and bark insects and nematodes one WPM (down 42.5% over 2017), and to a lesser extent fruit flies on citrus (despite an increase in the incidence of citrus canker (7) and increased planting material interceptions, in particular, *Potato spindle tuber viroid*). As for other non-EU countries with a history of high levels on HO interceptions, despite this downward trend, largely due to recent correspondence and high level bilateral communication between the Commission and the Chinese competent authorities, the Commission will continue to monitor the situation closely (see **Fig. 3.6** and Table 3.6 of the Annex).

NG, which recorded a sharp increase in interception during 2017, due to whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci*) interceptions on a range of leafy vegetable crops, reversed this trend in 2018 (decreasing 28.2% over the previous year). Following intensive dialogue between the Commission and NG, an Action Plan, outlining unilateral measures was put in place by NG during early summer 2018. Although interceptions have remained relatively high, the Commission will continue to closely monitor the situation.

All non-EU countries that continued to exhibit high numbers of interceptions during 2018, as well as any that show an increasing trend, will be subject to on-going evaluation with possible further action(s) and/or measures as deemed appropriate.

3.4 Interceptions for reasons other than presence of harmful organisms

There were a total of 7,078 non-EU country interceptions in 2018 for reasons other than HO presence, representing an overall increase of 12.6% from the previous year. This increase is largely attributable to plants and plant product interceptions (comprising plating material, seeds, fruit and vegetables and cut flowers), of which the total of 4,567 represents an increase of approximately 70% over the previous year. This is in contrast to 2017, when WPM, as well as wood and bark were dominant. This year, WPM and wood and bark interceptions have fallen, with decreases of 21.6% and 61.6% over 2017, respectively.

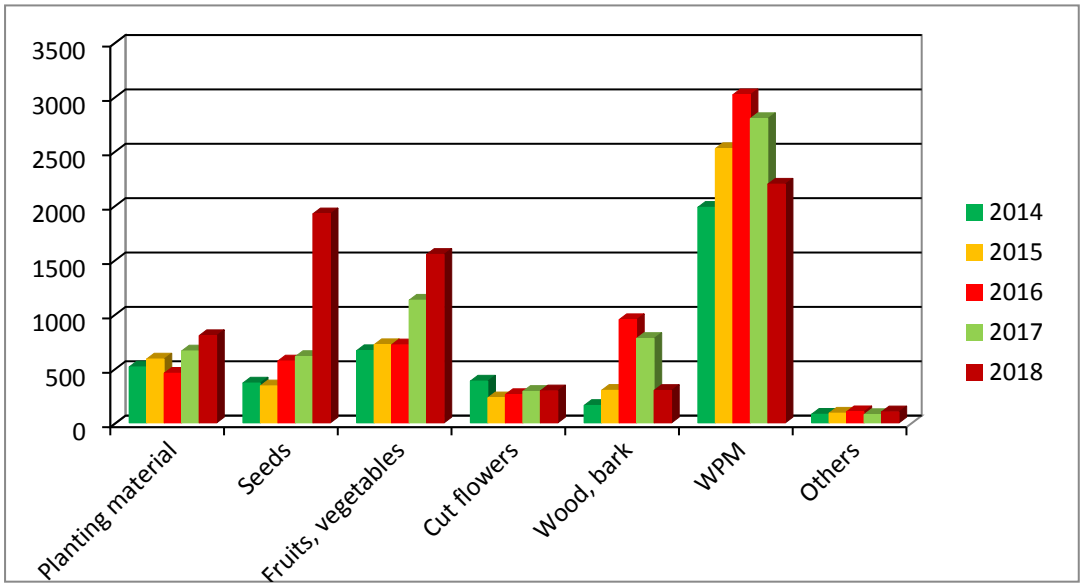


Fig. 3.7. Share of the major commodity groups in interceptions due to reasons other than the presence of HOs (2014-2018).

Of the plants and plant products, seeds accounted for the largest number of interceptions (1,922) (see **Fig.** 3.7), representing a strong and pronounced increase over 2017 of 215%. This is the first time that seeds as a commodity class has surpassed fruit and vegetables as the commodity class with the highest number of interceptions (for all reasons). The increase in 2018 was attributable to increased postal interceptions (with no PCs), led primarily by DE, and a lesser extent the UK and FR. With regards fruit and vegetables, increased interceptions have continued, with an increase of 37.3% over 2017. As with seeds, part of this surge is attributable to increased interceptions of postal consignments, but more particularly passenger baggage from inbound international air travel, and internal EU flight connections. Similarly, planting material interceptions (802) exhibited a 21.3% increase from the previous year. Cut flowers remained largely unchanged during 2018 (294), recording a slight increase of 1.7% in notifications due to reasons other than the presence of HOs over 2017 (see also Table 3.7 of the Annex).

The continued decrease in interceptions of WPM during 2018, due to reasons other than the presence of HOs, continues to be almost entirely attributable to a decrease from the recent surge in interceptions during 2015 and 2016 of WPM by LV and LT where inspections are made at all entry points (the majority of which are from CIS states). Consignments, other than WPM, are typically intercepted due to the absence, or various inappropriateness, of phytosanitary certificates, including inadequate or missing additional declarations.

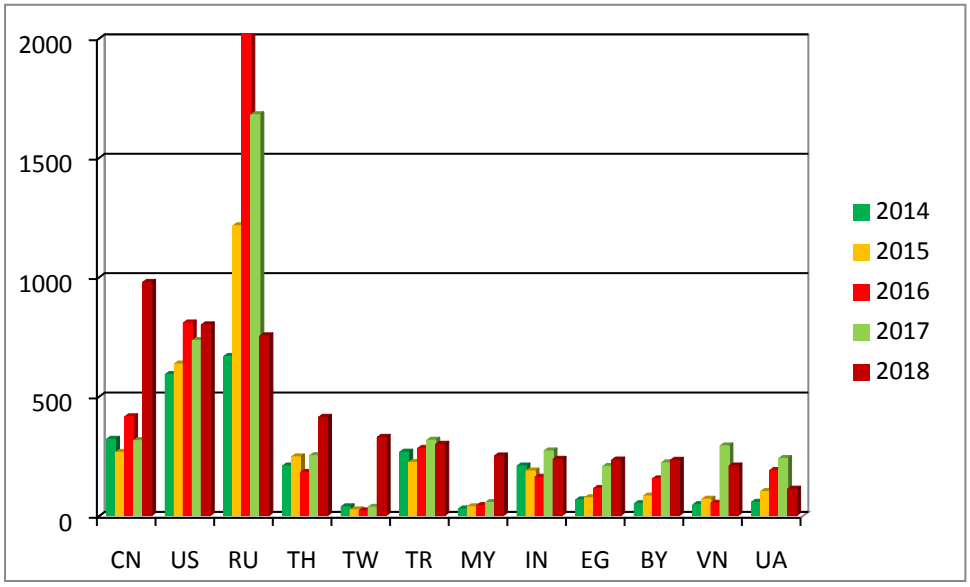


Fig. 3.8. Non-EU countries with the highest number of interceptions for reasons other than presence of harmful organisms (2014-2018) (and see Table 3.8 of the Annex).

As regards the non-EU countries involved, the twelve countries, referred to in **Fig. 3.8**, were responsible for 68% of interceptions not attributable to the presence of HOs (each having 100 or more such interceptions) during 2018. Of the twelve, three (CN, US and RU) accounted for just over a third (35.7%). Chinese interceptions surged during 2018, up 211% over 2017 and taking premier position as the non-EU country with the most interceptions for all reasons other than HOs, displacing both the US and RU. This surge was, in a large part, due to postal interceptions of small quantities of seed, usually with inadequate or missing PCs. Next, the US was responsible for 11.3% (up 9% on the previous year). RU, which for the previous duration of the reference period was responsible for the most interceptions, further decreased dramatically during 2018, by 55.2%, constituting 10.6% of the total number of such interceptions during 2018. This decrease is mainly caused by the comparable decrease in interceptions by LV and LT together for WPM (see above and also section 2.2, and **Fig. 2.4**).

Each of the following five non-EU countries each recorded an increase in interceptions in 2018 over the previous year; TH (up 64%), TW (up 837%), MY (355%), EG (up 13%) and BY (up 5%), of which MY, EG and BY each exhibited a consistent, year on year, upward trend over the reference period. TR, IN, VN and UA each recorded falls in 2018.

4. Key Commodities – further analysis and considerations

4.1 Seeds

With regards to plant material, seeds, as a commodity class, has consistently ranked in third position, after fruit and vegetables and planting material, with respect to total number of interceptions for all reasons. In 2018, seed interceptions, for all reasons, surpassed both planting materials, as well as fruit and vegetables (see **Fig 3.7**) for the first time with 1,922 interceptions (an increase of 1,312 over 2017 (up 215.1%). The reason for this profound and dramatic increase is attributable, almost exclusively to the absence of PCs (accounting for 91% of all seed interceptions), which increased by 264.7% over 2017 (see **Fig. 4.1** and Table 4.1 of the Annex). These increased figures are, in turn, predominantly attributable to on-going and increased postal checks by DE, and to a lesser extent, the UK and FR, on small and medium sized packages representing private sales, including internet sales, from various parts of the world, e.g. more traditional and established existing markets from the US, but most particularly, new and emerging markets in seeds from CN (up 954.7%), TW (up from 2 in 2017 to 299 in 2018), MY (up from 11 in 2017 to 2014 in 2018) and Tonga (TO) (recording 104 for the first time in 2018). Increases from other countries, such as Brunei Darussalam (BN), TH, Hong Kong (HK), Kyrgystan (KG), and Laos (LA) were also noted. Only 21 HO interceptions (1.1%), were reported, predominantly of large commercial phytosanitary certified consignments of tomato and bean seed, with *Potato spindle tuber viroid* (7) and *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *phaseoli* (5), respectively (see **Fig. 4.1** and Table 4.1 of the Annex).

