



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 18 OCTOBER 2017 - 19 OCTOBER 2017  
(Section *Plant Health*)**

**CIRCABC Link:** <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/58a2e69c-85c7-4664-a45c-d3432e32232b>

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

A brief overview was given of the interceptions with harmful organisms and the follow-up carried out by the Commission from 12 September to 11 October 2017. The 10 interceptions of citrus black spot (1 from Argentina, 7 from South Africa, 1 from Uruguay and 1 from Zimbabwe) were highlighted. The Committee raised its concerns due to the increased number of interceptions from South Africa. The Commission will ensure a follow-up for this issue. Furthermore, the Commission reminded Member States that today the import of curry leaves into the EU territory is not authorized from any third country. Finally, the Commission communicated that no comments were sent by Member States in relation to a possible extension of the existing Decision prohibiting the import of certain commodities originated in Ghana. Therefore, the Commission will not extend the mentioned Decision and the emergency measures will expire 31 December 2017. A formal letter will be sent to Ghana to announce the lift of the ban.

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

Postponed.

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

EFSA presented the seventh pilot newsletter which was the outcome of a horizon scanning of the media. Highlights were reported on *Agrilus planipennis*, *Bactericera cockerelli*, Citrus greening disease, *Lema bilineata*, *Lycorma delicatula*, *Spodoptera frugiperda* and *Xylella fastidiosa*.

**A.04 Results of the Commission Working Group meeting on a possible derogation to allow the import of cuttings of *Calibrachoa* and *Petunia* (*Solanaceae*).**

Germany is requesting a derogation from the import restrictions in Annex III Part A No.13 of Directive 2000/29/EC for cuttings of the solanaceous genera *Calibrachoa* and *Petunia* for imports from certain non-EU countries into the European Union.

Following the request of Member States, the Commission organized a working group meeting on the issue with technical experts. The report of the meeting was presented.

Some Member States highlighted their main concerns on the risk of importing plants of the *Solanaceae* family from non-EU countries (e.g. presence of harmful organisms like *B. cockerelli* and *Candidatus liberibacter*) and how the control measures should be explicitly listed in the text of the derogation. Suggestions were made to address in detail the viruses and virus-like organisms as well as all relevant pests.

The reliability of the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of the non-EU countries should be one of the first issues to be analysed and the audits already carried out by Directorate F would be a good basis for a preliminary assessment.

The Commission will ask the NPPOs of the selected non-EU countries for the list of pests present in their territory which are of quarantine relevance for the EU and may affect the EU *Solanaceae* production. The Commission may consider sending the dossier to EFSA for a scientific opinion.

**A.05 Presentation by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) of the Scientific Opinions of the Panel on Plant Health regarding *Atropellis* and *Radopholus similis*, followed by an exchange of views.**

The scientific opinions of *Atropellis* spp. and *Radopholus similis* were presented by EFSA. Based on these assessments a follow-up discussion on the possible amendment of the EU legislation will take place in the Annexes Working Group meeting.

**A.06 Results of the Commission Working Group meeting on revision of the Annexes to Directive 2000/29/EC concerning the possible inclusion of *Gibberella circinata*, *Omona hirta* and *Neoleucinodes elegantalis*.**

Postponed.

**A.07 Results of the Commission Working Group meeting on reduced frequency of import inspections, followed by an exchange of views and possible approval of the minimum reduced frequencies for 2018.**

The Commission presented the outcome of the Working Group meeting and presented a draft for import trade of plants and plant products under reduced frequency for 2018. The Committee commented on several elements in the draft, namely in relation to the listing of false codling moth (*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*) as an EU quarantine pest from 1 January 2018, the ongoing discussion on emergency measures for fall army worm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*), the import of citrus fruit from Egypt, CN codes that should be applied for imports of coniferous wood from the European parts of the Russian Federation and a possible addition into the system of imports of tomatoes from the Canary Islands. The Commission shall reflect on the comments made and shall submit a revised draft to the next meeting of the Committee.

