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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED  
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 10 JULY 2018 - 11 JULY 2018  
(Section *Plant Health*)**

**CIRCABC Link:** <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/7c5cf5e8-1cb9-4df3-abd2-357d15d96dfc>

**A.01 Evaluation of recent import interceptions with harmful organisms by Member States and the need for further actions.**

As regards the monthly analysis of the interceptions, a Member State expressed concerns about the recurrent interceptions of *Bemisia tabaci* in intra-EU trade which implies that the measure for protected zones is not working properly in this case.

A Member State also informed about their intention to adopt national measures for oak processionary moth. The Commission stated that the measures that are intended to be taken are not considered efficient and requested from the Member State concerned not to adopt those measures.

The Commission informed Member States that Australia is no longer a pest-free country for citrus canker and that it has communicated the following pest-free areas: Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Australian Capital Territory. The Commission requested that Member States inform their inspectors so that they follow up on this change during import controls.

The Commission also informed about South Africa's actions following the two interceptions of citrus fruits for false codling moth.

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

A brief overview of the outbreaks notified by Member States for the period of 8 June to 5 July 2018 was presented by the Commission.

**A.03 EFSA newsletter on horizon scanning for new and emerging plant health risks.**

EFSA presented the sixteenth pilot edition of the newsletter. Highlights from the media were reported mainly on *Agilus planipennis*, *Popillia japonica* and *Xylella fastidiosa*.

**A.04 Exchange of views on the structure and content of a draft Commission Implementing Regulation listing the regulated pests, commodities and special requirements as foreseen under Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.**

The Commission presented the structure and the content of an Implementing Regulation, to be adopted pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/2031, listing Union quarantine pests, commodities and special requirements, which will replace the existing lists in the respective Annexes to Directive 2000/29/EC. It will also list regulated non-quarantine pests and respective special requirements, as set out in the Plant Health Regulation. Member States overall welcomed the proposal and provided further suggestions about the structure, in particular the order of the articles. They also proposed to add more requirements for certain commodities.

**A.05 Overview report of imports and inspection results of bonsai plants of *Chamaecyparis*, *Juniperus* and *Pinus* originating in Japan and Korea (Commission Decision 2002/887/EC and Decision 2002/499/EC).**

Postponed.

**A.06 Information on the conclusions of the EU-US Plant Health Technical Working Group on 16-17 May 2018.**

Reference was made to the overview table of the conclusions of the working group. The following items were highlighted: a deadline for the pest risk assessment on *Erwinia stewartia* is to be agreed with EFSA; following the ash wood audit it was announced that emergency measures will be drafted in view of deactivating the standard procedure of removing 2,5 cm of ash wood, this because of apparently insufficient monitoring by the US competent authorities. The next meeting will take place in October 2018 in the US.

**A.07 Overview of 2016 dossiers for EU co-financing of eradication/containment campaigns.**

The Commission presented an overview of the emergency measures dossiers (93) received the last three years (2014 to 2017). More focus was given to the dossiers (30) covering the year 2016 submitted by Member States. These dossiers have been evaluated in 2018 and will be co-funded through the Commission Decision (EU) 2017/4987. The total financial impact of these files would reach approximately the amount of 5 million.

The Member States welcomed the presentation and asked for additional information concerning the simplification process in the plant health field. The Commission informed the MS that it is currently exploring the possible ways to simplify the process and that it will inform the committee in due time.

**A.08 Presentation by the Commission of the results of the 2017 Member States' survey results for *Epitrix*, followed by an exchange of views.**

Survey results received from 27 Member States and from Switzerland confirmed the absence of *Epitrix* spp. in their territory, except Spain and Portugal where the pest is present in large areas. Spain and Portugal demarcate in compliance with the new provisions including the signs of the pests for demarcation, as laid down in the Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/5 amending the Decision 2012/270/EU. In the North of Spain, entire communities have been demarcated where the potato fields are scarce and the production has no significant impact on trade. Spain observed the presence of *Epitrix* spp. on 13 other hosts than potatoes, but without significant symptoms. After summer, Spain will provide the results of the ongoing studies on the *Epitrix* spp. flights, for a final decision on the size of the demarcated areas, which is currently 500 m. The results of the washing/brushing treatment are also expected after the summer. The demarcated area near the border in Portugal has been extended by the Competent Authority of Portugal, but no *Epitrix*, nor its signs, have been observed. Portugal will provide the results of the ongoing studies on larvae survival capacity on harvested potatoes, and the impact of desiccation on survival.