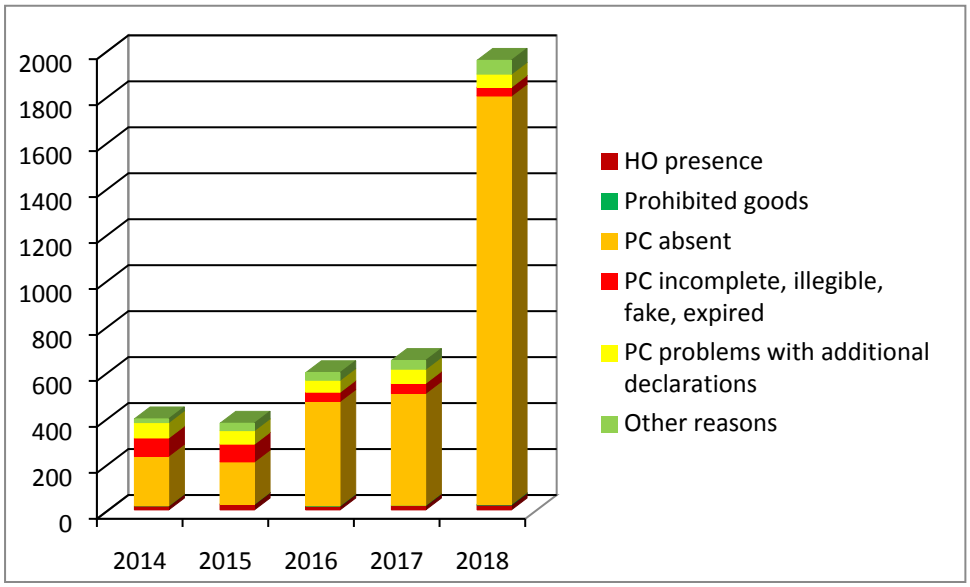


Fig. 4.1 Reasons and evolution of interceptions of consignments of seeds from non-EU countries over the reference period 2014-2018.

4.2 Planting material

Planting material remains the most critical and high risk pathway for the introduction of HOs into the EU. Consequently, all vegetative material for planting (as well as seeds – see section

4.1 above) of certain plant species from non-EU countries are regulated. In 2018, EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* received notification of 882 interceptions of planting material (excluding seeds) from non-EU countries (up 25% over the previous year) (see Table 3.1 of the Annex).

As in 2017, and previous years, the absence of a PC remained the main reason for interceptions (480), with a 50.9% increase over 2017. As mentioned previously, this increase is attributable to increased interceptions made on passenger luggage. This was followed by cases of PCs with problems associated with additional declaration(s), up 21.7% in 2018. Inadequate, illegible, fake or expired PCs (73) also recorded an increase in 2018 of 73.8%. Only three interceptions were of prohibited goods (see **Fig. 4.2** and Table 4.2 of the Annex). Together, issues related to PCs for planting material constituted 78.5% of all interceptions related to planting material, up 44.8% over the previous year. Such issues, although largely documentary, do reflect a cause for concern regarding the efficacy and reliability of non-EU NPPOs in their obligations to issue correct and legally certified assurances regarding their consignments for export to the EU, and as such reflect a hitherto overlooked source of plant health risk. The majority of the intercepted plants for planting continue to be cuttings, not planted plant parts. As noted during 2018, and in previous years, a wide range of taxonomically diverse plant species were intercepted, but generally with only a few interceptions of each (for most, less than ten interceptions per species). Prohibited goods were recorded in only three interceptions.

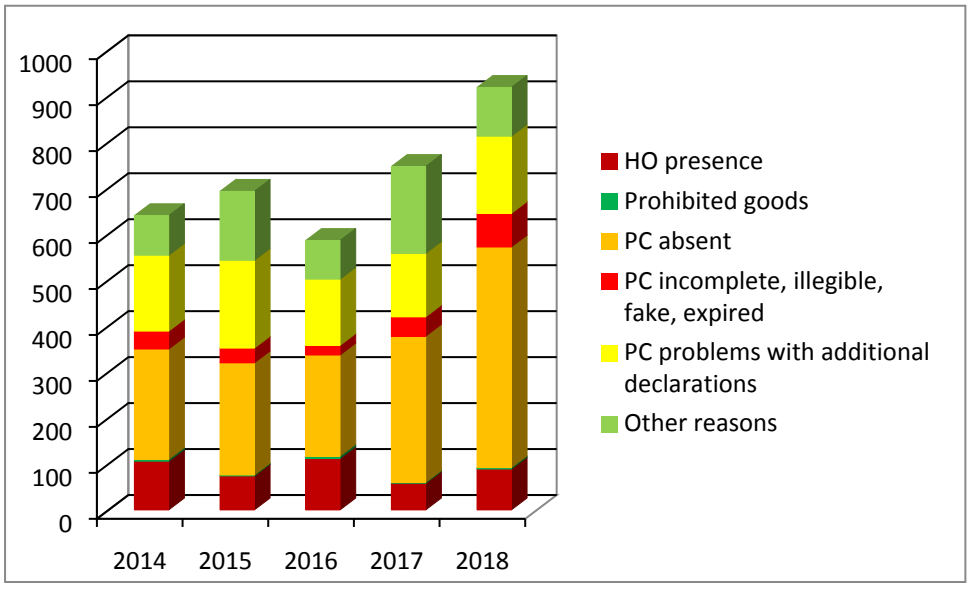


Fig. 4.2 Reasons and evolution of interceptions of consignments of planting material from non-EU countries over the reference period 2014-2018.

HOs were detected in 9.9% (89) of the consignments, representing predominantly cuttings and other material not yet planted (up 53.5% over the previous year). Of the HO recorded from planting material, as a group, white flies (*Bemisia tabaci*) interceptions remained

relatively static from 2017, whilst nematodes increased (in particular (*Hirschmanniella* spp.) during 2018 (see Table 3.5 of the Annex).

MY (20), IL (9), CN (8), Costa Rica (6) and TH (6) were the non-EU countries exporting the highest number of consignments of planting material intercepted with HOs. In the case of MY, this was predominantly due to *Hirschmanniella* spp. on aquatic plants.

4.3 Fruit and vegetables

In 2018, EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* received 2,593 notifications of fruit/vegetable interceptions for all reasons from non-EU countries (up 21.3% over 2017, continuing an upward trend since 2016), and in 2018 emerged for the first time as the most prominent commodity, eclipsing WPM (see **Fig. 3.1** and Table 3.1 of the Annex). The principal reasons for this overall increase is largely twofold; continued absence of PCs with respect to small, non-commercial passenger baggage consignments (particularly intercepted by DE), at 606 notifications, and, with respect to commercial consignments, inadequate or invalid PC additional declarations (374), missing additional declarations (174), incomplete PCs (133,) and non-compliance with special requirements (81). With respect to HO, fruit/vegetables have consistently been the commodity group where the majority of interceptions occur (62.4% in 2018). Reversing a downward trend since 2104, HO interceptions on fruit and vegetable increased 4.5% in 2018 (see **Fig. 3.5** and Table 3.5 of the Annex).

In 2018, 69.2% of the fruit/vegetable interceptions with HOs from non-EU countries related to six plant species or group of species. Most of the interceptions were of peppers (*Capsicum* spp.) (173), *Solanum* spp. (157), mango (*Mangifera* spp.) (141), *Citrus* spp. (96), basil (*Ocimum* spp.) (94), bitter gourds (*Momordica* spp.) (79) (**Fig. 4.3** and Table 4.3 of the Annex). *Solanum* spp. and *Citrus* spp. both recorded an increase in the number of interceptions during 2018, 84.7% and 12.9%, respectively. For *Solanum* spp. this was largely attributable to the increased number of *Spodopera* spp. from Suriname and various African countries. For *Citrus* spp., this was mainly due to increased interceptions of Citrus black spot from Argentina and Brazil during late 2018, as well as additional bacterial citrus canker interceptions from China and various south east Asian countries (ID, VN and MY). Basil remained largely unchanged at 94 interceptions compared to 93 in 2017.

The other three species all recorded modest reductions in their respective numbers of interceptions. For *Momordica* spp. there was an almost indiscernible drop of two over the previous year. In the case of *Capsicum* spp., down 15.2% over the previous year, may be partially due to the regulation of FCM (Implementing Directive (EU) 2017/1279) as from 1 January 2018. (see **Fig. 4.4** and Table 4.4 in the Annex). For mango, the continued decrease in interceptions of fruit flies may be correlated with ongoing Commission communication with certain non-EU countries, such as Mali (ML).

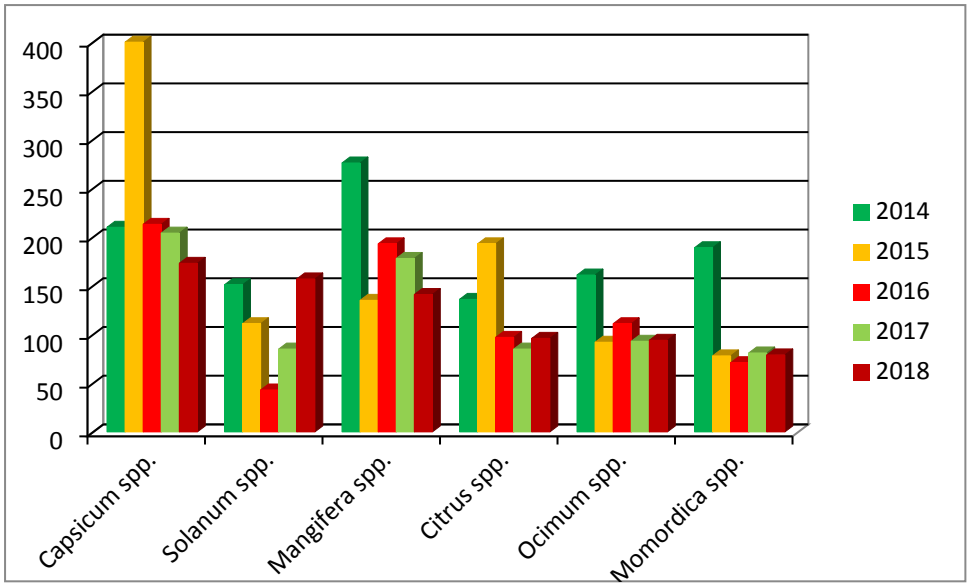


Fig. 4.3. Fruit and vegetable species with the highest number of harmful organism interceptions from non-EU countries (2014-2018).

