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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 interceptions with harmful organisms by Member States and the need for further action.

The Commission presented an overview of the interceptions from 3 December 2019 to 15 January 2020, highlighting the various interceptions in citrus fruit including the two interceptions of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on citrus fruits from China, the five interceptions of *Elsinoe fawcettii* on citrus fruit, four from Guatemala and one from Egypt and the three interceptions of *Elsinoe australis* in citrus fruit, two from Guatemala and one from Afghanistan.

Regarding planting material the Commission noted the interceptions of Potato spindle tuber viroid in seeds of *Lycium barbarum* from China, Pospiviroid in seeds of *Solanum* sp. from US (origin: CN), *Curculio* in seeds of *Quercus prinoides* from US, Tobamovirus in seeds of *Solanum lycopersicum* from Israel, *Bemisia tabaci* in cuttings of *Begonia* from Brazil and *Ripsiella hibisci* in *Syzygium buxifolium* from China.

In addition, the Commission highlighted the eight interceptions of *Spodoptera frugiperda* (four on maize from Senegal, three on asparagus from Peru, and one on *Capsicum* from Suriname) and the four interceptions of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* two on roses from Kenya and two on peppers, one from Rwanda and one from Nigeria.

Regarding the follow-up to the interceptions, the Commission stressed the decision of Uganda to restrict the export of peppers to the EU until a list of approved establishments has been communicated to the Commission.

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

The Commission presented the overview of the outbreaks notified by the Member States in the period from 5 December 2019 to 13 January 2020.

Spain gave information on the finding of *Xylosandrus compactus* in a tree planted in a private garden.

A.03 EFSA newsletters on horizon scanning of media and literature for new and emerging plant health risks; EPPO monthly reporting service on harmful organisms.

The EFSA media newsletter of January 2020, the EFSA pilot newsletter of December 2019 on the scanning of scientific literature and the EPPO Reporting Service No. 1, of December 2019 have been disseminated to Member States.

A.04 Presentation of EFSA opinion “Pest categorisation of *Saperda tridentata*”.

EFSA presented the outcome of the pest categorisation of *Saperda tridentata*, following a mandate that was sent by the Commission in connection to the inclusion of *Ulmus* wood in Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 on high-risk plants. EFSA explained the reasons for not performing a full risk assessment (step 2, following the pest categorisation). The uncertainties related to the host range of the pest were noted and the need for research to clarify this point was mentioned during the discussion.

A.05 Presentation of EFSA opinion “Commodity risk assessment of *Albizia julibrissin* plants from Israel”.

EFSA presented the scientific opinion on “Commodity Risk Assessment of *Albizia julibrissin* plants from Israel” as part of the assessment of the technical dossier submitted by Israel in the context of Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 on high-risk plants. EFSA identified three pests, two insects, *Aonidiella orientalis* and *Euwallacea fornicates* and one fungus, *Fusarium euwallaceae* that fulfilled all criteria and were selected for further evaluation.

A.06 Evaluation of the 2019 citrus fruit import season and review 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 citrus fruit import season with regard to imported quantities, interceptions, follow-up actions.

Member States expressed concern about the high number of interceptions of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* from Argentina. In view of the upcoming audit to Argentina, it was agreed to decide on the way forward after assessing the audit results. For South Africa it was considered whether an audit should be organised in 2020 or 2021 during which the effectiveness of the CBS management system could be verified. Regarding Tunisia the Commission informed that an audit is planned for November.

Member States expressed concern about the high number of interceptions of *Elsinoe fawcettii* and *Elsinoe australis* from Bangladesh, Uruguay and Guatemala. It was considered whether specific measures should be taken for those countries or if measures should be adopted in the context of the general phytosanitary requirements. The issue will need further analysis and discussion.

A.07 Evaluation of the 2019 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*. Some Member states expressed concern about the high number of interceptions on peppers, citrus and roses.

For peppers there was a general agreement that action needs to be taken. Different proposals were discussed (specific measures, close monitoring, sustained training missions, etc.) The topic will be discussed further in the next meeting.

For citrus, it was agreed that the systems approaches submitted by South Africa, Israel and Zimbabwe will be assessed by EFSA. For South Africa in particular it was considered whether an audit on citrus should be organised in 2020 or 2021.

For roses it was agreed that the Commission and the Member States will continue to monitor closely the situation and to request from the relevant countries proof of improvement.

A.08 Exchange of views of the Committee on amending the Annex to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 establishing a provisional list of high risk plants, plant products or other objects, within the meaning of Article 42 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 and a list of plants for which phytosanitary certificates are not required for introduction into the Union, within the meaning of Article 73 of that Regulation.

The Commission presented potential amendments to the Annex to Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 with regard to wood of *Ulmus* sp. and plants for planting of *Albizia julibrissin* from Israel based on the relevant EFSA scientific opinions. Wood of *Ulmus* sp. and plants for planting of *Albizia julibrissin* from Israel were proposed to be removed from the list of high-risk plants. For plants for planting of *Albizia julibrissin* from Israel the potential removal from the list of high risk plants should be accompanied by specific mitigation measures for the import of these plants into the Union.

