EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Health and Food Safety Directorate General

sante.ddg2.g.5(2020)5075588

Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed Section *Plant Health* 13 - 14 July 2020

CIRCABC Link: https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/4fd60ae3-d94f-43df-aced-8d6188dbb4dd

SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Evaluation of recent import interceptions with harmful organisms by Member States and the need for further action, including citrus fruit from Argentina and tomato seeds from Israel.

The Commission and the Member States discussed the interceptions for the period between 11 June and 8 July 2020.

As regards imports, the Commission highlighted the relevant interceptions of priority pests: the eleven additional interceptions of Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus on seeds of *Capsicum* and of *Solanum lycopersicum* from Israel; the unprecedented number of forty one interceptions of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on *Citrus limon* from Argentina; the first interception of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on *Citrus limon* from China; the continuing interceptions of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Rosa* and *Capsicum* from Uganda. Member States reiterated their great concern for the very high number of all the abovementioned interceptions.

As regards internal EU trade the Commission referred to the interception of Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV) on seeds of *Solanum lycopersicum* exported from Italy. Italy will provide additional information in the near future.

The Commission informed of Argentina's decision to expand the self-restriction on exports of lemons until the end of the 2020 export season; the commitment of the Argentinian export sector not to direct to EU ports consignments that belong to the establishments involved in the interceptions; and Argentina's commitment to investigate the cause of the interceptions and improve the system. Member States welcomed that course of action, which was the result of pressure from the EU side for action to be taken, and requested that an audit takes place before the beginning of the 2021 export season.

The Commission reminded of the importance that interceptions notified in TRACES include all available information that support the decision (laboratory result, photos of the symptoms) and help the exporting country trace back the consignment (phytosanitary certificate, traceability code, etc.). The Commission also reminded that in case of re-dispatch of consignments that fall under emergency measures, the procedure provided for in Article 72(1) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 must be followed.

The issue of ToBRFV interceptions of Israel had been discussed at the meeting of 2 July and the Commission reminded of the vigilance Member States have to show on seeds that have been certified before 28 May 2020.

The Commission and the Member States discussed the issue of the non-harmonised approach for accepting or rejecting the text included under the heading 'Additional Declaration' of the phytosanitary certificate. Member States reached an agreement as to what should be included in that text and committed to apply it. According to that agreement, the exporting country should:

- a) declare an overarching statement to refer to compliance with a Regulation, its Annex or its Article;
- b) declare the reference to the specific legal basis that is fulfilled;
- c) declare the full wording as it is suggested in the example attached to this letter.

The same approach should be followed for both the relevant requirements under Annex VII and Annex IX of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 and any emergency measures that provide options to the exporting country.

An example of the Committee agreement for citrus fruit is included as an Annex to this report.

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 8 June till 7 July 2020. Hungary gave a presentation on the situation of potato brown rot in their territory and the measures taken.

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 newsletters and the EFSA pilot of scientific literature newsletters of July 2020 and the EPPO Reporting Service No. 6 of 2020 have been disseminated to Member States. The EFSA media newsletter is published at the EFSA Journal and the EPPO Reporting Service can be found at the EPPO website.

A.04 Exchange of views on the follow-up to the results of EFSA's Pest Monitoring Scoring tool for non-regulated pests.

The non-regulated pests identified by the media and literature monitoring performed by EFSA have been screened further with the means of a dedicated tool, the *PeMo (Pest Monitoring) scoring tool*, in order to facilitate the discussion on the need of a pest categorisation. The resulting list of pests has been discussed with the Member States and it was decided to request via a mandate from EFSA to provide pest categorisations for most of the pests included in this list. For the nematodes included in the list, it was found appropriate to wait for the outcome of the ongoing activities of certain Member States prior to making any further decision. Furthermore, as no impact has been observed for *Xylosandrus compactus* and *Xylosandrus crassiusculus* in the areas of the EU where outbreaks exist, it is was chosen not to request pest categorizations. The same conclusion was reached for *Achatina fulica*,

since it was concluded in a previous exchange that it is of concern as an invasive alien species and not as a quarantine pest.