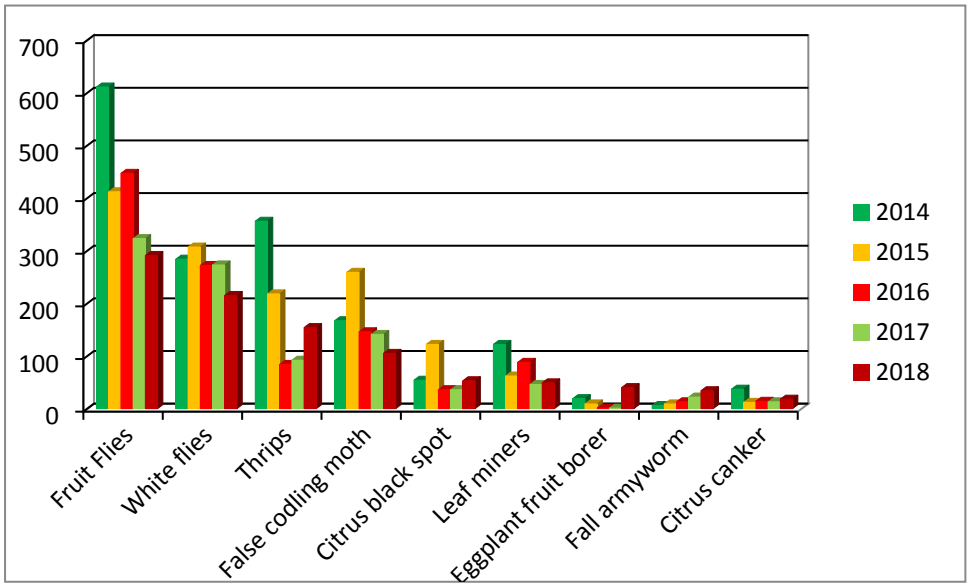


Fig. 4.4. Harmful organism groups intercepted with fruit and vegetables from non-EU countries (2014-2018).

As in previous years, the principal HO groups intercepted in fruit/vegetable consignments in 2018 were insects (fruit flies, white flies, thrips, FCM, leaf miners, eggplant fruit borer (new this year)) and, since 2017, fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*). Citrus black spot and, to a lesser extent, citrus canker (*Xanthomonas citri* subsp. *citri*) as highlighted in **Fig. 4.4** (and see Table 4.4 of the Annex) also featured as prominent HOs intercepted on fruit and vegetables.

Non-European fruit flies (Tephritidae), remained the main HO group again in 2018 (with 291 interceptions), continuing an overall downward trend since 2014. Similarly, white flies

(*Bemisia* spp.), again, primarily associated with basil, fell by 21% over 2017. Thrips, continued its upward trend since 2016, increasing 67.4% over 2017. Interceptions of FCM, despite being regulated on 1 January 2018, mainly associated with pepper and roses from across Africa, further decreased in 2018 by 25.5%. Leaf miners (*Liriomyza* spp.), remained largely unchanged on fruit and vegetables in 2018, but still down on the peak in 2014.

Citrus black spot interceptions rose by 17 during 2018 to a total of 53. This increase was attributable to increased mid-season interceptions from both Brazil (26) and Argentina (17), both of which voluntarily suspended their exports to the EU in late September and early October, respectively. The remaining ten were attributable to all other citrus exporting countries (for example Uruguay, Swaziland and ZA). Although overall down 57% since 2015, largely due to the on-going implementation of the revised EU emergency measures for citrus black spot, the situation with regards to Brazil and Argentina will be further investigated as part of a plant health audits. The number of citrus canker notifications edged slightly up during 2018, to 18 in 2018, with numerous interceptions made for *C. maxima* (pomelo) from China. *Spodoptera frugiperda* (fall armyworm) continued its upward trend in 2018, up 55% over 2017, and 467% since 2014, mainly on peppers and eggplant from Suriname, and maize from Senegal. Eggplant fruit borer (*Leucinodes orbonalis*) interceptions, although a non-regulated pest for the EU, also increased considerably during 2018, up from 1 in 2017 to 41. These were made primarily on eggplant from Uganda, Togo and Cameroon, with all but two notified by BE.

Thirteen non-European countries were responsible for 59% of all HO interceptions on fruit and vegetable during 2018, of which DO, UG, SU and NG were responsible for 28% of these interceptions. Five non-European exporting countries recorded reduced numbers of HO interceptions. These were UG, NG, ZA, VN and LA (see **Fig. 4.5** and Table 4.5 of the Annex). With respect to UG, continuing a downward trend since 2015, interceptions dropped 15% over the previous year. This trend continues to be largely a result of Commission communication and an audit during 2016. NG, which recorded a surge in notifications during 2017, almost exclusively *Bemisia* whitefly on a range of leafy vegetable commodities, registered a decrease in 2018 by 37%. The decrease was largely attributable to Commission communication with NG, and NG subsequently responding with an action plan. Despite this, interceptions remain high. ZA, VN and LA each recorded modest decreases in the number of interceptions over 2017. In the case of LA, the plant health audit of December 2016 appears to have maintained its influence.

MY recorded the same number of interceptions during 2018 as recorded in 2017 (44), attributable, as during 2017, to thrips (orchids), fruit flies (*Averrohoa* spp.) and white flies (*Ocimum* spp. and *Eryngium* spp.). A plant health audit was made in MY in March 2019.

The remaining seven non-EU countries featured in **Fig. 4.5**, all recorded an increase in interceptions during 2018. DO continued its increase in HO interceptions since 2015, mainly fruit flies. Similarly, SU continued its steady and consistent year on year increase in HO interceptions, largely *Spodoptera* spp. on eggplant and peppers since 2014. IL continued its upward trend with increased interceptions of white flies and leaf miners on various herbs, as

well as leaf miners. The increases in interceptions recorded for BR are largely attributable to increased citrus black spot interceptions as mentioned previously. GH, having applied a self-ban in 2016, recorded an increase in interceptions in 2018 to 37. IN recorded an increase in interceptions during 2018, up 33% over 2017. This may indicate a weakening of the influence of emergency measures lifted on 31 December 2016.

Although measures introduced by Thailand to address these issues (mainly associated with thrips and fruit fly interceptions) across a wide range of commodities resulted in a marked decrease in interceptions from there during 2017, this was reversed in 2018 with an increase in interceptions by 24% (see **Fig. 4.5** and Table 4.5 of the Annex). As for IN, the Commission will continue to monitor the situation, and, specifically for TH, continue to liaise bilaterally on a monthly basis.

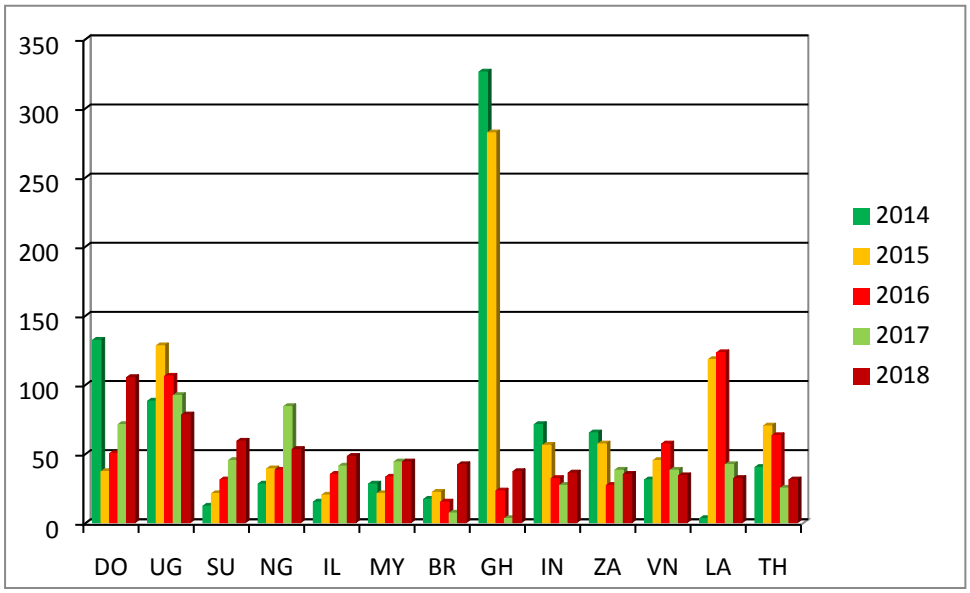


Fig. 4.5. Interceptions of fruit and vegetables from non-EU countries due to HOs (2014-2018).

4.4 Cut flowers

In 2018, EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* received notifications of 580 interceptions of cut flowers from non-EU countries (for all reasons), an increase of 32% over 2017. With respect to HOs, there were 221 interceptions, representing a pronounced increase of 80% over 2017. Other reasons related to documentary issues, chief amongst these included absent PCs. Missing, or inadequate additional declarations, as well as incomplete PCs remained relatively unchanged during 2018. Cut flowers were responsible for 13% of all interceptions with HOs from non-EU countries in 2018, up from 10% in 2017. *Rosa spp.*, *Chrysanthemum* spp., *Hibiscus* spp., *Solidago* spp., *Eryngium* spp., *Dianthus* spp. and *Eustoma* spp. each recorded an increase in HO interceptions over the previous year, of which *Rosa* spp. was the most prominent. This reflected increasing interceptions of white fly and FCM, particularly from East Africa, continuing an upward trend in interceptions since regulation of this pest on 1 January 2018. *Gypsophila* spp. and orchids each continued downward trends in 2018, down

32% and 24% over 2017, respectively (**Fig. 4.6** and Table 4.6 of the Annex). The decrease for orchid interceptions reflects on-going improved Thai control measures.

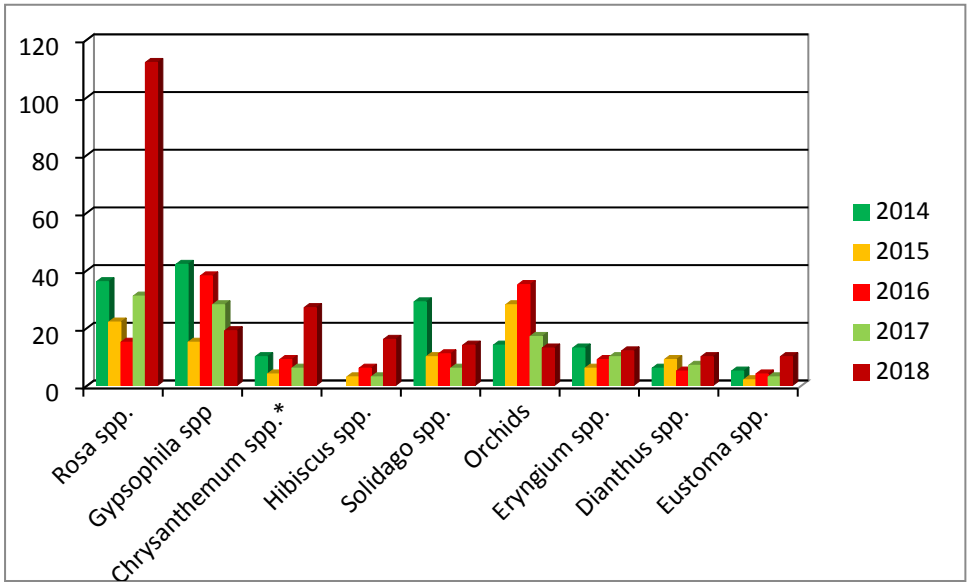


Fig. 4.6. Cut flowers with the highest number of harmful organism interceptions from non-EU countries (2014-2018). *includes *Dendranthema* synonyms.

