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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 the non-compliances due to the presence of pests for the period between 15 February and 16 March 2023. In non-EU trade the Commission highlighted the non-compliances due to (i) Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus on seeds of tomatoes from India, tomatoes and peppers from Türkiye, Peru, China and Israel and peppers from Serbia, (ii) *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on cut flowers of *Rosa* from Kenya, Uganda and Zambia, on *Capsicum annuum*, *Solanum aethiopicum* and *Capsicum chinense* from Uganda, (iii) *Spodoptera frugiperda* on cut flowers of *Rosa* from Zambia, *Momordica charantia* from Tanzania, *Phaseolus vulgaris* from Sri Lanka and *Asparagus officinalis* from Peru, (iv) *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* on pallets from India, (v) *Meloidogyne enterolobii*, on *Portulacaria afra*, from China, and Indonesia, (vi) *Ralstonia solanacearum* on ware potatoes from Egypt, (vii) *Thrips palmi* on *Momordica* from Mexico. Member States expressed concerns in particular as regards the non-compliances due to the last three pests mentioned above and asked to be informed of the next steps. The Commission explained that the countries concerned will be requested an investigation and an action plan. The Commission also informed the Committee of a number of non-compliances of other Union quarantine pests, such as *Thrips palmi*, *Anastrepha*, *Neoleucinodes elegantalis*, *Pomacea*, *Leucinodes orbonalis*, *Resseliella citrifrugis* and *Spodoptera ornitogalli*.

The Commission presented an update of the follow-up actions as regards the non-compliances due to (i) Tomato Brown Rugose fruit Virus on seeds originating in Türkiye, Chile, India and Guatemala, and the responses received by (ii) China on *Meloidogyne enterolobii* and *Resseliella citrifrugis*, (iii) Thailand on *Thrips palmi*/*Bactrocera* and *Leucinodes orbonalis*, (iv) Ethiopia on *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*, (v) Kenya on *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* and *Spodoptera frugiperda*.

In EU trade the Commission highlighted the non-compliances due to Tomato Brown Rugose fruit Virus on seeds originating in India marketed by France and reported by Spain, (ii) *Ripersiella hibisci* on *Trachycarpus fortunei* and on *Chamaerops humilis* from Italy, reported by the Netherlands.

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 (including outbreak management of *Anoplophora* sp in Italy and *Meloidogyne enterolobii* in the Netherlands and Portugal).

The Commission presented the overview of the outbreaks that have been notified from 17 February to 16 March 2023. Italy gave an overview of the outbreak situation of *Anoplophora glabripennis* and *Anoplophora chinensis*.

The Netherlands reported about outbreaks of *Meloidogyne enterolobii* in greenhouses where *Ficus microcarpa* originating from China were grown. Vigorous measures have been taken in greenhouses where infested plants have been found. All concerned consignments have been imported for a department store chain operating all over the EU and a considerable part of the imported plants had already been distributed to other Member States. Trace-forward actions are ongoing.

The Commission will follow this issue up with the Chinese authorities.

Cyprus gave a presentation regarding the situation of the recent outbreak of *Spodoptera frugiperda* and the follow-up actions on demarcation and surveys.

Italy presented information about the management of *Anoplophora chinensis* and *Anoplophora glabripennis* outbreaks on their territory. Italy was asked a detailed eradication/containment plan for the outbreaks in the region of Marche. Update of the situation will be presented in a future PAFF meeting.

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 March 2023, and EPPO's reporting service of February 2023.

A.04 Outcome of the Commission audit to Israel in January 2023 in order to evaluate the system of official controls for the export of certain plants and plant products to the European Union.

Postponed.

A.05 Exchange of views on the phytosanitary control measures of ToBRFV.

Regulation (EU) 2020/1191 on measures against ToBRFV applies until 31 May 2023. The Commission presented a revised draft Regulation based on the discussions held in previous Standing Committees. Member States expressed their views on the draft Regulation and were invited to provide their comments by 3 April. The draft Regulation will be voted during the Standing Committee of April.

A.06 Exchange of views on measures to prevent the entry, establishment and spread within the Union territory of *Spodoptera frugiperda*.

The discussion on emergency action for *Spodoptera frugiperda*, following the first finding in Cyprus, continued. The planned action includes measures for import and internal movement, surveys and eradication measures. A draft text will be proposed for vote in the forthcoming meeting.

A.07 Exchange of views as regards measures to prevent the establishment and spread within the Union territory of *Agilus planipennis* Fairmaire.