**A.09 Presentation by the Commission of the results of the 2017 Member States' survey results for potato brown rot (*Ralstonia solanacearum*) and potato ring rot (*Clavibacter michiganensis* ssp. *sepedonicus*), followed by an exchange of views.**

Survey results received from 27 Member States and from Switzerland. Substantial survey and eradication efforts are made in the Member States for both ring rot and brown rot. Eleven Member States were affected by ring rot. Ring rot was detected in both seed and ware potatoes in Spain, Poland and Romania. Compared to the previous season 2016, the situation in Poland is stable in seed potato production but the incidence of ring rot has increased in ware potato production. The situation in Romania has worsened in both productions compared to the previous season. Apart from these two Member States, the overall ring rot incidence has slightly increased in ware potato and is stable for seed potatoes. Brown rot was detected in 6 Member States at harvest. Brown rot and ring rot were present simultaneously in Spain, Germany and Poland.

**A.10 Presentation by the Commission of the results of the 2017 Member States' survey results for the potato cyst nematodes *Globodera pallida* and *Globodera rostochiensis* in application of Council Directive 2007/33/EC, followed by an exchange of views.**

Survey results were received from 27 Member States and from Switzerland. Both nematodes were found in 16 Member States, *G. rostochiensis* was found in eight Member States and *G. pallida* in one Member State. Romania, Malta and Switzerland were free of nematodes. Overall, the incidence has slightly decreased in ware potatoes and slightly increased in seed potatoes comparing to the previous two years.

The Netherlands continues characterisation of the exceptional change of the composition of PCN (first recorded in 2015) in starch potato area ('Pallifit' research project)

**B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision extending the period of validity of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/204 authorising Member States to provide for a temporary derogation from certain provisions of Council Directive 2000/29/EC in respect of ash wood originating or processed in the United States of America.**

The Commission explained that the action plan submitted by APHIS at the end of April 2018, if well implemented, addresses the shortcomings identified during the audit regarding the ash wood system approach. The new version of the derogation provides for stricter requirements on APHIS supervision, labelling and pre-inspection controls.

The committee voted in favour of the text on the derogation for US to export ash wood under a system approach.

On the export of US ash wood under the normal import conditions set out in Annex IV of Directive 2000/29/EC, the Commission highlighted that the recommendations made in the final report of the audit still have to be addressed and that some measures need to be taken.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2013/92/EU on the supervision, plant health checks and measures to be taken on wood packaging material actually in use in the transport of specified commodities originating in certain third countries.**

The text of new emergency measures on the plant health checks on wood packaging material originating in China and Belarus was discussed and voted. With this new measure the Member States will check a minimum number of commodities accompanied by wood packaging material and will report to the Commission the results of those checks.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on emergency measures against the introduction and spread of *Aromia bungii*.**

The text of new emergency measure against the spread and introduction of the red-necked longhorn beetle *Aromia bungii* was discussed and voted. The Decision establishes requirements for internal movement and import of commodities which could be infested with this pest, as well as measures to be taken by the Member States in case of outbreaks in the EU. The committee agreed on the new approach used in this measure as in the *Xylella* Decision, to require in case of outbreaks doubling of the buffer zone around the infested area if containment is to be applied, which should also be followed in the future measures for other pests.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision establishing the conditions for the recognition of electronic phytosanitary certificates issued by third countries' competent authorities.**

The Commission presented this Decision that fixes the conditions and the level of requirements of electronic phytosanitary certificates that can be accepted at import.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down rules on uniform practical arrangements for the performance of official controls for internal movement.**

The Commission presented the text for an implementing decision on uniform practical arrangements for the performance of official controls for internal movement. A fruitful discussion led to some improvements of the text. The draft implementing decision will be finalized in the coming weeks in view of the stakeholder's consultation.

**C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Directive amending Annexes I to V of Council Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community.**

The Commission presented the comments received by the Member States on the content of the next package of the amendment of the Annexes of Directive 2000/29/EC. A number of new harmful organisms are proposed for listing as regulated pests together with new import and internal movement requirements. Current import and internal movement requirements will be revised based on recent pest risk assessments. The timeframe of the future work was discussed.

**C.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation provisionally listing high risk plants, plant products or other objects within the meaning of Article 42 and plants for which phytosanitary certificates are not required within the meaning of Article 73 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.**

The Commission presented the above mentioned draft Implementing Regulation, explained that a draft Implementing Regulation is being prepared regarding the procedure to be followed in order to carry out the risk assessment of high risk plants and presented a draft outline of that act. The Commission also presented in brief the format that EFSA has prepared for the submission of dossiers by non-EU countries which is currently under consultation with the Member States. Finally, the Commission presented the timeline of different actions that will take place concerning this draft Implementing Regulation (stakeholder consultation, SPS notification) based on EU and international obligations.

Member States reserved the right to study the draft and submit written comments.

Some Member States supported the draft in principle. Some Member States did not agree with the limited number of fruits included in the list and requested the Commission to share the analysis carried out to develop the list on fruits. A Member State considered that Article 42 is not used as it was expected to by the EU producing countries when discussed in the Council. A Member State expressed the view that the draft could not be assessed without an integrated approach including official controls. A Member State stated that the inclusion of *Ficus* and *Cycas* on the list is not technically justified.

The Commission asked Member States to accompany their comments with technical and scientific elements.