Most cut flower consignments, intercepted in 2018 with HOs, were exported from TZ (47, up 840% over 2017), KE (46, up 360% over 2017), Colombia (CO) (26, up 16% over 2017) and Zimbabwe (ZW) (24, up 140% over 207). Increased FCM interceptions (on roses) was the main reason form increased interceptions from TZ, KE and ZW. Although both TZ and KE were the subject of a plant health audit for planting material in 2017, the main reason for these increases lies with the regulation of FCM on 1 January 2018. For CO, most of the interceptions were for leafminers on *Chrysanthemum* spp. Again, as in each year of the reference reporting period (2014-2108), NL was the MS with the highest number of interceptions of HOs on cut flowers in 2018 with 158 (up from 79 in 2017).

The main HOs intercepted in 2018 for cut flowers were FCM (93), leaf miners (*Liriomyza* spp.) (54), white flies (*Bemisia* spp.) (26) and *Spodoptera* spp. (18).There were no FCM interceptions on cut flowers during 2017.

Both leaf miner and *Spodoptera* spp. interceptions decreased during 2018, by 20% and 30.8%, respectively, whereas white fly interceptions increased over the previous year (by 167%).

4.5 Wood packaging material

With regard to WPM exported from non-EU countries[10] the EU legislation in force requires the treatment and marking according to the provisions of international standard ISPM 15. Given the very large number of consignments where WPM may be present, it is only feasible

[10] As well as from the areas of PT and ES demarcated for *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (but not dealt with here).

to check a proportion of the WPM in trade. Based on this consideration, MS are not obliged to systematically inspect WPM used for the transport of goods. The only exception is WPM with certain types of products from CN, where since 2013, and BY since August 2018 for which a minimum (1%) control rates is applied[11]. Overall, as the total number of checks performed in any given year relate to only a very small part of the entire imported WPM, the real risk presented by non-compliant WPM, and especially WPM infested with HOs is likely to be much larger than indicated by interception figures captured by EUROPHYT-*Interceptions*.

In 2018, EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* received 2,401 notifications of intercepted WPM in imported goods from non-EU countries (for all reasons), an overall decrease of 20% over 2017 (continuing a downward trend that started in the previous year). For reasons, other than the presence of HOs, 2,195 interceptions are recorded, representing a downward trend of 21.6% over 2017[12] (see **Fig. 4.7**, and Table 4.7 of the annex).

Again, as in previous years, the principal reason for interceptions of WPM was the absence of, or an inappropriate, ISPM 15 mark. As already mentioned in section 2.2, the decrease is to a large extent caused by fewer WPM interceptions from CIS countries by LV, and a lesser extent LT (see also section 2.2).

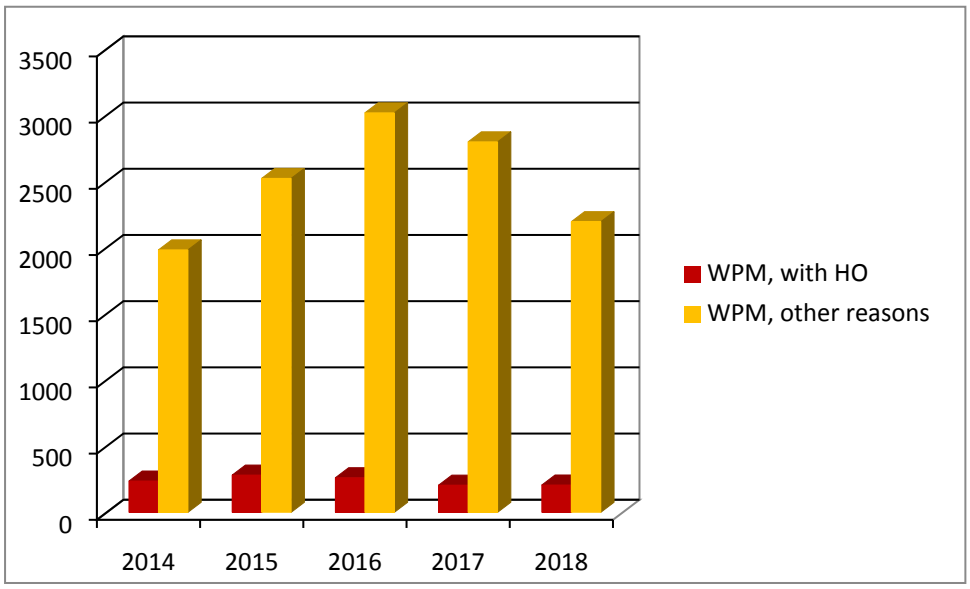


Fig. 4.7. Wood packaging material interceptions from non-EU countries (2014-2018).

Interceptions of HOs in WPM remained largely unchanged in 2018 from the previous year (205 in 2017, and 206 in 2018) with the total figure of 206 being the second lowest over the reference period 2014-2018.

[11] Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1137 on the supervision, plant health checks and measures to be taken on wood packaging material for the transport of commodities originating in certain third countries. OJ L 205, 14.8.2018, p. 54

[12] Based on EUROPHYT-*Interceptions* data, this decrease was predominantly due to falls in notifications across every class of objects, except those classified under the generic grouping of 'others'. The falls were, in decreasing order of magnitude, dunnage (-54%), wooden pallets (-20%) wooden crates (-10.1%) and WPM (-10%).

Four countries (BY, CN, IN and UA) were responsible for 87.4% of all WPM HO interceptions recorded in 2018. Although notifications for both CN and IN further declined during 2018, BY, overtook CN as the country with the largest number of HO notifications on WPM, representing 35.4% of all WPM HO notifications for 2018. This increase, along with those recorded for UA, RU and VN, effectively made up for these marked reductions from CN and IN.

The overall decrease in the annual figures for CN and IN can be explained by the continuing reduction in interceptions of a wide variety of both long horn beetles and wood and bark insects from both countries (although no one particular taxon, or group of taxa are particularly attributable to these reduced notifications, only *Sinoxylon* sp. from IN, as a particular grouping, shows any considerable drop).

The 73 interceptions from BY, which until 2017 was almost negligible with respect to WPM interceptions with HOs, is largely attributable to non-regulated *Bursaphelenchus mucronatus* and *Rhabditis* spp. interceptions, mainly, as in previous years, almost exclusively by LT. Similarly, the increase from UA was also attributable to *Bursaphelenchus mucronatus* interceptions, also made by LT, as were the figures from RU (both *Bursaphelenchus mucronatus* and *Aphelenchoides* spp.). The very slight increase in interceptions from VN, reversing a hitherto downward trend over the reference period, is attributable to a range of various beetles and nematodes by DE (see **Fig 4.8** and Table 4.8 of the Annex).

Irrespective of the marked reduction, these figures still represent a high incidence of intercepted HOs on ISPM 15 marked WPM, and as such raises on-going concerns regarding the reliability of this mark from certain origins, in particular from BY, UA and a lesser extent RU and VN.

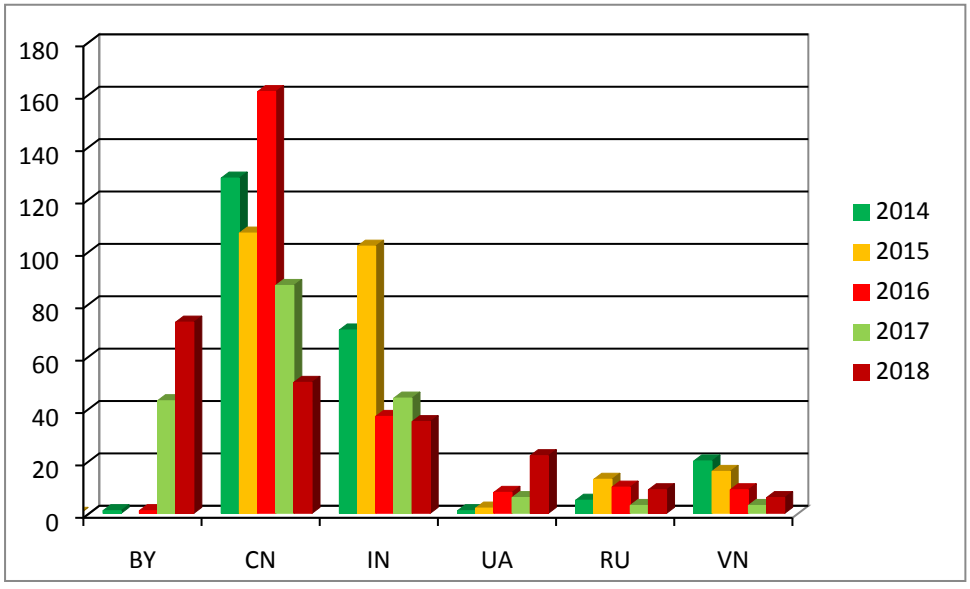


Fig 4.8. The principal non-EU countries responsible for interceptions of HOs from WPM (2014-2018).

With respect to WPM interceptions by each MS (plus CH), Tables 4.9 and 4.9.1 of the Annex record the statistics over the reference period for those made on the basis of HOs, and for

other reasons, respectively. LT, DE and AT are the most prominent MSs for interceptions of HOs. With regard to interceptions for all other reasons, LV, DE, LT, UK, ES and CH are the most prominent countries. LV, which consistently recorded the largest number of interceptions for other reasons during the reference period (approximately 1,000 for 2016 and 2017, but down to 494 in 2018) was amongst the MSs that reported the least number of HO interceptions (only nine in 2018), whereas LT, with an approximate interception rate of 300-400 per year (except for 2014) recorded considerably more HO interceptions over the same period (with a maximum of 90 in 2018). The profile for DE, a larger importer, shows a relatively high number of HO interceptions over the reference period, but trending downwards since 2016. AT reported more HO interceptions than for other reasons, whilst the UK, ES and CH, each with considerably higher numbers of interceptions for all reasons (although low considering their respective volume of trade) reported disproportionately low levels of HO interceptions over the same period – zero for both the UK and ES, and only 8 for CH (see Tables 4.9 and 4.9.1).