Further reflection was requested concerning the need for better risk mitigation of the trade of hard wood.

A Member State requested an amendment of the Annex to Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 in order to exclude pollen from the scope of that Regulation.

Follow-up of the legal and technical aspects of this high risk plant dossier will be scheduled for a following meeting of the Committee.

A.09 Exchange of views of the Committee on measures in respect to certain commodities originating from Israel to prevent the entry into and the spread within the Union territory of certain harmful organisms.

The Commission presented potential measures to be introduced for the introduction into the Union of plants for planting of *Albizia julibrissin* from Israel, which were based on the relevant EFSA opinion.

Some Member States expressed concern regarding the approach to take measures for the identified pests restricted to plants for planting of *Albizia julibrissin* from Israel and proposed to take measures for the identified pests within the content of amending the Annexes of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. The Commission explained that if it is decided that the import ban of plants for planting of *Albizia julibrissin* from Israel should be lifted, then, in order for that specific trade to resume, measures should be put in place for the identified pests to ensure that the relevant risk is kept at an acceptable level. The Commission advised against resuming imports without any measures while waiting for the results of the discussions to amend the annexes of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. The Commission also clarified that *Euwallacea*

fornicates and *Fusarium euwallaceae* are included in the list of pests to be discussed in the Working group for the amendment of the Annexes of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 while for *Aonidiella orientalis*, a mandate will be sent to EFSA to carry out a pest risk assessment.

It was agreed that the Commission clarifies the respective issues and draft measures will be discussed at the next meeting.

A.10 Exchange of views on the revision of the EU emergency measures on *Xylella fastidiosa*.

A third exchange of views with Member States took place on the revision of the current *Xylella* measures laid down under Decision (EU) 2015/789. Discussions focused on survey activities within and outside the demarcated areas, eradication and containment measures, as well as restrictions of movement of susceptible plants within and into the Union. The Commission informed that, based on Member States' comments, a draft legal text repealing the current Decision will be presented for exchange of views and possible opinion at the forthcoming PAFF Committee meeting.

A.11 Exchange of views on the phytosanitary requirements to be put in place to control the spread of Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma under Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

A first discussion took place on the general approach to be followed when legislating the containment measures of the pests included in the list of Annex IIB to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. More specifically, the principles of the control measures to be taken in the areas of the EU where a containment approach is to be followed in relation to Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma were detailed. The Commission requested the Member States to communicate these areas.

A.12 Exchange of views on the use and location of sentinel trees for monitoring for *Anoplophora glabripennis* in demarcated areas.

Postponed.

A.13 Exchange of views on the need for prolongation of Decisions 2003/248/EC and 2003/249/EC authorising Member States to provide for temporary derogations in respect of plants of strawberry (*Fragaria* L.), intended for planting, other than seeds, originating in Argentina and Chile.

The Commission informed that there has been no import of strawberry plants for planting, other than seeds, from Argentina and Chile in the period 2012-2019. The Member States present in the meeting agreed that there is no need to prolong Decisions 2003/248/EC and 2003/249/EC. The Commission will ask the opinion of the Member States that were not present and will inform Argentina and Chile of its intention not to prolong the aforementioned Decisions.

A.14 Exchange of views on the need for prolongation of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1137 on wood packaging material and the link with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2125.

The Commission presented the two legal acts affecting wood packaging material: the emergency Decision based on Directive 2000/29/EC for China and Belarus, and the Delegated Regulation based on the empowerment of article 77.1(d) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on Official Controls.

Member States expressed their preference towards the use of the emergency measures where a list of commodities is indicated from two origins.

The Commission clarified how the requirements under the Official Controls Regulation as regard the wood packaging material monitoring plan could fulfil the need to do risk based controls without any limit for commodities and origins, based on national monitoring plans. A further discussion was planned in order to decide the way forward.

A.15 Exchange of views on a harmonised approach for the acceptance of phytosanitary certificates as related to signatures at import control.

The topic was not discussed in detail as there were no further developments from the previous discussion.

A.16 Outcome of the evaluation procedure of survey programme submitted by Member States for Union financial contribution for 2020: list of the programmes technically approved and final amount allocated to each programme.

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 2020.

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

A.17 Results of the Commission Working Group meeting on the revision of the Annexes to Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072 (AWG II) concerning the specific measures against *Aeolesthes sarta*, *Aleurotrachelus trachoides*, *Bactrocera dorsalis* s.l., *Bactrocera latifrons*, *Bactrocera zonata*, *Ceratothripoides brunneus*, *Ceratothripodes claratris*, *Megaplatypus mutatus*, *Meloidogyne mali*, *Raoiella indica*.

The Commission presented the results of the working group. The outcome of the discussions is documented in a report for each of the pests mentioned in the title of the agenda point, respectively.

