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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed

Section *Plant Health*

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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Evaluation of recent import non-compliances notified by Member States and the actions taken.

General issues discussed :

The Commission presented the non-compliances due to the presence of pests for the period between 7 November and 13 December 2022. In non-EU trade the Commission highlighted the non-compliances due to (i) Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus on seeds of tomatoes from China, India and Peru, (ii) *Spodoptera frugiperda* on cut flowers of *Rosa* from Kenya, *Ocimum basilicum* from Kenya, *Asparagus officinalis* from Peru and *Fragaria x ananassa* from Egypt, (iii) *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on cut flowers of *Rosa* from Uganda, (iv) *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on citrus from Bangladesh, oranges from South Africa and Zimbabwe, and lemons from South Africa and (v) *Bactrocera dorsalis* on *Psidium guajava* from Uganda.

The Commission also noted the non-compliances due to (i) *Thrips palmi* on *Dendrobium* from Thailand, (ii) *Xanthomonas citri* pv *citri* on *Citrus aurantifolia* from Bangladesh and *Citrus maxima* from China and Brazil, (iii) *Chloridae virescens* on *Physalis peruviana* from Colombia and on *Asparagus officinalis* from Peru, (iv) *Leucinodes orbonalis* on *Solanum torvum* from Thailand and on *Solanum melongena* from Cambodia, (v) *Resseliella citrifrugis* on *Citrus maxima* from China, (vi) *Scolytidae* on logs of *Juglans nigra* from United States.

The Commission also presented the evolution of third countries with more than 10 non-compliances due to pests since the beginning of 2022 and until 30 November 2022.

The Commission presented an update of the follow-up actions as regards the non-compliances due to (i) fruit flies on fruits from Dominican Republic and Senegal, (ii) Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus on seeds from India and Guatemala, (iii) *Xanthomonas citri* pv *citri* on *Citrus latifolia* from Brazil, (iv) *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on citrus from Argentina, (v) *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on citrus from South Africa and an update to the audit programme.

The Committee agreed to continue with the procedure of follow-up actions by means of written communication and meetings and to monitor closely the evolution of those non-compliances.

The Commission highlighted the internal market non-compliances due to Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus on seeds from Italy as well as due to *Xylella fastidiosa*, on already planted plants of *Pelargonium zonale* from Spain (reported by Portugal) and of *Salvia rosmarinus* from Italy.

Portugal informed on the latter findings which were both considered as interceptions, as both findings are located far from Portugal's demarcated areas. Investigations on the history of the infections, the lab testing results and the traceability of the plants had been carried out. Appropriate eradication measures and surveillance of the surroundings had been carried out.

A.02 Evaluation of recent outbreaks of pests notified by Member States and the control actions taken.

The Commission presented the overview of the outbreaks notified by the Member States in the period from 3 November to 8 December 2022.

Italy gave a presentation on the outbreak of *Bactrocera dorsalis*. A demarcated area has been established and updated as the pest was found in traps. Eradication measures are in place, including collection and destruction of fruits and prohibition of their movement. Surveys have been stepped up. Update of the national action plan is under way.

Furthermore, Italy informed of the situation related to the outbreak of *Popillia japonica*.

The Commission asked Italy to receive data regarding the areas that could be considered to go under containment.

France gave information regarding the finding of the EU non-regulated pest *Pochazia shantungensis*. Monitoring will be reinforced around the place of the finding. France also gave an update of the recent findings of Tomato leaf curl New Delhi virus in symptomatic *Cucurbitaceae* plants. Eradication measures are in place together with monitoring of potential vectors.

Portugal gave an update on the findings of Tomato leaf curl New Delhi virus due to survey activities. The virus is found in *Cucurbitaceae* plants and in areas where the vector is present. No significant damage has been observed.

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

EFSA's newsletters of November and December 2022 and EPPO's reporting service of November 2022 was shared with the Member States.

A.04 Preliminary conclusions of the Commission audits in South Africa and Zimbabwe on the implementation of the EU import requirements for citrus fruit.

The Commission presented the preliminary findings of the audits carried out in South Africa and Zimbabwe on the implementation of the EU import requirements for citrus fruit.

Some Member States expressed concerns for the weaknesses. It was agreed to monitor the developments and to wait for the identified assessment of the action plans that will be submitted as part of the standard procedure following a Commission audit.

A.05 Evaluation of the 2022 citrus fruit import season.

The Commission presented an overview of the 2022 citrus export season in terms of volumes, number of non-compliances and follow-up actions.

Some Member States expressed the need to reconvene the Working Group on recurrent non-compliances, in order to have a dedicated discussion, not only for citrus but also for other commodities with increased number of non-compliances.

The Commission took note of the request and also invited Member States to share their views on the way forward for citrus pests.

A.06 Exchange of views on the revision of Regulation (EU) 2020/1191 on measures against ToBRFV.