5. Harmful organisms notified in EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* for the first time in 2018

Each year some interceptions of previously unrecorded HOs are notified in EUROPHYT-*Interceptions*. Although new to the EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* database, such novel entries do not necessarily represent a new incidence or unknown risk of a particular biological entity to the EU territory.

In 2018, 49 new database entities were recorded in EUROPHYT- *Interceptions,* reported at varying taxonomic levels (29 to species, 16 to genus, and four to family level) of which the following 12, all insects, can be considered as not present in the EU and not intercepted in the EU before:

Chilo partellus (spotted stalk borer)
Xylotrechus rufilius (long horned beetle)
Platypus parallelus (ambrosia beetle)
Silvanoprus angusticollis (silvanid flat bark beetle)
Geniocremnus chiliensis (tuberous pine weevil)
Neosilba zadolicha (lance fly)
Argyrotaenia sphaleropa (South American tortricid borer)
Diabrotica speciose (cucurbit beetle)
Pseudococcus jackbeardsleyi (Jack Beardsley mealybug)
Neoleucinodes elegantalis (eggplant moth)
Ceroplastes rubens (red wax scale)
Spondyliaspis sp. (shell lerp psyllid)

As in previous years, interceptions with hitherto un-encountered species could represent unidentified, or overlooked, plant health risks to the EU. Therefore, such interceptions require attention.

6. Species level identification – needs and challenges

Accurate and reliable species identification is a fundamental requirement for effective and appropriate phytosanitary risk management in line with international fora and agreements. Failure to diagnose EU regulated HOs as such can undermine, or weaken, official EU responses to on-going threats. Despite EU wide diagnostic capacity, identification at species level is often not reported.

Despite steadily increasing since 2014, reflecting the on-going encouragement from the Commission to MSs for improved diagnosis, the percentage of HO notifications reported at species level decreased during 2018 over 2017 (down to 62.9% in 2018), whereas genus level identification increased 4.2% (see **Fig 6.1**, and Table 6.1 of the Annex). Furthermore, whereas family level designation fell slightly (from to 20.2% in 2018), notification at above family level increased to 3.1% in 2018. Such increases in genus and above family level designation were despite the introduction of the technical modifications to EUROPHYT-*Interceptions* so that a justification is required from MSs when a notification is not made at species level.

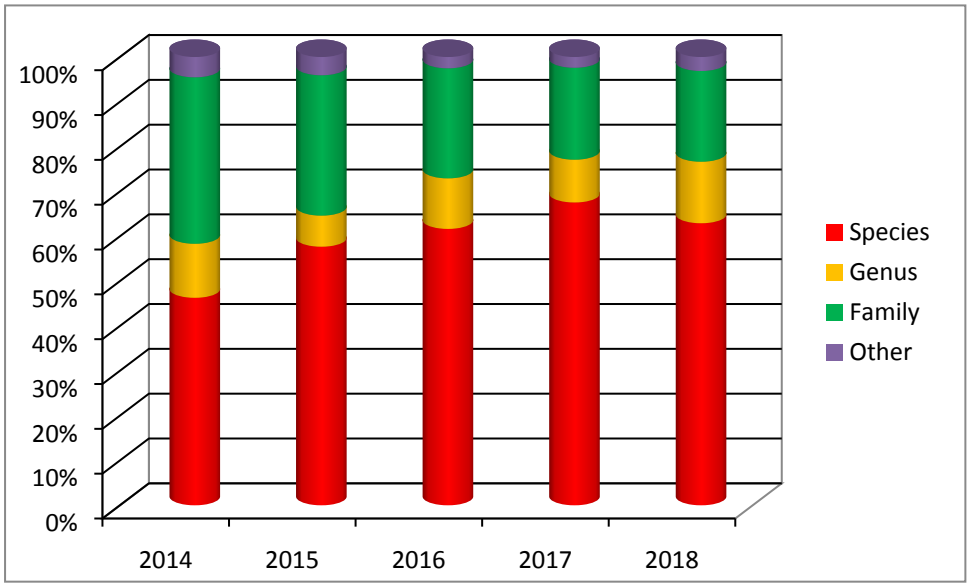


Fig. 6.1. Level of harmful organism identification (2014-2018).

In 2018, 200 different species or other categories of HOs were reported. These can be grouped as follows (in descending order); insects (84.8%), nematodes (9.2%), fungi (3.6%), bacteria (1.9%) and virus and virus like organisms (0.4%), see **Fig 6.2** (and Table 6.2 in the Annex). Insects continue to dominate the total share of intercepted HOs from non-EU countries.

Notifications attributable to nematode interceptions increased their share during 2018. This increase, noticeable since 2016, is largely attributable to increased *Bursaphelenchus mucronatus* and *Hirschmanniella* spp. interceptions on WPM from BY, and to a lesser extent UA, and some other nematode species from RU.

Fungi also increased their respective share of interceptions, from 41 to 64, primarily due to increased interceptions of Citus black spot on oranges from Argentina and Brazil, as well as four notifications of *Tilletia indica* on wheat consignments from India.

The slight increase observed for bacteria, is largely attributable to increased notifications for citrus canker (predominantly from South America) and *X. campestris* pv. *phaseoli* on beans from various sources, including three *Xylella fastidiosa* interceptions from the US on *Rubus* sp. planting material.

The overall decrease in the insect share of the total number of HO interceptions continued in 2018. Although main falls in interceptions were recorded for fruit flies, white flies and FCM, considerable increases were noted for two main insect pest categories – thrips and leafminers, as well as for individual species entities, in particular *Spodoptera frugiperda* and *Leucinodes orbonalis*.

Interceptions of viruses, and virus-like organism, although remain very few, decreased their share of interceptions, mainly due to fewer notifications of Potato viruses (e.g. A, V, X and Y).

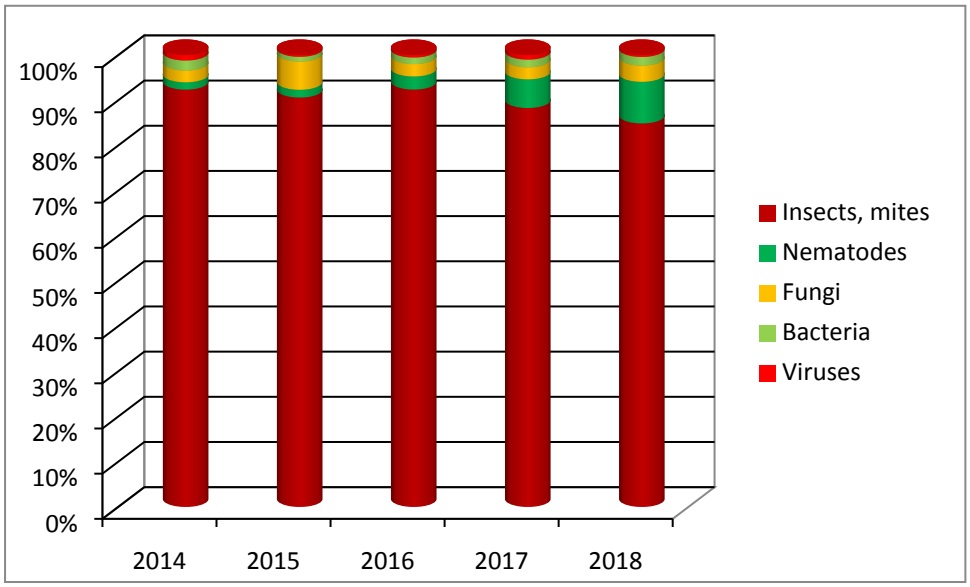


Fig. 6.2. Share of harmful organism groups in the interceptions from non-EU countries (2014-2018).

Despite reduced numbers of notifications, fruit flies, white flies, thrips and leaf miners, as well as FCM, all maintained their position as the most commonly intercepted HO grouping in 2018, with the addition of Citrus black spot.

7. Time taken by MS to notify

A notification period of no more than two working days after the date of interception is laid down in Article 2 of Commission Directive 94/3/EC. This timeframe has continued to present technical and administrative challenges to MSs. Improvements to the EUROPHYT-

Interceptions interface and considerable efforts by MS users of the system have led to overall improvements over the years. However, the average reporting period[13] remains in excess of the two days stipulated (see **Fig. 7.1**). Thus in 2018, the average reporting period for all notifications, and those exclusively for HOs, was 11 and five working days, respectively.

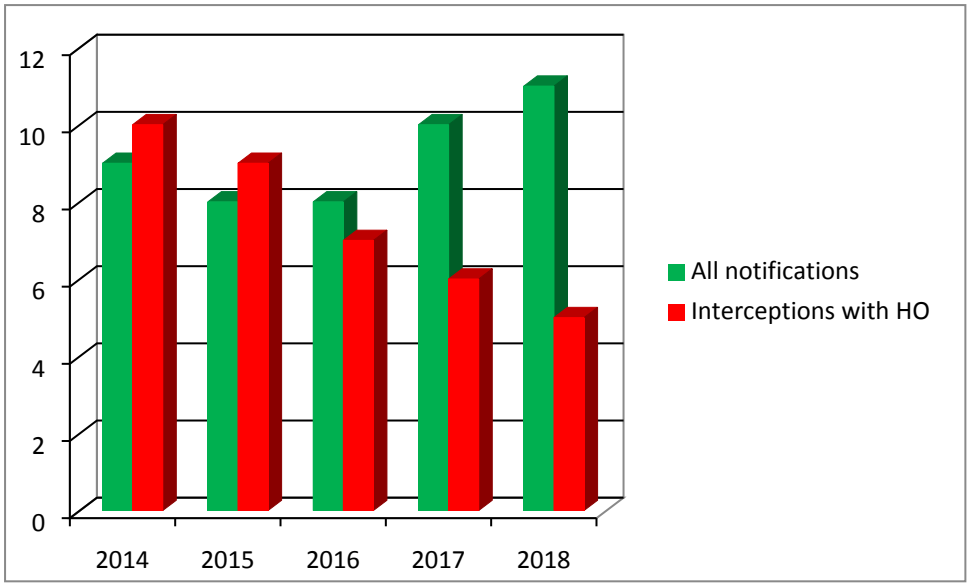


Fig. 7.1. Average notification period (in days) for all MSs (all notifications, and those exclusively attributable to HOs) over the reference period 2014-2018.