The Commission will, on the basis of the reports, prepare a draft with a view to amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 for discussion in the Standing Committee in February.

For some of the pests, no particular risk has been identified for the EU and therefore no additional legal requirements seem to be necessary. Member States are asked to provide, by the date of that meeting, feedback on those pests.

A.18 Exchange of views on the need for prolongation of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/198 as regards measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *actinidiae* Takikawa, Serizawa, Ichikawa, Tsuyumu & Goto.

The Commission presented an overview of the outbreaks of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *actinidiae* as well as the opinion expressed by Member State experts during a Working Group meeting which took place on 6 February 2019. The Commission will organise a Working Group meeting to assess whether *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *actinidiae* qualifies as an RNQP, following which Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2017 might be subject to amendment. To avoid a legal gap, the Commission will prolong the existing emergency measures for a limited period.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on emergency action against a plant pest in the Union and third countries

No item raised.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation concerning types or species of plants for planting for which the exemption referred to in Article 83(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 does not apply and repealing Commission Directive 92/105/EEC

The Commission presented the outcome of the public consultation on the draft, on which the Committee then exchanged its views. It was agreed that the Commission will prepare a revised draft Regulation with a view of its discussion in one of the forthcoming meetings of the Committee.

M.01 Implementation of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 and its implementing acts

1. Plant passports:

a) Distance sales:

Discussion took place as to what extent a plant passport is needed for plants for planting sold on the internet, especially since there are cases where hobbyists exchange their plants for planting for a small amount of money.

The Commission explained that in the Regulation there is no exception foreseen. Article 81 refers to “professional operators involved in sales through distance contracts”. Member States expressed the need to interpret the terms “professional operator” in Article 64 and “distance contracts”.

The Commission highlighted that Article 81 empowers the Commission to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 105 supplementing this Regulation by setting out the cases where, for particular plants, plant products or other objects, the exception shall apply to small quantities.

Some Member States expressed the interest to organise a workshop on distance sales. The Commission noted that distance sales are also affected by the Official Controls Regulation and it might be useful to organise an event together. BTSF will provide the possibility for such events.

Overall, it was agreed that the Commission will look into the different possibilities and will report at a forthcoming Committee meeting.

b) Level of specificity regarding the identity of plants for planting

Discussion took place on what should be introduced after the letter A in the plant passport, based on the fact that the law refers to the “the botanical name of the plant species or taxon concerned”.

It was agreed that species level is preferable, genus or family level should only be acceptable in well justified cases.

c) Moss, herbs – when considered plant for planting and when not

Discussion took place on different uses or different forms of moss, and herbs sold to the final consumer. The following was agreed:

- i. Herbs with roots in a pot are plants for planting (therefore they need a plant passport)
- ii. Epiphytes are plants for planting.
- iii. Moss in growing medium or substrate is a plant for planting.

d) Possibility for multiple origins on a plant passport

Although there is a possibility of introducing multiple origins on a plant passport, this should be avoided as this would result in a loss of transparency and traceability.

e) Movement of plants between professional operators.

Replying to a question of a Member State, the Commission explained that:

- i. If a professional operator moves products that in principle require a Plant Passport from the farm directly to the public market, those products do not require a plant passport.
- ii. If a professional operator moves those products from one premise to another premise both of which under his ownership, those products do not require a plant passport.
- iii. If a professional operator moves those products to the premises of another professional operator then those products have to be accompanied by a plant passport.

f) Colour of EU logo of Plant for Planting

The Commission explained that according to the legislation the flag of the Union on Plant Passport can be “in colour or in black and white”, i.e. coloured as in the template (blue with yellow stars), black with transparent stars, or transparent with black shaped stars.

The Commission highlighted that in certain cases the Member State needs to decide on a case-by-case basis.

2. Phytosanitary certificates (PC):

a) Cases where a PC is needed under the new Regulation

A PC is needed for import of all plants and all living parts of plants as defined in Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031, some specified plant products and

some specified other objects. The complete list is included in Annex XI of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.

Also seeds that were produced before 14 December 2019 and where no PC was needed need one for imports as they are covered by Article 73 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

b) Additional declaration

Discussion took place on the interpretation of the requirement of Article 71(2) regarding the term “full wording”. It was agreed that in those cases the following should be included **as a minimum** under the heading “Additional declaration”:

- i. Reference to the legal basis, e.g. point 61(d) of Annex VII of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.
- ii. The full wording in the sense that the statement of the relevant requirement that is fulfilled, is present. So, no need to include wording that brings no added value to the declaration. Some acceptable examples:
 - “The consignment originates in a country recognised as being free from *Grapholita prunivora* (Walsh) in accordance with the relevant International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures”.
 - “The consignment has been subjected to an effective systems approach to ensure freedom from non-European *Tephritidae* to which those fruits are known to be susceptible”.
- iii. The text should be written in one of the official EU languages (does not necessarily need to be the language of the Member State of arrival).
- iv. No additional declarations are needed concerning RNQPs.