



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Brussels,  
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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED  
SECTION PLANT HEALTH ON  
27 – 28 OCTOBER 2014**

Chair: Harry Arijs

All Member States were present except Cyprus and Luxembourg (on 28 October 2014). All absent Member States were represented at the moment of the vote. Switzerland was present as observer.

**A.1. Miscellaneous.**

The Commission provided an overview of the outbreaks of harmful organisms reported by the Member States from 23 September to 23 October 2014.

The Commission informed the Member States about the state of play of the FVO audit conclusions concerning phytosanitary export certification in India. The mission took place in September. The draft audit report was sent for comments to India, together with a request for further clarification on recent interceptions of non-prohibited plant material. Response from India has been received and is being analysed by the FVO in order to produce the final report. As timing did not allow finishing this before the current Standing Committee, the Commission committed to put this point on the agenda of the next Standing Committee on 25-26 November and provide the final report in advance of the meeting to allow an exchange of views concerning the temporary import prohibition for 5 fruit species.

The Commission gave a short overview of the discussions and conclusions of the EU-US Technical Working Group on Plant Health on 22-23 October 2014.

**A.2. Presentation by the Commission of the result of the work of the SANCO Plant Health Evaluation Board of 30 June-04 July 2014, dealing with the plant health co-financing requests submitted by Member States for evaluation in 2014.**

The Commission presented the list of eligible plant health co-financing requests resulting from the assessment of the Plant Health Evaluation Board held from 30 June to 4 July 2014. Those requests refer to the allocation of a Union financial contribution (contribution based on articles 22 and 23 of Directive 2000/29/EC and also known as "solidarity") to cover expenditures incurred for the purpose of combating organisms harmful to plants or plant products. It concerned a total of 26 dossiers introduced by 6 different Member States (8 dossiers from Germany, 6 dossiers from Italy, 5 dossiers from Spain, 3 dossiers from The Netherlands, 2 dossiers from France and Austria).

**A.3. Presentation by Italy of state of play of the presence of *Popillia japonica* in its territory, as notified in August 2014, and the measures to control it.**

Italy presented a state of play of the presence of *Popillia japonica* in its territory. Italy has carried out surveying in the outbreak area to determine the limit of the incursion. Mass trapping has been carried out and further consideration will be given on other possible control strategies that could be taken.

**A.4. Continued exchange of views as regards a possible review of Commission Decision 2007/365/EC on emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Community of *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Olivier).**

The Committee discussed the maintenance of the emergency measures of *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Olivier) taking into account that this harmful organism is widespread in parts of the EU territory. The Committee agreed to explore the possibility to introduce protected zones for specific areas together with the inclusion of the organism in the marketing Directive. Discussions will continue in a forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

**A.5. Presentation by the Commission of a technical report from the Annexes Working Group concerning possible amendments of the Annexes to Council Directive 2000/29/EC in relation to *Pepino mosaic virus*, followed by a discussion.**

The Commission presented a technical report of the Annexes Working Group concerning options for a follow-up of the current emergency measures to prevent the introduction and spread within the Union of *Pepino mosaic virus* (PepMV) (Commission Decision 2000/200/EC). The report concluded that, taking into account the current presence of PepMV in the Union, it would be more appropriate to regulate this harmful organism in the future as a regulated non-quarantine pest with a nil tolerance, in connection with the marketing of tomato seed. The Committee accepted this conclusion. The Commission will reflect on the possibility of implementing this approach through an amendment to Council Directive 2002/55/EC on the marketing of vegetable seed. In the meantime the emergency measures against PepMV should remain in place.

**A.6. Presentation by the Commission of a technical report from the Annexes Working Group concerning possible amendments of the Annexes to Council Directive 2000/29/EC in relation to *Potato spindle tuber viroid* and other solanaceous pospiviroids, followed by a discussion.**

The Commission presented a technical report of the Annexes Working group concerning a modification of the current EU regulatory approach against Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid (PSTVd), as well as the possible regulation of seven additional solanaceous pospiviroids. The report concluded that it would be more appropriate to regulate PSTVd and three additional solanaceous pospiviroids, which are known to occur in the EU in ornamental plants, as regulated non-quarantine pests with a nil tolerance, in connection with the marketing of plants for planting, including seeds, of the relevant solanaceous plants. For the remaining four solanaceous pospiviroids, which are not known to occur in the EU, a regulation as harmful organisms (quarantine pests) could be appropriate. The Committee supported these conclusions. The Commission will reflect on the possibility of regulating the relevant four pospiviroids known to occur in the EU through an amendment to the relevant Directives on the marketing of reproductive plant material. As for the current emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of PSTVd (Commission Decision 2007/410/EC), which target plants of the genus *Brugmansia* and the species *Solanum jasminoides*, Member States were asked to inform the Commission in writing, in advance of the next Committee meeting, whether they would support the immediate repeal of those measures, as recommended in the report of the Annexes Working Group.

**A.7. Presentation by the Commission of the overview of Member States reports on imports and import inspections of Egyptian potatoes during the 2013-2014 import season.**

Overall the total tonnage of potatoes imported into the EU from Egypt during the 2013-2014 import season is approximately 119,000 tonnes. The intensity of import inspections carried out by Member States was also discussed. Import inspections carried out during this season resulted in one interception of *Ralstonia solanacearum* as reported by Italy.

**A.8. Presentation by the Commission of the overview of Member States reports on imports and import inspections of Lebanese potatoes during the 2013-2014 import season, followed by a review of Decision 2013/413/EU.**

No import of Lebanese potatoes during the 2013-2014 import season has taken place. Following a discussion on the review of this Decision it was agreed that this Decision should be maintained unchanged.

- B.1. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision providing for a derogation from certain provisions of Council Directive 2000/29/EC as regards wood and bark of ash (*Fraxinus L.*) originating in Canada and the United States of America** (doc SANCO/12270/2014) (Legal Base: Article 15(1) of Council Directive 2000/29/EC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure).

The Committee discussed a draft Commission Implementing Decision providing for a temporary derogation as regards the import of wood and bark of ash originating in Canada and the United States. The derogation is subject to conditions ensuring that the respective phytosanitary risk is of an acceptable level and expires on 31 December 2015.

**Vote:** favourable opinion.

- B.2. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision setting out detailed rules for the implementation of Council Directive 2000/29/EC as regards the notification of the presence of harmful organisms and of measures taken or intended to be taken by the Member States** (doc SANCO/12136/2014) (Legal Base: Article 16(4) of Council Directive 2000/29/EC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure).

The Committee discussed and voted in favour of a Commission Implementing Decision setting out detailed rules for the implementation of Council Directive 2000/29/EC as regards the notification of the presence of harmful organisms and of measures taken or intended to be taken by the Member States.

That decision sets out rules concerning the deadlines, content and modalities of the notifications of confirmed or suspected outbreaks of harmful organisms in the territory of the Member States, and the measures taken against that presence, as well as their updates.

**Vote:** favourable opinion.