Broad variation exist in the number of days taken by MSs to report their notifications, and in 2018 the average delay ranged from 0 to 30 working days (see Table 7.1 of the Annex), with the majority of MSs still outside the required two-day notification timeframe. Such delays have a direct negative impact on the rapid alert function of EUROPHYT- *Interceptions*.

8. Conclusions

EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* continues its central role in alerting MSs and the European Commission to plant health risks from harmful organisms, as and when they are intercepted during import controls across the Union and in plant health controls on the EU market.

In 2018 a further 9,053 notifications were added to the EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* database, of which 8,720 were from non-European countries (up 1,001 over the previous year) and 333 from internal EU trade. Currently, after 24 years, the EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* database holds more than 123,000 notifications, representing a valuable repository of trade interception data. In conjunction with other data sets, particularly on trade volumes and routes, EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* data can be used to analyse and evaluate plant health risk patterns and trends as part of the plant health risk management in MSs and across the Union, as well as to support policy decisions and action(s). Furthermore, with respect to follow-up

[13] The reporting period is, in practice, defined as period between the date of interception and date of submission, except where laboratory analysis is required. In this case it is the period between the laboratory results date and date of submission.

activities and monitoring, this data can also be used to gauge the impact(s) of such decisions and actions (e.g. emergency measures).

As an integral component of the EU tools with regard to on-going vigilance against emerging and re-emerging plant health risks to the EU, the EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* database is used in the generation of the non-EU trade Alert List (see Table 8.1). As a rich and unique source of quantitative plant health data with respect to imports, on-going data mining via tailored database query functions provides valuable information and support to numerous discussions in various fora related to EU plant biosecurity issues, as well as in the planning of the European Commission plant health audit programmes. Summary data from the system continues to be publicly available, and detailed data is systematically distributed to, and used by, MS NPPOs, non-EU country NPPOs, EPPO and EFSA for their risk management, risk analysis and other scientific purposes.

The total number of annual notifications to EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* in 2018 for all non-conformities (mainly presence of HOs, non-marked WPM, and documentary/administrative non-compliances) from non-EU countries was considerably higher than in 2017. The number of interceptions for HOs is generally considered the most significant indicator of phytosanitary risk. It was 15.9% higher than in 2017. This pronounced increase is reflected in markedly higher notifications across all principal commodity classes, and, with some exceptions (fruit flies, white flies and FCM), almost all associated pests and pathogens.

Twelve countries (11 MSs plus CH) were responsible for over 90% of all interceptions related to HOs, of which just five were responsible for approximately 76%. Eleven non-EU countries with the highest number of interceptions of HOs accounted for 49% of the cases. Most of these countries have been recognised for a number of years as a source of specific plant health risks, and were subject to Commission actions such as plant health audits.

As in previous years, fruit and vegetables maintained its position as the commodity class with the greatest number of intercepted HOs from non-EU countries with over 62% of all interceptions. Despite a year on year decrease in the number of HO interceptions over the reference period, this trend reversed slightly during 2018 by 4.5% over the previous year (mainly attributable to increased thrips, eggplant borer, citrus black spot and leafminer interceptions).

Cut flowers overtook WPM as the commodity class with the second most HO interceptions during 2018, increasing 80% over 2017. Nine types of cut flowers (*Rosa*, *Gypsophila*, *Chrysanthemum, Hibiscus, Solidago,* orchids, *Eryngium*, *Dianthus*, and *Eustoma* spp.) accounted for 73% of all HO interceptions in this class. Despite the overall increase for cut flowers (mainly attributable to FCM interceptions on roses from east Africa and white fly on *Chyrsanthemum* spp.), only *Gypsophila* spp. and orchids exhibited reduced interceptions. Leaf miners (*Liriomyza* spp.), white flies (*Bemisia* spp.), Thrips spp., and *Spodoptera* spp. continued to be the most prominent intercepted pests on cut flowers during 2018.

WPM slipped in position during 2018, now to the commodity class with the third highest number of HO interceptions, with its interception rate largely unchanged over 2017. Both China and India recorded decreases in their respective interception rates with respect to previous year (the level of HO interceptions on Chinese WPM being the lowest since 2014), but Belarus, continuing a trend first picked up in 2017, increased its interceptions during 2018 almost exclusively to the presence of nematodes (all on ISPM 15 marked material). Similarly, the Ukraine also saw an increase in its interception rate during 2018, as did, to a lesser extent the Russian Federation and Vietnam. Although wood and bark insects decreased during 2018, longhorn beetles and nematodes, the later mainly attributable to Belarus and Ukraine, increased considerably. Irrespective of the overall absence of change in the total number of HO interceptions in 2018, the figures still represent a high incidence of intercepted HOs in ISPM 15 marked WPM, and as such raises on-going concerns regarding the reliability of this mark from certain origins, not least Belarus and Ukraine.

With respect to planting material, generally considered the most critical from a plant health risk perspective, the total number of notifications due to HOs interceptions decreased by 53.5% over the previous year. This increase is attributable to similar white flies (*Bemisia tabaci*) as in 2017, but increased nematode interceptions, such as *Hirschmanniella* spp. Plants not yet planted and cuttings emerged as the planting material with the majority of HO interceptions during 2018.

Seed interceptions surpassed that of all other commodity classes in 2018 for all reasons largely due to interceptions on small and medium sized postal packages, led by DE, and to a lesser extent the UK, with the principal non-conformity an absence of a PC. HO interceptions however remained very low, with those recorded representative of conventional commercial trade channels only.

Twelve insect species, previously not recorded in the EU territory, have been identified in 2018. These will be considered for their respective risks.

Species level designation by notifying MSs decreased from 2017 (down to 62.9% in 2018). Although family level designation also fell slightly over 2017 (by 0.3%), genus level designation increased 4.2% over the previous year. The Commission will review this situation and further encourage MSs to notify at species level towards a more informed operation of EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* as a rapid alert system, and for supporting Commission measures against risks from non-EU country imports.

With regard to the time MS take to notify interceptions, the 2018 average was 11 working days for all notifications, and five for those with HOs. There was significant variation between MSs, from 0 to 97 days. EU legislation requires HO interceptions to be notified within two working days and, as such, there is still a need for improvement.

As in previous years, the Commission will continue to maintain its vigilance with respect to plant health risks from non-EU countries. EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* will continue to act as a fundamental tool to support policy responses and other measures as deemed necessary to

manage plant health risks from non-EU trade as they appear, including, as a standard and periodic reporting tool, the generation and analysis of the non-EU trade Alert List.

The Commission, in support of, and in collaboration with MSs, stands ready and proactive to address plant health risks of threat to EU agriculture and the environment. Towards this objective, the Commission continues to provide the necessary technical support and assistance towards necessary improvements to increase the effectiveness of EUROPHT-*Interceptions* and its usefulness to the Union.

Annex

Table 2.1 Total number of EUROPHYT notifications

Notified interceptions	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Consignments from Third countries	6,476	6,761	7,774	7,719	8,720
Consignments from Member States	241	418	379	352	333
Total notifications	6,717	7,179	8,153	8,071	9,053

Table 2.2 Reasons for interceptions of consignments from non-EU countries

Reasons for interceptions of consignments from Third Countries	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Presence of harmful organism	2,408	2,135	1,815	1,477	1,712
Reasons other than harmful organisms					
Prohibited plants, products, objects	279	207	190	363	280
Non-compliant wood packaging material (other than HO presence)	1,999	2,607	3,770	3,341	2,279
Phytosanitary certificate: absent	740	751	1,004	1,600	2,994
Phytosanitary certificate: illegible, fake, expired	460	548	424	436	486
Phytosanitary certificate: declaration missing, inadequate, invalid	647	629	656	561	1,099
Other technical, documentary reasons	84	90	71	94	78
Total notifications	**6,605**	**6,476**	**6,761**	**7,774**	**8,719**

Table 2.3 HO Interceptions, and interceptions for other reason, from non-EU countries

Notified interceptions	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Interceptions for HO	2,408	2,135	1,815	1,477	1,712
Interceptions for other reasons	4,142	4,756	6,031	6,289	7,078
Total notifications	6,550	6,891	7,846	7,766	8,790

Table 2.4 Number of EUROPHYT notifications by notifying Member State

Notifying Member State	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
AUSTRIA	326	251	328	365	353
BELGIUM	175	286	264	236	286
BULGARIA	45	40	31	63	71
CROATIA	11	6	14	12	8
CYPRUS	18	10	9	12	15
CZECH REPUBLIC	59	39	34	29	33
DENMARK	11	6	10	4	5
ESTONIA	53	45	79	47	82
FINLAND	22	9	6	24	24
FRANCE	587	472	488	374	538
GERMANY	916	1,010	1,113	1,535	2,680
GREECE	23	39	33	41	32
HUNGARY	49	31	36	58	72
IRELAND	55	56	30	56	46
ITALY	186	194	167	139	225
LATVIA	467	927	1,628	1,433	519
LITHUANIA	165	345	557	513	471
LUXEMBOURG	2	4	3	1	3
MALTA	22	29	18	19	9
NETHERLANDS	793	695	777	722	1,228
POLAND	170	140	183	186	139
PORTUGAL	79	59	71	89	92
ROMANIA	19	9	12	4	12
SLOVAKIA	91	86	162	150	39
SLOVENIA	2	8	6	4	49
SPAIN	284	352	246	337	255
SWEDEN	157	129	92	39	28
SWITZERLAND	298	258	203	175	214
UNITED KINGDOM	1,391	1,226	1,174	1,052	1,192
Total notifications	**6,476**	**6,761**	**7,774**	**7,719**	**8,720**

Table 3.1 Type of notifications from non-EU countries (all reasons)

Notifications on	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Planting material	604	646	554	708	882
Seeds	387	367	593	629	1,942
Fruits, vegetables	2,438	2,227	1,922	2,137	2,593
Cut flowers	559	367	422	441	580
Wood, bark	208	328	970	796	308
WPM	2,178	2,725	3,222	2,973	2,371
Others	158	180	176	182	193

