



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Brussels,
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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
SECTION PLANT HEALTH ON
29 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2014**

Chair: Harry Arijs

All Member States were present except Cyprus and Luxembourg. All absent Member States were represented at the moment of the vote. Switzerland was present as observer.

A.1. Miscellaneous.

The Commission provided an overview of the outbreaks of harmful organisms reported by the Member States from 12 July 2014 to 22 September 2014.

Hungary reported the recent interceptions of ware potatoes originating in Poland due to the presence of *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *sepedonicus* (Cms), which were not accompanied by a certificate, issued in accordance with the Polish obligatory certification system for potatoes destined for other Member States, stating that the potatoes have been tested and found free of this harmful organism. The Commission explained that Member States are allowed to introduce additional measures for the movement of ware potatoes, for example introducing requirements that such consignments are accompanied by a Cms freedom certificate, on the basis of Article 12 of Council Directive 93/85/EEC of 4 October 1993 on the control of potato ring rot. Member States introducing such measures need to notify these to the Commission and other Member States.

The Commission reminded the importance of taking part in the survey sent out to all Member States that aims at collecting relevant information to support the activities of the *Annexes Working Group – Section II – Listing of Harmful Organisms*.

A.2. Exchange of views in relation to the interceptions of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* (CBS) in the import of citrus fruit from South Africa during the 2014 season.

An exchange of views took place in relation to the latest developments of the current import season of citrus fruit from South Africa and *Phyllosticta citricarpa*. Commission and Member States will continue monitoring the import of citrus fruit from South Africa. An overall revision will take place once the trade season is finished.

- A.3.** Presentation by the Commission of the report of the Working Group meeting of 30 June 2014 on reduced frequency of inspections, followed by an exchange of views and possible approval of the report.

The Commission presented the report and a proposal for imports under reduced frequency for 2015. The Committee approved the report and the proposal except for a trade of citrus fruits from Uruguay, on which it held a further discussion. Finally, it was agreed to raise the minimum level of physical checks for citrus fruit from Uruguay to 75% as of 15 October 2014. It was also agreed to raise the minimum level to 100% for mangoes from Brazil as of the same date.

- A.4.** Presentation by the Commission of the report of the Working Group meeting of 8-9 September 2014 relating to "Response to emerging risks from import".

The Commission presented the report and its proposal for actions regarding certain third countries with high level of interceptions of harmful organisms. The report focused on 16 third countries with the most worrying level of interceptions. Following to the report, the Commission proposed concrete steps to be taken in case of Bangladesh, Cambodia, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Kenya, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Vietnam. The effects of such actions shall be further analysed in due course. The Committee welcomed the report as well as the initial work done so far by the Working Group in general, and the Commission's concrete proposals. The Commission will make an overview of foreseen actions/measures available to the Member States.

- A.5.** Presentation of the conclusions of the Expert Group meeting on Pine Wood Nematode, San Martin de Trevejo (Spain), 17-18 September 2014.

The Committee was informed that the aim of the meeting in San Martin de Trevejo (Spain) was to discuss future actions to be taken in the Portuguese and the Spanish demarcated areas, present the role of the recently established Commission Task Force, and the experts involved. The Committee was also informed that new scientific developments were presented during the meeting as regards the biology of the vector *Monochamus* and of the Pine Wood Nematode, including recent technology for the detection and scanning of declining trees.

- A.6.** Exchange of views as regards the request from Canada and US concerning changes affecting the trade in forestry products introduced from 1 October 2014 by Commission Implementing Directive 2014/78/EU.

An exchange of views took place of a Canadian and US request to review conditions affecting the trade in forestry products introduced by Commission Implementing Directive 2014/78/EU. The Committee agreed to give further consideration to a technical dossier on an integrated systems approach proposal on the phytosanitary management of ash wood submitted by Canada and review technical information on Canada's designation of Pest free Areas for *Agrilus planipennis*. The Commission will develop a proposal for a derogation from EU requirements regarding the import of ash wood from Canada and the US for consideration at a forthcoming meeting.

- A.7.** Exchange of views as regards a possible review of Commission Decision 2007/365/EC on emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Community of *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Olivier).

The Committee discussed a possible revision of the emergency measures of *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Olivier). Member States will send their comments in order to continue discussions in a forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

- A.8.** Presentation by the Commission of a technical report from the Annexes Working Group concerning possible amendments of the Annexes to Council Directive 2000/29/EC in relation to *Pepino mosaic virus*, followed by a discussion.

Postponed

- A.9.** Presentation by the Commission of a technical report from the Annexes Working Group concerning possible amendments of the Annexes to Council Directive 2000/29/EC in relation to *Potato spindle tuber viroid* and other solanaceous pospiviroids, followed by a discussion.

Postponed

- A.10.** Exchange of views as regards the request for a derogation of point 52 of Annex IV, part A, Section I of the Directive 2000/29/EC for the export to the EU of seed corn originating in U.S.

An exchange of views took place as regards the request of derogation for the export to the EU of seed corn originating in U.S. Several concerns were raised by MS as regards the feasibility of this derogation and the risk posed for the European territory. The Committee agreed to submit further comments in due course.

- A.11.** Presentation by the Commission of the report of an audit carried out in Turkey from 28 January 2014 to 06 February 2014 to evaluate the plant health controls applied in the potato sector, in particular for *Clavibacter michiganensis* ssp. *sepedonicus*, followed by an exchange of views.

Following the presentation by the Commission of an audit carried out to evaluate the plant health controls applied in the potato sector in Turkey, an exchange of views took place over its status with regard to *Clavibacter michiganensis* ssp. *sepedonicus* and continued market access for ware potatoes imported into the EU.

Based on the outcome of the audit, the Committee doubted that Turkey can no longer be considered as free from *Clavibacter michiganensis* ssp. *sepedonicus*. The Committee agreed that import of ware potatoes from Turkey could continue subject to Turkey agreeing to meet a number of conditions that the Commission will communicate to Turkey. The situation will be re-evaluated after three years following the receipt of annual surveillance data.

- B.1.** Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the adoption of a financing decision regarding the Union contribution to a programme for the control of organisms harmful to plants and plant products in the French overseas departments for 2014.

This Decision would establish a Union's financial contribution to cover expenditure incurred by France for plant health programmes set up in the French overseas departments (DOMs) for 2014, covering an inter-DOM sub-programme and 2 sub-programmes, respectively for the departments of Guadeloupe and Martinique.

Vote: favourable opinion

- B.2.** Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision setting out detailed rules for the implementation of Council Directive 2000/29/EC as regards the notification of the presence of harmful organisms and of measures taken or intended to be taken by the Member States.

An exchange of views took place as regards the draft Commission Implementing Decision setting out detailed rules for the implementation of Council Directive 2000/29/EC as regards the notification of the presence of harmful organisms and of measures taken or intended to be taken by the Member States. The main topics of discussion concerned the deadlines for notifications, the conditions for notifications of suspected presence, and technical points of the Annex concerning the content of the notifications. Based on the comments provided by MS, the Commission will present an updated proposal for a possible opinion at a forthcoming meeting.

Vote: postponed

- C.1.** Exchange of views on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2012/535/EU as regards the definition of susceptible wood and requirements on actions to be taken in demarcated areas.

An exchange of views took place as regards the draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning the definition of susceptible wood and requirements on actions to be taken in demarcated areas as part of the Pine Wood Nematode emergency measures. Based on the comments provided by MS, the Commission will present an updated proposal for a possible opinion at a forthcoming meeting.