



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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 DECEMBER 2018 - 11 DECEMBER 2018
(Section *Plant Health*)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/1615865a-a535-4011-9760-49070a827976>

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

Following the recent interceptions of pine wood nematode by France and Sweden on wood packaging material (WPM) originating in Portugal, the Portuguese Authorities presented the follow-up activities carried out, including the suspension of the facilities concerned by the heat treatment and WPM manufacturing. It was agreed to wait for the conclusion of the recent Commission audit in Portugal, together with further investigations carried out by Portugal, to decide on the next step forward.

As regards the interception by Belgium of *Xylella fastidiosa* on olive plants originating in Spain, an update was provided by the two Member States concerned. Following further investigations, including sampling and testing in the nurseries concerned, Spain informed that no positive cases were confirmed. Belgium informed that no further findings were detected since the initial interceptions. Trade restrictions in the nurseries concerned both in Spain and Belgium are going to be lifted soon. The Committee discussed about further restrictions to be included on movement of olive plants originating outside the demarcated areas. Member States were invited to submit written comments to the Commission for further assessment.

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

On a preliminary basis, Italy informed that an outbreak of *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* was recently detected in Monte Argentario (Province of Grosseto, Tuscany) on a number of Mediterranean ornamental and landscape plants, as well as almonds, located in urban area. Further details will follow through the official notification.

As planned during the previous PAFF meeting, a follow-up discussion on the outbreak notifications received from 6 October to 25 November 2018 took place. Italy gave more information on the finding of *Bactrocera dorsalis*. The decision on the type of management measures to be taken was still under discussion. Italy also updated the situation on the outbreak of *Geosmithia morbida*, an EU non-regulated harmful organism. A list of the areas where the harmful organism is known to occur will be provided.

Croatia gave information on the first confirmed outbreak of *Aleurocanthus spiniferus* in their territory. France informed the Committee on the state of art of the outbreak of *Xylotrechus chinensis*, which is a harmful organism not regulated in the EU. After discussion, it was decided that a pest risk assessment for the EU territory will be needed. Additionally, the necessity of having measures to deal with the outbreaks will be elaborated in a forthcoming meeting.

A.03 Presentation of the structure of a draft Implementing Regulation ('Phytosanitary Conditions Regulation'), including the lists of quarantine pests, RNQPs, regulated commodities and import and movement requirements.

The Commission presented a first draft of an Implementing Regulation listing pests, commodities and phytosanitary conditions for the introduction into, and movement within, the Union of those commodities. That Regulation would include many Annexes reflecting the existing Annexes I to IV of Directive 2000/29/EC and also the list of and the rules on Regulated Non-Quarantine Pests. The Commission presented several Annexes, and in particular Annex I on the list of Union Quarantine Pests, Annex III on the list of Regulated Non-Quarantine Pests and Annexes VIII and VIIIA on measures against Regulated Non-Quarantine Pests. The Member States presented their initial remarks and were invited to send their more detailed comments by 10 January, concerning Annex I, and 21 January concerning Annexes III, VIII and VIIIA.

A.04 Presentation by the Commission of the results of the 2017 Member States' survey results for pine wood nematode (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*), followed by an exchange of views.

The Commission presented the outcome of the 2017 survey activities carried out by Member States on pine wood nematode. Overall, the data presented confirmed a positive increase of survey activities and checks carried out compared to previous years. In total, more than 52 000 samples of wood and vectors were analysed by the Member States confirming the absence of the nematode in the Union territory, with the exception of the currently established demarcated area in Portugal and two demarcated areas in Spain.

A.05 Overview of the 2017 dossiers for EU co-financing of eradication / containment campaigns.

Postponed.

A.06 Exchange of views concerning the request by Gambia for recognition as pest free country as regards *Candidatus Liberibacter* spp.

The Commission presented the request received from Gambia to be recognised as free from *Candidatus liberibacter* spp. The Commission informed that this is one of the few examples where the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed, Section Plant Health has to recognise a country as being free from a pest (Article 18(2) Directive 2000/29/EC). The point was already discussed during the meeting in October 2018. Member States were invited to provide comments in written by 4 January 2019 before a final decision is taken.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion 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 a draft Commission Implementing Regulation provisionally listing high risk plants within the meaning of Article 42 of the Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 and plants for which phytosanitary certificates are not required within the meaning of Article 73 of that Regulation. The draft Commission Implementing Regulation was endorsed by the qualified majority of Member States.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down specific rules concerning the procedure to be followed in order to carry out the risk assessment of high risk plants, plant products and other objects within the meaning of Article 42(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down the procedures to be followed in order to carry out the risk assessment of high risk plants. The draft Commission Implementing Regulation was endorsed by the qualified majority of Member States.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on rules on uniform practical arrangements for the performance of official controls on plants, plant products and other objects and authorised operators in order to verify compliance with the plant health legislation.

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down uniform practical arrangements for the performance of official controls on: - operators authorized to issue plant passports, - operators authorized to apply the ISPM 15 mark, and - on a minimum frequency of official controls for plants under article 73 of the Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 entering the Union. Member States endorsed the text highlighting the importance of the functionality of IMSOC for facilitating the controls referred in Article 5. The need for timely joint action by the national operational services and the Commission services was indicated to ensure that the system will be fully functional by 14 December 2019, the date of entry into application of the Plant Health Regulation and the Official Control Regulation.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible indicative opinion (technical vote) 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 draft Commission Implementing Directive. A technical agreement was received. The draft text will be sent to WTO-SPS for a 60 days' consultation.

Technical agreement with qualified majority.

M.01 Detailed rules on operations to be carried out during and after documentary, identity and physical checks (Art. 52 of the Official Control Regulation)

The Commission presented the plant health part of an Implementing Regulation under Article 52 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625. Member States supported the need to have harmonized risk-based rules for import inspections and discussed the suggestions presented by the Commission. Further discussions will be held in the framework of the Working Group for the Official Controls Regulation.