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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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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.

The Commission presented an overview of non-compliances between 8 July and 10 September 2023. In non-EU trade the Commission highlighted the high number of non-compliances due to (i) Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus on seeds of tomatoes from Peru and Thailand and of peppers from India, Morocco and Peru, (ii) *Spodoptera frugiperda* on *Rosa* from Ethiopia and Kenya, on *Solidago* from Israel, and on *Asparagus officinalis* from Kenya, Mexico, and Peru, (iii) *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Rosa* from Kenya and Ethiopia, on *Capsicum* from Kenya and Uganda and the first finding on *Punica granatum* from Morocco, (iv) *Bactrocera dorsalis* on *Manilkara zapota* from Thailand, (v) *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on *Citrus sinensis* from South Africa, and Uruguay. In EU trade the Commission highlighted the non-compliances due to (i) *Globodera pallida* on ware potatoes from Cyprus, (ii) *Scirtothrips dorsalis* on *Citrus meyerii* from Spain and (iii) Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus on seeds of *Capsicum annuum* from Italy. The Commission also presented the cumulative non-compliances over a 12-month period and an update on audits and on the follow-up actions to the non-compliances.

Apart from the citrus which was discussed under a dedicated agenda point, 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.

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

Emphasis was given to exchanges related to the outbreaks of priority pests in a number of Member States, giving information on the current state of art and details on the surveys and the ongoing eradication actions. In particular, Italy updated on the outbreak of *Anoplophora glabripennis* and of *Popillia japonica*, Greece on the outbreaks of *Spodoptera frugiperda* and Spain on the outbreaks of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*.

Furthermore, Portugal gave an overview of the outcome of the surveys and the measures taken for *Elsinoë fawcettii* and *Unaspis citri*, both pests found in the Azores islands.

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

The Commission presented highlights from EFSA's newsletter on horizon scanning, issue of November 2023, and EPPO's reporting service of October 2023.

A.04 Report of 2023 Commission audits of the phytosanitary certification system for the export of citrus fruits in Argentina and Brazil.

The Commission presented the main findings, the conclusions and the recommendations following the audits in Argentina and Brazil on the phytosanitary certification system for the export of citrus fruits in March and June 2023 respectively.

A.05 Evaluation of the phytosanitary situation of the 2023 citrus import season.

The Commission presented an overview of the import volumes of citrus fruits during the 2023 export season, of the non-compliances that were notified by EU Member States during that period and of the relevant exchanges with the third countries concerned.

Member States expressed concern about the high number of non-compliances due to different pests, especially due to *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on citrus fruits from South Africa.

Regarding *Elsinoe*, the possible need for temporary measures for imports of *Citrus latifolia* from Brazil was discussed, while EFSA should be mandated for a step-2 risk assessment. Regarding *Phyllosticta citricarpa* from South Africa, several options on how to deal with the continuing risk of imported citrus fruit were reflected on and need further evaluation.

The Committee agreed to submit comments by 4 December and to discuss the point again in the meeting of 18-19 December 2023.

A.06 Exchange of views on temporary measures against the introduction into and spread within the Union territory of *Bactrocera* spp.

The Commission presented a revised draft of the non-paper, following the comments provided by Member States during the previous discussion and after the meeting in writing. Member States identified need for some further discussion on the concept of establishing different zones for demarcation and surveying. Member States were invited to submit comments in writing after the meeting.

A.07 Exchange of views on establishing measures to prevent the establishment and spread within the Union territory of *Candidatus Liberibacter*.

Postponed.

A.08 Exchange of views on the revision of the phytosanitary conditions of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.

Following the comments received by the Member States on the discussion of a comprehensive package of revisions to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU)

2019/2072 during the Committee of October 2023, the Commission plans to move on faster with parts of this package of revisions. This includes deregulation of some Union quarantine pests (QPs) and/or their potential regulation as regulated non-quarantine pests (RNQPs), the revision of existing import requirements and the measures for pests that are currently regulated by emergency measures. The exchange of views will continue in the next Committee meeting.

A.09 Exchange of views on the measures to prevent the introduction and spread of *Xylella fastidiosa* as well as for its eradication and containment (revision of Regulation (EU) 2020/1201).

The Commission presented a non-paper with a proposal to amend Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1201 following the discussions of the working groups on *Xylella* held in January, June and July, including the amendment of Annexes I and II (the list of host plants and specified plants), Annex III (the list of municipalities in the infected zones) and Annex IV (list of tests for the determination of the subspecies). The Commission invited Member States to submit their comments in writing by 4 December 2023 and a revised document will be discussed in the forthcoming Committee meeting.