The Commission updated the committee on the outcomes of the technical working group meeting on the emerald ash borer held on 31 January 2023. The committee discussed possible draft measures to prevent the establishment and spread of this pest in the EU. Member States were invited to submit final written comments in the following two weeks.

A.08 Exchange of views on a possible extension of Regulation (EU) 2020/918 and Regulation (EU) 2020/1002 in respect of measures for the introduction of ash wood from respectively Canada and US.

The Regulations (EU) 2020/918, 2020/1002 and 2020/1164 will expire on 30 June 2023. The Commission informed the committee about its intention to extend the measures laid down therein, and to turn them into permanent measures, in line with the provisions of the plant health legislation.

A.09 Exchange of views on potential need for EU regulation for *Arboridia kakogawana*, *Crisicoccus pini*, *Phenacoccus solenopsis*, *Toumeyella parvicornis*, *Xylotrechus chinensis* and *Zaprionus indianus*.

The discussion related to the above-mentioned pests continued. The EFSA pest categorisation and the information provided by the Member States where the pests have been reported was the basis of these exchanges.

Based on the current information, the following has been decided:

- a) *Arboridia kakogawana*: No EU action will be taken for this pest given that the level of impact observed is not significant. Furthermore, natural spread seems to be the main spread mechanism at this point. It has to be noted that the main host of this pest is *Vitis* plants for which import in the EU is prohibited.
- b) *Toumeyella parvicornis*: The discussion on potential EU measures will start for this pest.
- c) *Zaprionus indianus*: No EU action will be taken for this pest given the presence of the pest in 5 EU countries and the limited impact observed thus far.
- d) *Crisicoccus pini*, *Phenacoccus solenopsis* and *Xylotrechus chinensis*: No conclusion has been reached for those three pests. Regarding *Xylotrechus chinensis*, it has been proposed to determine which subspecies is present in the EU given that impact has been observed only to *Morus* plants in all outbreak areas and not to other known host plants. Member States are invited to send comments and the discussion will be tabled in one of forthcoming Committee meetings.

A.10 Exchange of views on a possible renewal of the derogation concerning the introduction into the Union of naturally or artificially dwarfed plants for planting of *Chamaecyparis* Spach, *Juniperus* L. and certain species of *Pinus* L., originating in Japan.

The Commission presented information about the imports and interceptions related to this derogation and the committee held an exchange of views about a possible extension. The current derogation expires at the end of 2023.

A.11 Report of the Commission Working Group on surveys, followed by an exchange of views concerning the justification for not carrying surveys of priority pests.

The Commission presented the outcome of the Working Group on surveys held on 28 February and explained that, in the absence of the multiannual survey programmes, Member States were requested to provide the justification for not surveying priority pests. Some Member States highlighted the importance of carrying surveys on priority pests to protect the Union territory. The Commission invited Member States to send their comments on the justifications by 24 April. The Commission will share a revised version of the document and a new discussion may take place in a forthcoming meeting.

A.12 Information on import-export issues between the EU and UK(GB).

No item 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 item raised.

Vote Postponed

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation establishing a derogation from Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 as regards the requirements for the introduction into the Union territory of oak logs with bark originating in the United States.

Vote Postponed

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on a derogation from Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 concerning the introduction into the Union of naturally or artificially dwarfed plants for planting of *Chamaecyparis* Spach, *Juniperus* L. and certain species of *Pinus* L., originating in the Republic of Korea, and repealing Decision 2002/499/EC

Vote Postponed

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation establishing a derogation from Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 as regards the introduction into the Union territory of tubers of *Solanum tuberosum* L., other than those intended for planting, originating in certain regions of Lebanon.

Vote Postponed

B.05 Exchange of views and possible technical opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on measures to prevent the establishment and spread of *Popillia japonica* Newman and on measures for the eradication and containment of that pest within certain demarcated areas of the Union territory.

The Commission presented a draft on the measures to eradicate and contain *Popillia japonica* and incorporated the comments raised during the meeting. The Commission will proceed with the stakeholder consultation before a formal vote is taken in a forthcoming meeting.

Vote Postponed

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Commission Implementing Decision on the adoption of the work programme for year 2024 for the implementation of veterinary programmes for animal diseases and zoonoses and phytosanitary programmes for plant pests.

The Commission presented the revised version of the phytosanitary programme for the year 2024 concerning the prioritisation for plant health in view of the reduction of the co-financing, including priorities 1 and 2, before the text was voted in the Animal Health section of the Standing Committee.