Table 3.2 Non-EU countries with the highest number of interceptions (all reasons)

Countries	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
CHINA	472	391	574	411	1,050
UNITED STATES	611	673	833	758	818
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	670	1,223	2,089	1,682	764
THAILAND	265	334	272	290	457
TAIWAN	39	25	20	37	330
MALAYSIA	64	73	98	118	319
TURKEY	273	227	293	333	309
INDIA	333	312	233	345	306
BELARUS	50	82	154	261	298
VIETNAM	95	119	114	330	250
EGYPT	78	104	143	228	248
ISRAEL	130	102	151	121	182
KENYA	218	205	110	106	161
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	152	51	59	87	138

Table 3.3 Number of consignments intercepted with HO from non-EU countries, notified by the Member States in the table

Notifying MS	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
NETHERLAND	353	307	328	357	477
UNITED KINGDOM	1,037	851	624	461	464
FRANCE	209	171	221	163	184
BELGIUM	62	115	102	93	124
LITHUANIA	11	13	14	57	90
GERMANY	191	229	138	77	77
SPAIN	125	138	96	53	74
ITALY	67	33	45	39	53
SWITZERLAND	126	63	56	50	42

Table 3.4 Intercepted consignments with HO from non-EU countries

Interceptions	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Plants	2,168	1,846	1,555	1,267	1,503
Objects	240	299	261	216	212
Total consignments	**2,408**	**2,145**	**1,816**	**1,483**	**1,715**

Table 3.5 Type of intercepted consignments with HO from non-EU countries

Commodity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Planting material	106	74	112	58	90
Seeds	18	25	17	19	21
Fruits, vegetables	1,802	1,544	1,212	1,023	1,069
Cut flowers	179	144	169	151	300
Wood, bark	45	28	22	19	9
WPM	236	281	261	205	206
Others	25	48	24	20	29

Table 3.6 Non-EU countries with the highest number of interceptions with HO

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	133	37	50	71	108
UGANDA	109	136	108	99	88
INDIA	143	162	76	80	82
CHINA	164	137	186	107	81
ISRAEL	45	41	86	79	81
KENYA	106	107	56	48	78
BELARUS	1		1	43	73
MALAYSIA	37	40	56	66	69
NIGERIA	29	41	38	85	61
SURINAME	12	21	31	46	59
TANZANIA	10	10	14	8	51

Table 3.7 Type of commodities from non-EU countries, intercepted due to other reasons than the presence of HO

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Planting material	514	587	456	661	802
Seeds	366	340	569	610	1,922
Fruits, vegetables	664	719	717	1,128	1,549
Cut flowers	384	230	260	289	294
Wood, bark	160	299	949	776	298
WPM	1,982	2,522	3,017	2,798	2,195
Others	79	89	102	76	101

Table 3.8 Non-EU countries with the highest number of interceptions for reasons other than HO presence

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
CHINA	320	265	414	314	977
UNITED STATES	591	635	807	733	799
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	667	1,214	2,088	1,679	753
THAILAND	208	246	181	251	412
TAIWAN	37	24	20	35	328
TURKEY	266	223	282	316	299
MALAYSIA	28	37	42	55	250
INDIA	208	187	161	271	236
EGYPT	66	75	114	206	233
BELARUS	50	82	154	221	232
VIETNAM	46	69	52	292	208
UKRAINE	56	101	189	239	111

Table 4.1 Reasons and evolution of interceptions of consignments of seeds from non-EU countries over the reference period 2014-2018

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
HO presence	18	25	17	19	21
Prohibited goods	0	0	1	1	3
PC absent	216	184	454	487	1,777
PC incomplete, illegible, fake, expired	79	77	40	44	38
PC problems with additional declarations	67	59	52	61	57
Other reasons	16	32	33	38	60

Table 4.2 Reasons and evolution of interceptions of consignments of planting material from non-EU countries over the reference period 2014-2018

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
HO presence	106	74	112	58	89
Prohibited goods	4	2	5	2	3
PC absent	240	244	220	318	480
PC incomplete, illegible, fake, expired	39	32	21	42	73
PC problems with additional declarations	165	191	144	138	168
Other reasons	86	150	84	189	106

Table 4.3 **Fruit and vegetables with the highest number of interceptions with HOs from non-EU countries**

Plant genus	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
***Capsicum* spp.**	210	400	213	204	173
***Solanum* spp.**	151	111	43	85	157
***Mangifera* spp.**	276	135	193	178	141
***Citrus* spp.**	136	193	97	85	96
***Ocimum* spp.**	161	92	111	93	94
***Momordica* spp.**	189	78	71	81	79

Table 4.4 **Harmful organism groups intercepted with fruit and vegetables from non-EU countries (2014-2018)**

Harmful organism	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Fruit Flies	611	412	447	323	291
White flies	284	307	272	273	215
Thrips	356	218	84	92	154
False codling moth	167	259	146	141	105
Citrus black spot	54	122	36	36	53
Leaf miners	122	62	88	46	49
Eggplant fruit borer	19	9	1	1	40
Fall armyworm	6	9	13	22	34
Citrus canker	37	12	14	13	18

Table 4.5 **Interceptions for fruit and vegetables from non-EU countries due to HOs (2014-2018)**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	132	37	50	71	105
UGANDA	88	128	106	92	78
SURINAME	12	21	31	45	59
NIGERIA	28	39	38	84	53
ISRAEL	15	20	35	41	48
MALAYSIA	28	21	33	44	44
BRAZIL	17	22	15	7	42
GHANA	326	282	23	3	37
INDIA	71	56	32	27	36
SOUTH AFRICA	65	57	27	38	35
VIETNAM	31	45	57	38	34
LAOS	3	118	123	42	32
THAILAND	40	70	63	25	31

Table 4.6 **Cut flowers with the highest number of interceptions with HO from non-EU countries**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
***Rosa* spp.**	36	22	15	31	112
***Gypsophila* spp**	42	15	38	28	19
Chrysanthemum* spp.	10	4	9	6	27
***Hibiscus* spp.**		3	6	3	16
***Solidago* spp.**	29	10	11	6	14
Orchids	14	28	35	17	13
***Eryngium* spp.**	13	6	9	10	12
***Dianthus* spp.**	6	9	5	7	10
***Eustoma* spp.**	5	2	4	3	10

Table 4.7 Wood packaging material interceptions from non-EU countries (2014-2018)

Notified interceptions	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
With harmful organisms	236	281	261	205	206
For other reasons	1,982	2,522	3,017	2,798	2,195
Total[14]	**2,218**	**2,803**	**3,278**	**3,003**	**2,401**

Table 4.8 The principal non-EU countries responsible for interceptions of HOs from WPM (2014-2018)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
BELARUS	1		1	43	73
CHINA	128	107	161	87	50
INDIA	70	102	37	44	35
UKRAINE	1	2	8	6	22
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	5	13	10	3	9
VIETNAM	20	16	9	3	6

[14] The discrepancy in total figures between Table 4.7 (3,005), as shown above, and Table 3.1 (2,974) is due to recording of interceptions due to both the presence of HOs and absence of ISPM 15 markings, resulting in some duplication (in this case 31).

Table 4.9 MS (plus CH) interceptions of HOs from WPM (2014-2018)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
AUSTRIA	20	38	66	36	17
BELGIUM	1	8	3	1	2
BULGARIA		1		2	
CZECH REPUBLIC	1				
DENMARK	6	3		1	1
ESTONIA	2				2
FINLAND	1	1	5	2	4
FRANCE	1	4	1	11	5
GERMANY	20	8	12	5	1
GREECE	107	157	89	60	54
IRELAND		1	1		
ITALY	1				1
LATVIA	1	3		3	5
LITHUANIA		3	6	4	9
NETHERLANDS	11	13	12	55	90
POLAND	29	11	16	3	4
PORTUGAL	1	5	2	1	3
SLOVAKIA		1	4	3	1
SLOVENIA			1		3
SPAIN		2	2	2	1
SWEDEN	2	18	15	6	1
SWITZERLAND		1		3	
UNITED KINGDOM	33	16	19	16	8

Table 4.9.1 MS (plus CH) interceptions from WPM for reasons other than HOs (2014-2018)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
AUSTRIA	4	8	5	6	5
BELGIUM	36	41	47	40	42
BULGARIA	11	33	21	35	42
CROATIA	4	5	6	6	2
CYPRUS	5	1	5	2	4
CZECH REPUBLIC	30	17	14	9	20
DENMARK	1				
ESTONIA	35	19	44	12	27
FINLAND	17		2	11	15
FRANCE	47	41	50	57	58
GERMANY	479	517	566	440	399
GREECE	9	16	22	10	20
HUNGARY		1		21	1
IRELAND	4	5	3		6
ITALY	44	54	45	51	76
LATVIA	461	862	1076	991	494
LITHUANIA	142	298	484	411	352
LUXEMBOURG		2	3		
MALTA	4	1	1		
NETHERLANDS	36	13	14	42	34
POLAND	138	95	116	147	93
PORTUGAL	24	19	36	31	32
ROMANIA	2				1
SLOVAKIA	82	65	12	22	18
SLOVENIA		6	2	2	36
SPAIN	135	185	123	234	143
SWEDEN	14	6		1	3
SWITZERLAND	117	128	105	94	129
UNITED KINGDOM	173	150	270	208	207

Table 6.1 Level of identification of HO intercepted in consignments from non-EU countries

Number of interceptions	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Species	1,021	1,089	1,000	870	967
Genus	266	131	183	123	211
Family	819	591	398	264	311
Other	100	77	41	31	48
% share in annual HO interceptions	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Species	46.3%	57.6%	61.6%	67.5%	62.9%
Genus	12.1%	6.9%	11.3%	9.5%	13.7%
Family	37.1%	31.3%	24.5%	20.5%	20.2%
Other	4.5%	4.1%	2.5%	2.4%	3.1%

Table 6.2 HO categories with the highest number of interceptions from non-EU countries

Annual numbers	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Insects	2,277	1,999	1,784	1,352	1,511
Nematodes	40	38	56	97	164
Fungi	64	138	53	41	64
Bacteria	55	23	28	26	34
Viruses	29	8	10	15	7
% of annual interceptions	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Insects	92.4%	90.4%	92.3%	88.3%	84.8%
Nematodes	1.6%	1.7%	2.9%	6.3%	9.2%
Fungi	2.6%	6.2%	2.7%	2.7%	3.6%
Bacteria	2.2%	1.0%	1.4%	1.7%	1.9%
Viruses	1.2%	0.4%	0.5%	1.0%	0.4%