A.10 Exchange of views on the eradication measures against *Pomacea*.

The Commission presented a non-paper with the measures to eradicate *Pomacea* and repeal Decision 2012/697/EU, which was based on Directive 2000/29/EC. The Commission invited Member States to submit their comments in writing by 5 December 2023 and a revised document will be discussed in the forthcoming Committee meeting.

A.11 Presentation by EFSA and DG JRC on shortlisting of candidate priority pests, followed by an exchange of views.

The JRC presented the outcome of the revision of the methodology for shortlisting Union quarantine pests for further analysis as priority pests. The methodology is based on the value and/or area of host plants that could be affected with some additional criteria (spread, impact) and the analysis has been done by EFSA and JRC. EFSA also presented its work in support of this task. The Committee held an exchange of views over a wider list of short-listed pests out of which around 30 will be selected for a full analysis for their potential economic, environmental and social impact. In addition, an update of the assessment of the already evaluated priority pests is already on-going. During the next Committee meeting, EFSA will present the updated environmental criteria for the full analysis.

Some Member States requested a more general discussion on the current list of priority pests and its potential extension and expressed concerns on the workload associated with this – annual surveillance, contingency planning and simulation exercises. The matter will be re-discussed at the next Committee meeting.

A deadline of 5 December was given for general comments, further comments on the shortlist and on the re-evaluation of all pests which were already fully assessed by JRC and EFSA in 2017.

A.12 Presentation by HADEA of the budget reallocation for the phytosanitary programmes in 2023 and the proposed budget allocation for phytosanitary programmes in 2024.

HADEA presented the outcome of the budget reallocation for the phytosanitary programmes for the year 2023. The total budget remains within the budgetary envelop defined in the 2023 work programme (EUR 8 million). No further questions were raised. The amendments to the Grant Agreements will be processed by HADEA in the coming days and Member States are requested to sign the amendments as soon as possible as received in the Funding Portal (e-Grants).

HADEA also presented the preliminary outcome of the budget allocation for the phytosanitary programmes for 2024. Member States have been informed that these amounts may still vary as a consequence of their clarifications provided to HADEA during the on-going grant agreement preparation phase. HADEA will present the final budgets allocated to Member States as soon as possible, and probably at the Committee meeting of December. The Grant Agreements will have to be signed by the Member States and by HADEA before 31 January 2024. No questions were raised by the Member States.

A.13 Exchange of views on the co-financing of the phytosanitary programmes for 2025-2027.

The Committee held an exchange of views on the priorities and measures for co-funding in 2025-2027. The Commission suggested to keep the priorities unchanged and added only *Diaphorina citri* in Priority 2 group of pests for co-funding. A deadline of 1 week was given for further comments.

A.14 Exchange of views on Annex III to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the Programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European statistics and the adoption of the work programme 2024-2027.

The Commission presented Annex III to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the Programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European statistics and the adoption of the work programme 2024-2027. Issues raised by Member States, including on funding for the plant health area, have been discussed.

A.15 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 Regulation on emergency action against a plant pest in the Union and third countries.

No issue raised.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/2389 concerning the establishment of frequency rates for identity checks and physical checks on consignments of plants, plant products and other objects entering the Union.

The Commission presented a non-paper, as the Commission's Interservice Consultation was still ongoing. The main discussion in the Committee focused on several trades where the draft text suggests an increase of the minimum frequencies of identity and physical checks. After consideration of the comments made, the final draft Regulation will be submitted to a vote in one of the forthcoming meetings of the Committee.

Vote Postponed

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 as regards certain plants for planting of *Quercus petraea* and *Quercus robur* originating in the United Kingdom and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1213 as regards the phytosanitary measures for the introduction of those plants for planting into the Union territory.

The Commission presented a draft act and Annex to the Committee. The Committee raised concerns regarding the age and size of certain plants originating in the United Kingdom. The Commission clarified that import of those older plants into the EU will be possible only if the consignment is compliant with the specific import requirements (including for growing media) and the phytosanitary risk is considered acceptable.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/127 concerning the introduction into the Union territory of wood packaging material for the transport of certain commodities originating in certain third countries, by prolonging its application

The Commission informed Member States that, because of ongoing internal consultations, the vote was postponed.

Vote Postponed