**A.08 Exchange of views on the EU risk management measures against *Spodoptera frugiperda*.**

A brief exchange of views took place on drafting EU emergency measures for *Spodoptera frugiperda*. During the discussion, Germany clarified that the outbreak of 1999 has been eradicated and the source of the infestation was maize cobs.

**A.09 Presentation by the Commission of the results of the 2016 Member States' survey results for potato brown rot (*Ralstonia solanacearum*) and potato ring rot (*Clavibacter michiganensis* ssp. *sepedonicus*), followed by an exchange of views.**

Substantial survey and eradication efforts are made in the Member States for both ring rot and brown rot. Only seven Member States were affected by ring rot, the lowest number since 2001. In Poland, the situation has improved in seed and ware potato production. However, this is not the case for Romania which now has high ring rot incidence. The overall brown rot incidence has slightly decreased and the general situation in all Member States is under control. After four years without any findings, brown rot re-appeared in the seed potato production sector in the Netherlands. Following the first outbreak in 2014, the organism is still present in Poland.

**A.10 Overview by the Commission of the application procedure for the emergency measures dossiers.**

The Commission presented the overview of the dossiers submitted by Member States (93 in total) related to emergency measures, covering the years 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. For the years 2014 and 2015 they have already been evaluated and co-funded in 2016 through the Commission Decisions (EU) 2016/ 1599 and 2016/ 8397. The Member States welcomed the presentation and no specific issues were raised.

Supplementary the Commission presented the main findings and issues faced during the reporting obligations for the intermediate financial report for the 2017 survey programmes with deadline 31st of August 2017 (Art. 23, Regulation (EU) 652/2014). In the next few weeks the Commission will finalise the evaluation, based on the intermediate financial report 2017 submitted by Member States, in order to possibly reallocate some financial resources from Member States not using them to those for which additional needs are justified. As a consequence, related Grant Decision will be amended and the concerned Member States informed.

**B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/789 as regards measures to prevent the spread within the Union of *Xylella fastidiosa* (Wells et al.).**

The draft Commission Implementing Decision recognises the entire territory of Corsica and Balears as areas under containment. It provides Member States with harmonised diagnostic tests to be applied within and outside the demarcated areas, specific control measures in case of isolated cases where no natural spread occurred, a reduced buffer zone for outbreaks subject to eradication measures. It also provides Member States with the possibility to authorise planting of host plants, preferably those varieties less susceptible to *Xylella fastidiosa*, in some parts of the infected zones subject to containment measures (e.g. Apulia, Corsica and Balears). In addition, it introduces felling exemptions for monumental non-infected trees when located in the clear cut area (100 m) subject to physical isolation, and revised conditions as regards the survey grids applied in the buffer zones surrounding the infected zones. Lastly, three grapevine varieties are de-listed from current movement restrictions in Apulia as proven to be resistant to the Apulia strain of *Xylella fastidiosa*. Stricter requirements are introduced for internal movement of plant species which have been regularly found infected in the EU, such as *Coffea*, *Landula dentata*, *Nerium oleander*, *Olea europea*, *Polygala myrtifolia*, *Prunus dulcis* when grown in areas of the EU free from *Xylella fastidiosa*, as well as for imported plants.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision extending the period of validity of Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/412 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 Canada.**

The extension of the derogation will be limited to one year, in the meantime an audit will take place to assess the effectiveness of the Canadian control system and the correct enforcement of the EU required measures.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision extending the period of validity of Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/179 authorising Member States to provide for a derogation from certain provisions of Council Directive 2000/29/EC in respect of wood packaging material of conifers (Coniferales) in the form of ammunition boxes originating in the United States of America under the control of the United States Department of Defence.**

Following the discussion with the Member States it was agreed to extend the derogation until 2020.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision setting out conditions for movement, storage and processing of fruits of *Citrus* L., *Fortunella* Swingle, *Poncirus* Raf., *Microcitrus* Swingle, *Naringi* Adans., *Swinglea* Merr., and their hybrids originating in third countries..**

The Commission presented the comments provided by stakeholders under the Better Regulation Portal. A discussion followed, where Member States expressed their position on different aspects of the draft. Member States were invited to send written comments. The discussion will continue in a forthcoming meeting of the Committee.