Regulation (EU) 2020/1191 on measures against ToBRFV applies until 31 May 2023. The Commission presented a brief state of play of the efficiency of the control measures as regards outbreaks and non-compliance in imports, on the basis of the Commission audits presented during the Standing Committee of November. With the objective of ensuring the highest protection of the EU territory against the ToBRFV, the Commission presented elements of either a prolongation of the Regulation by keeping the status of ToBRFV under Article 30 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031, or of the re-qualification of ToBRFV as RNQP. Member States expressed their views or preliminary views on the two options proposed. The exchange of views will be continued during the Standing Committee of January 2023 for a further decision on status and subsequent measures against ToBRFV.

A.07 Exchange of views on an amendment of Regulation (EU) 2020/1201 as regards the list of plants known to be susceptible to *Xylella fastidiosa*.

The Commission presented the update of host plants susceptible to *Xylella fastidiosa*. This new information includes:

- scientific literature searches up to 30 June 2022;
- Europhyt outbreaks notifications up to 20 October 2022.

The current revision list of host plants *Xylella fastidiosa* will take into account this latest update by EFSA and includes the plant species *Citrus sinensis*, *C. reticulata*, *C. paradisi* and *C. limon* as reported infected by *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *fastidiosa*. This new update will shortly be published in the EFSA Journal.

Comments from Member States were requested to be provided by 10 January 2023.

The Commission reminded that the procedure for updating the *Xylella* Regulation includes a WTO-SPS consultation for 60 days.

A.08 Overview report of Commission audits to evaluate the situation and controls applied in response to the outbreaks of *Xylella fastidiosa*.

The Commission provided the Committee with a detailed overview of the audit reports on the situation and controls applied in response to the outbreaks of *Xylella fastidiosa* in 2022.

The audits were performed in the Member States where the pest is present and under control.

The surveillance campaigns were based on the RIBESS+ statistical approach, as elaborated by EFSA. This approach is efficiently used for confirming the absence of the pest in the parts of the territory where *Xylella* was not known so far. For the identification of the total infected area, a specific delimiting survey protocol is more appropriate. The plants removal in infected zones without significant delays seems to be a critical issue but is essential as the remaining bacterial inoculum creates favourable conditions for the spread of the disease. The presentation highlighted the considerable efforts done by the affected Member States to reduce delays in removal of plants.

A.09 Overview of *Xylella fastidiosa* pest status declarations received from third countries.

The Commission updated the Committee on additional declarations received from some third countries concerning their *Xylella fastidiosa* pest status and also informed that some recent declarations did not bring clarity as required by the Regulation. Third countries are informed in writing concerning the pest free country or pest free area status of the third country concerned. Although the declarations had to be updated by 1 January 2023 to ensure compliance with the increased surveillance requirements, the Commission informed that the old declarations could be accepted until end February. From 1 March 2023 onwards, only updated declarations on the pest free country and pest free area status for *Xylella fastidiosa* will be accepted.

A.10 Exchange of views on measures to prevent the entry, establishment and spread within the Union territory of *Candidatus Liberibacter africanus, americanus and asiaticus*.

The Commission presented the technical elements of a future draft Regulation for measures to prevent the entry, establishment and spread within the Union of *Candidatus liberibacter africanus, americanus and asiaticus*. Member States were invited to submit written comments.

A.11 Exchange of views on measures to prevent the entry, establishment and spread within the Union territory of *Spodoptera frugiperda*.

The Commission presented the technical elements of a future draft Regulation for measures to prevent the entry, establishment and spread within the Union of *Spodoptera frugiperda*. Member States were invited to submit written comments.

A.12 Exchange of views on the revision of Decision (EU) 2015/983 as regards measures against *Anoplophora glabripennis*.

Postponed.

A.13 Overview of the 2021 survey results for *Anoplophora* spp and *Aromia bungii*.

The Commission made an overview available for further consultation .

A.14 Overview of the 2021 survey results for *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*.

The Commission made an overview available for further consultation.

A.15 Exchange of views on the requirements for a possible amendment of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 (high risk plants) to delist certain plants of *Ligustrum delavayanum* and *Ligustrum japonicum* originating in the UK.

The Commission presented to the Committee an overview of the EFSA scientific opinion on the commodity risk assessment of *Ligustrum delavayanum* topiary plants grafted on *Ligustrum japonicum* from the UK, and a draft annex for delisting that commodity from the list of high risk plants. A phytosanitary concern related to the pest *Diaprepes abbreviatus* was raised. However, it was concluded that import requirements are not necessary for the commodity in relation to this pest. A draft Regulation will be presented for vote in one of the upcoming Committee meetings.

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

Postponed.

A.17 Information on import-export issues between the EU and UK(GB).

No issue raised.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on emergency action against a plant pest in the Union and third countries.

No issue raised.

Vote Postponed

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 (high risk plants) to delist certain plants for planting of *Prunus domestica* and *Prunus cerasifera* from Ukraine.

The Commission presented to the Committee a draft Implementing Regulation to delist certain plants for planting of *Prunus domestica* and *Prunus cerasifera* from Ukraine.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation establishing measures to prevent the establishment and spread within the Union territory of *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire.

The Committee held an exchange of view of the draft measures and, given the technicality of the discussion, it was concluded that a technical working group will be convened in January 2023.