Table 7.1 **Average working days between interception and notification for each Member State**

Notifications	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	All	HO	All	HO	All	HO	All	HO	All	HO
AUSTRIA	5	4	7	3	7	7	7	3	12	1
BELGIUM	5	4	2	2	3	2	4	2	3	2
BULGARIA	6	17	8	20	12	6	7	7	5	3
CROATIA	18	4	14	11	5	7	18	35	13	10
CYPRUS	62	81	17	12	23	26	29	15	15	2
CZECH REPUBLIC	5	6	8	13	10	4	15	38	11	26
DENMARK	17	10	6	4	28	27	51	80	6	4
ESTONIA	5	5	13	32	20	70	12	19	3	6
FINLAND	14	13	28	18	12	11	18	16	10	7
FRANCE	12	15	7	9	6	6	5	6	5	12
GERMANY	17	33	17	14	18	19	23	16	22	7
GREECE	34	0	9	3	12	6	49	1	24	17
HUNGARY	24	14	3	1	4	8	34	0	19	7
IRELAND	8	11	6	4	17	4	11	2	7	5
ITALY	9	5	11	28	8	8	5	4	6	4
LATVIA	2	5	2	2	2	4	2	4	2	4
LITHUANIA	4	3	2	2	5	3	8	5	4	1
LUXEMBOURG	14	14	14	4	59	0	97	0	30	30
MALTA	1	0	10	0	10	93	1	1	3	0
NETHERLANDS	5	4	6	3	4	3	4	2	3	2
POLAND	3	7	2	1	7	14	2	5	3	5
PORTUGAL	5	4	9	12	18	39	9	4	6	4
ROMANIA	10	3	4	0	32	90	26	52	5	6
SLOVAKIA	3	14	3	20	13	11	8	15	8	14
SLOVENIA	4	3	3	3	3	1	4	5	2	1
SPAIN	22	27	12	14	16	14	21	15	14	8
SWEDEN	1	1	3	2	3	1	4	4	8	8
SWITZERLAND	9	8	12	11	6	4	3	4	19	9
UNITED KINGDOM	7	5	12	9	9	6	6	5	6	4
EU average	**9**	**10**	**8**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**10**	**6**	**11**	**5**

Table 8.1 The non-EU trade Alert List (1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018)

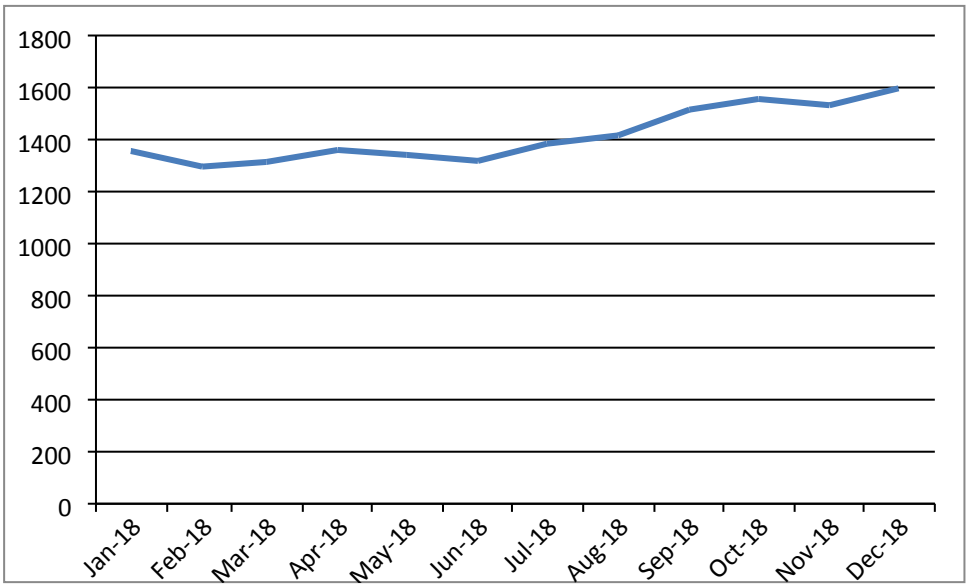
1	CHINA	107 (-6)	Wood packaging material	82	Wood and bark insects other than longhorn beetles	58
					Longhorn beetles	22
					Nematodes	10
			Citrus spp.	10	Fruit Flies	5
			Planting material	7		
2	UGANDA	99 (+1)	*Capsicum spp.*	72	*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*	65
					Fruit Flies	7
			Momordica spp.	10	Fruit Flies	10
3	NIGERIA	85 (+1)	*Telfairia spp.*	25	White flies	24
			Corchorus spp.	24	White flies	24
			Solanum spp. other than potato and tomato	18	White flies	17
			Vernonia spp.	11	White flies	11
			Ocimum spp.	10	White flies	10
			Hibiscus spp.	8	White flies	8
			Rumex spp.	6	White flies	6
4	INDIA	80 (-1)	Wood packaging material	44	Wood and bark insects other than longhorn beetles	44
			Rosa spp.	7		
			Trichosanthes spp.	5	Fruit Flies	5
5	ISRAEL	79 (+3)	*Ocimum spp.*	19	White flies	12
					Leaf miners	7
			Gypsophila spp.	15	Leaf miners	15
			Origanum spp.	12	White flies	11
			Mentha spp.	9	White flies	9
6	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	71 (+1)	*Momordica spp.*	41	Thrips	41
			Solanum spp. other than potato and tomato	23	Thrips	21
			Mangifera spp.	7	Fruit Flies	7
7	MALAYSIA	66 (+1)	*Ocimum spp.*	17	White flies	13
			Orchids	11	Thrips	11
			Corchorus spp.	8	White flies	7
			Eryngium spp.	8	White flies	8
			Wood packaging material	6	Wood and bark insects other than longhorn beetles	7
			Planting material	5		
8	KENYA	48 (+1)	*Capsicum spp.*	19	*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*	17
			Ocimum spp.	8		
			Planting material	6		
9	SURINAME	46 (+6)	Solanum spp. other than potato and tomato	19	*Spodoptera frugiperda*	10
					Spodoptera eridania	6
			Cestrum spp.	12	White flies	12
			Capsicum spp.	7	*Spodoptera frugiperda*	6

10	LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	44 (+6)	*Ocimum spp.*	13	White flies	8
					Leaf miners	5
			Capsicum spp.	6	Fruit Flies	6
			Polygonum spp.	5	White flies	5
11	BELARUS	43 (+6)	Wood packaging material	42	Nematodes	53
12	VIETNAM	43 (-3)	*Mentha spp.*	5		
13	THAILAND	40 (-2)	*Ocimum spp.*	6		
			Orchids	5	Thrips	5
14	SOUTH AFRICA	38 (0)	*Citrus spp.*	34	*Phyllosticta citricarpa*	24
					Thaumatotibia leucotreta	9
15	COTE D'IVOIRE	36 (0)	*Mangifera spp.*	32	Fruit Flies	32
16	ZIMBABWE	33 (-1)	*Capsicum spp.*	10	*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*	10
			Citrus spp.	10	*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*	9
17	SENEGAL	30 (0)	*Mangifera spp.*	25	Fruit Flies	26
18	SRI LANKA	29 (-1)	*Momordica spp.*	8		
			Amaranthus spp.	5	Leaf miners	5
			Trichosanthes spp.	5	Fruit Flies	5
19	EGYPT	26 (+2)	*Capsicum spp.*	7	White flies	6
			Lactuca spp.	6	*Spodoptera littoralis*	6
20	MALI	26 (0)	*Mangifera spp.*	26	Fruit Flies	25
21	UNITED STATES	26 (0)	Wood and bark	11	Wood and bark insects other than longhorn beetles	9
			Planting material	8		
22	BURKINA FASO	24 (0)	*Mangifera spp.*	20	Fruit Flies	20
23	MEXICO	22 (+2)	Solanum spp. other than potato and tomato	8	White flies	5
			Capsicum spp.	5		
24	ECUADOR	21 (+1)	*Gypsophila spp.*	12	Leaf miners	12
25	CAMEROON	18 (0)	*Mangifera spp.*	12	Fruit Flies	12
26	JORDAN	18 (0)	*Corchorus spp.*	15	White flies	15
27	CAMBODIA	18 (+1)	*Capsicum spp.*	9	Fruit Flies	9
			Ocimum spp.	6		
28	TURKEY	18 (-1)	*Capsicum spp.*	14	White flies	14
29	COLOMBIA	17 (0)	*Mangifera spp.*	6	Fruit Flies	6
			Dianthus spp.	5		
30	PAKISTAN	17 (+2)	*Momordica spp.*	7	Thrips	6
31	PERU	13 (+1)	*Mangifera spp.*	9	Fruit Flies	9
32	BRAZIL	11 (+11)	*Mangifera spp.*	5	Fruit Flies	5
33	MAURITIUS	10 (-1)	*Capsicum spp.*	6		
34	RWANDA	10 (0)	*Capsicum spp.*	5	*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*	5
			Rosa spp.	5	*Spodoptera littoralis*	5
35	INDONESIA	9 (+9)	Wood packaging material	5	Wood and bark insects other than longhorn beetles	5
36	MOZAMBIQUE	8 (0)	*Capsicum spp.*	8	*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*	8
37	COSTA RICA	7 (0)	Planting material	7	White flies	5
38	GUINEA	7 (0)	*Mangifera spp.*	7	Fruit Flies	7
39	UKRAINE	6 (0)	Wood packaging material	6	Nematodes	9
40	ARGENTINA	5 (0)	*Citrus spp.*	5	*Phyllosticta citricarpa*	5

Table 8.2 **Rolling annual number of interceptions with harmful organisms as referred to by the Alert Lists of January to December 2018**

Month	Number of interceptions with HOs
January	1,356
February	1,296
March	1,314
April	1,360
May	1,341
June	1,318
July	1,384
August	1,416
September	1,515
October	1,556
November	1,532
December	1,597

Fig. 8.1. **Graphical representation of the total number of HO interceptions on the non-EU trade Alert List during 2018 (month-on-month evolution of interception totals for the previous 12 month periods (see Table 8.2)**



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