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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 21 - 22 JANUARY 2019
(Section *Plant Health*)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/192062-2-2019-12-14-434366172019>

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

The Commission presented an overview of the interceptions from 28 November 2018 to 10 January 2019, highlighting 16 interceptions of fruit flies on pomelo originating from China and 18 interceptions of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on roses (8), peppers (6), custard apple (3) and Indian gooseberry (1).

Furthermore, the Commission informed about the follow-up in relation to the interceptions of citrus black spot on citrus fruits originating in Brazil. In addition, the Commission explained the communications with China and South Africa in relation to the interceptions and with Bangladesh in relation to the Bangladesh decision to lift the self-ban on lemons.

A.02 Evaluation of recent outbreaks of harmful organisms notified by Member States and of the control actions taken (including *Xylella* outbreak in Italy-Tuscany).

The Commission presented and discussed the list of outbreaks notified by Member States from 26 November 2018 to 13 January 2019. Germany notified the presence of the non-regulated harmful organism *Neonectria neomacrospora* in their territory, which is the causal agent of a severe disease of *Abies* spp. Given its presence in several EU countries, it was decided that this organism is not of a quarantine concern. Italy reported the finding of *Achatina fulica*. It was considered that this snail is an invasive alien species (IAS) and would suit better in the IAS Regulation. Furthermore, Italy informed on the outbreak of a new and non-regulated virus, the Tomato brown rugose fruit virus. Discussion on potential legislative action will take place upon the collection of additional information. Greece informed the Committee on the state of art and the actions taken for the outbreak of Tomato leaf curl New Delhi virus, a *Bemisia tabaci* transmitted virus. The virus was affecting *Zucchini*.

Italy informed that on 12 December 2018 in Tuscany (Argentario) 72 plants, such as *Polygala*, fig, almond, lavender and other landscape plant species were found infected with *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* (Sequence Type 87), different from the Sequence Types occurring in France and in Spain (ST6/ST7). Eradication measures and survey activities are currently being taken as required by the EU Decision. The only nursery present in the area has been put under trade restriction. As regards the situation in Apulia, Italy informed that a new infected olive tree had been detected just outside the current demarcated area. On 12 January 2019, the Prosecutor of Bari issued a seizure order impeding, against the EU law, the implementation of the felling provisions. Italy informed that the area was demarcated and eradication measures are to be adopted as soon as the seizure order is lifted.

Portugal informed that 41 plants of lavender (*Lavandula dentata*) were found infected with *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* (ST 7) located in a garden of a zoo, close to Porto. All the lavender plants in the infected zone have been destroyed, while the rest of the *multiplex* hosts are currently being destroyed (e.g. rosemary, oleander). Two nurseries and seven garden centres have been put under trade restrictions. Trace-back activities are ongoing to confirm the source of infection.

A.03 Exchange of views on the procedures for notification (outbreak versus interception) of findings of regulated harmful organisms when entering into or presence within the Union territory.

The Commission presented the applicable legislation (Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2014/917) which requires the notification of the presence of harmful organisms and asked the competent authorities to proceed with such a notification within the stipulated deadlines. The Commission requested the Member States to use the notification as import interception or internal trade interception only for cases an immediate trade link.

A.04 Preliminary findings by the Commission of a fact-finding mission from 14 to 18 January 2019 to Italy on the state of play of *Bactrocera dorsalis* (oriental fruitfly).

Italy informed about the status of an outbreak of *Bactrocera dorsalis* in the region of Campania. Italy has increased its monitoring activities: 12 additional traps for monitoring were deployed in the regions Campania and Lazio and soil as well as fruit samples were taken. Around each of the two locations, a demarcated area was installed. As no further specimens were found since then, the status of the outbreak is transient/in eradication according to the Italian authorities.

Italy reported that a national action plan is under preparation and will be discussed and potentially adopted on 30 January. It will contain measures to be put in place in case of additional findings of *Bactrocera dorsalis* in future.

The Commission outlined the findings of the fact-finding mission, which took place from 14 to 18 January. The Commission reminded that all following action steps should be oriented towards the precautionous approach of the plant health legislation.

A.05 EFSA presentation of two pilot scientific newsletters: November and December 2018.

EFSA presented the 21th and 22nd editions of the media monitoring newsletter. Highlights from the media were reported mainly on *Anoplophora glabripennis*, *Bactrocera dorsalis*, *Spodoptora frugiperda*, and *Xylella fastidiosa* in relation to their distribution and the actions taken for their control. A report on the damages caused by the non-regulated harmful organism *Aleurodicus rugioperculatus*, a polyphagous whitefly, was highlighted. The first pilot edition of the literature monitoring newsletter was presented followed by exchanges with Member States on the template and the search tools.

