



WORKING GROUP
ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED

Sections

Plant Health

Seed and Propagating Material for Agriculture and Horticulture

Propagating material and plants of fruit genera and species

Propagating material of ornamental plants

Vine

Forest reproductive material

20 SEPTEMBER 2022

SUMMARY

SECTION A **Information and/or discussion**

1. Union Regulated non quarantine pests (RNQPs) under the Union legislation and the way forward

The Commission gave an overview of the issue at hand and comments received from Member States following the meeting of 2 June 2022. Currently the legislation on plant reproductive material (PRM) is under revision. A coherent approach with the plant health (PH) legislation needs to be ensured.

On the question to ensure the quality of controls by a certification scheme (general rules on field inspection, seed sampling and testing, officially or under official supervision) applicable to RNQP controls, the Commission explained that it will seek for a solution.

In relation to the EU certification scheme for fruit plants, a number of Member States enquired how the differences between the PRM categories will be guaranteed upon transfer of RNQP requirements to the plant health legislation. The Commission

explained that the certification label guarantees the identity and quality, while the plant passport confirms compliance with phytosanitary requirements regarding RNQPs and quarantine pests. As is already the case today the official label and plant passport will be combined for the marketing in the EU, thus certifying all aspects in a common document available for the user of the material. The Commission will examine the possibility of combining the supplier's label with the plant passport.

The Commission clarified again that it is up to the Member States to determine which service will do the certification of plant health, identity and quality aspects. This issue is not currently regulated by EU legislation and is not going to be regulated in the future either. The Commission also stressed the importance of exchanging information among the competent authorities to ensure that the outcome of plant health inspections match the inspection and testing results under the certification system in relation to the marketing categories.

In relation to "quality pests" the Commission clarified that if a pest is not transmitted through plants for planting as a main pathway then that pest no longer qualifies as an RNQP. The PRM legislation anyway requires as a general rule that PRM has to be practically free from any pest that has an impact on the quality of that PRM. However, listing of specific "quality pests" might create a new category of regulated pests and create confusion with the list of RNQPs, thus the Commission would prefer to avoid such option.

The Commission explained that the Official Controls Regulation (OCR) already applies to RNQPs because they are within scope of the plant health legislation. However, the certification requirements are laid down in the sectoral legislation, while the OCR only provides for general principles.