A.06 Evaluation of the 2018 citrus fruit import season and revision of Decision (EU) 2016/715 on citrus black spot (CBS) measures related to citrus fruit originating in Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and South Africa.

The Commission presented an overview of the reports provided by Member States, the interceptions on citrus fruits imported into the EU during 2018 and the follow-up carried out by the Commission and the relevant third countries. There have been no imports under the option included in the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/715 for citrus fruits destined exclusively for industrial processing, but Member States expressed their willingness to keep this option for the future. Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/715 will expire on 31 March 2019, and given the high number of interceptions registered in 2018, Member States agreed that the Decision should be extended keeping the same third countries, although the exact details will be further discussed in February 2019.

A.07 Evaluation of the 2018 import controls for the compliance with the special requirements against the introduction of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (false codling moth).

The Commission presented an overview of the interceptions of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (false codling moth) during 2018 (after one year of being listed as quarantine pest in the EU). Member States expressed their concern about the 204 interceptions of this pest in 2018. Member States recognised a positive trend in the interceptions of cut flowers, a commodity for which the number of interceptions decreased over the months; however they expressed concern on the high number of interceptions on *Capsicum* along the year from countries using the options of place of production free or effective treatment: given the interceptions notified there is a problem in the certification system of the exporting countries. The Commission will follow up the bilateral contacts initiated in 2018 with several countries and the discussion will be reported back to the Committee before any decision is taken.

A.08 Report by the Commission (Joint Research Center) of the CanHemon Project on remote sensing.

The Commission's Joint Research Center presented the final report of the CanHeMon Project on remote sensing. This promising technology, funded by DG SANTE, was tested on a large scale to detect declining pine trees located in the Portuguese buffer zone, along the Spanish border, as part of the pine wood nematode (PWN) control activities. The final report will be published soon. Preliminary results were also presented as regards ongoing remote sensing activities currently being implemented by JRC to detect *Xylella* infected olive trees in Apulia (Italy). Member States were invited to consider possible applications of the CanHeMon tools as part of their national monitoring activities carried out for PWN. In this respect, the Commission informed that training sessions might be organised in 2019 with Member States to support knowledge transfer, moreover EU co-financing is envisaged for the implementation of this technology as part of the national monitoring activities of quarantine pests.

A.09 Overview of the 2017 dossiers for EU co-financing of eradication / containment campaigns.

Postponed.

A.10 Outcome of the evaluation procedure of survey programmes submitted by Member States for Union financial contribution for 2019.

The Commission presented the final list of the survey programmes technically approved and the final amount allocated per programme, to be implemented by Member States in 2019.

The Member States welcomed the document and no specific issues were raised. The document will be published on the web site of DG SANTE.

A.11 Exchange of views on the request by New Zealand for approval of fumigation treatment for *Pinus* spp. bark destined for EU.

The Commission discussed the content of the request received by New Zealand on a treatment with methyl bromide for *Pinus* spp. bark. The Commission reminded that methyl bromide is not allowed for use in the European Union since 2010. The Commission reminded as well about the derogation granted through Commission Decision 2005/359/EC currently in place for import of oak logs with bark from United States of America, expiring in December 2020.

The Member States expressed their support to the use of alternatives to methyl bromide, not approving the treatment suggested by New Zealand. The Member States also informed about internal ongoing consultations with stakeholders to use alternatives to methyl bromide also for importing oak logs with bark from the United States of America.

It was agreed to reply to New Zealand to request the use of alternative treatments instead of the suggested one with methyl bromide. With the aim to have the same approach for the decision on the derogation for oak logs with bark introduced from the United States of America, it was agreed to inform the United States of America of the intention not to extend Commission Decision 2005/359/EC, and to look for alternative methods by the time of its expiration.

A.12 Exchange of views on draft technical Annexes for an Implementing Regulation ('Phytosanitary Conditions Regulation'), including the lists of quarantine pests, RNQPs, regulated commodities and import and movement requirements, under the basic Plant Health Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The Commission presented the timeline for the adoption of this act and presented the updated list of Union quarantine pests that will be included in the first Annex of that act. A discussion followed concerning the pests which have been added or removed to different status.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down implementing measures for the Rapid alert system for food and feed, and rules as regards the computerised information system for notifying and reporting on listed animal diseases, the notification of the presence of, and protective measures taken against, plant pests, administrative assistance and cooperation between Member States' authorities, and the functioning of the information management system for official controls ('the IMSOC Regulation')".

Postponed.