A.05 Exchange of views on the follow-up of the Commission audit results in Uganda.

The Commission informed Member States of the meeting that took place with the NPPO of Uganda to get an update on the actions taken or planned by Uganda against *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*. The Member States welcomed the planned actions but reiterated their great concern about the very high number of interceptions on commodities from Uganda. Nevertheless, they stressed the importance of action to be taken in order to reverse this negative result.

A.06 Exchange of views on the comments from the Better Regulation Portal and from the SPS notification on the draft Commission Implementing Regulation as regards measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of *Xylella*.

The Commission informed that the draft Implementing Regulation on *Xylella* was submitted for one month public feedback on the Better Regulation Portal and for SPS consultation. An overview of the comments received via the Portal was provided. The Committee was also informed that within the deadline no comments were received from the SPS consultation.

A.07 Exchange of views on the situation of *Masucoccus feytaudi* in Italy and other parts of the EU and possible need to regulation.

Italy gave a presentation on the situation of *Matsucoccus feytaudi* in their territory. Increased impact has been observed during the last years in outbreak regions where maritime pines grow outside their natural limits. Italy already has national measures aiming at controlling the outbreaks. France has also shared their experience with the pest during the past decades, where impact has been observed only in part of the areas where the pest is present. Spain and Portugal also shared their experience, whit little impact observed. It was concluded that there is no need for regulation of *Matsucoccus feytaudi* as a quarantine pest since it occurs naturally in maritime forests and impact is observed when hosts are introduced outside their natural growing areas.

A.08 Exchange of views on the update of the technical Annexes of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.

The draft of the first amendment of the Annexes of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 was presented by the Commission. The discussion focused on the potential regulation of new pests and the relevant import requirements, import and internal movement requirements for pests for which containment measures are discussed, clarification on the CN codes included in Annex XI and protected zones pests.

A.09 Exchange of views on containment measures for *Aleurocanthus spiniferus* under Article 28.2 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

Postponed.

A.10 Exchange of views on containment measures for *Ceratocystis platani* under Article 28.2 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The Commission presented the proposed containment measures for *Ceratocystis platani*. Member States were asked to send their written comments and to communicate the containment areas, making the distinction between infected zone and buffer zone, at the level of administrative regions (municipality, province region, etc).

A.11 Exchange of views on containment measures for *Flavescence dorée* under Article 28.2 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The Commission presented and discussed with Member States the containment measure for *Flavescence dorée* phytoplasma. Member States were asked to communicate the containment areas, making the distinction between infected zone and buffer zone, at the level of administrative regions.

A.12 Exchange of views on containment measures for *Popillia japonica* under Article 28.2 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The Commission presented the proposed containment measures for *Popillia japonica*. Member States were asked to send their written comments and to communicate the containment areas, making the distinction between infected zone and buffer zone, at the level of administrative regions (municipality, province region, etc).

A.13 Exchange of views on containment measures for *Toxoptera citricida* under Article 28.2 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

Postponed.

A.14 Exchange of views on the renewal of temporary protected zones on the basis of Member States' surveillance reports from previous years.

The Commission presented an overview of the reports on temporary protected zones received from the relevant Member States (IE, IT, LT, SI and SK) and the UK. Following requests from IT, LT, SI and PT, and the survey results, the delimitation of protected zones for *Erwinia amylovora* and *Gonipterus scutellatus* shall be adjusted. It was agreed to change the status of protected zones in Ireland for *Liriomyza huidobrensis* and *Liriomyza trifolii* from a temporary status to a permanent one, to grant a temporary status to Ireland as a protected zone for *Thaumetopoea pityocampa*, and to prolong the temporary status, as adjusted where relevant. The recognition of temporary protected zones in the UK shall be extended until end 2020, of the others until 30 April 2023.

A.15 Overview of the Member States' 2019 surveys results for potato brown rot (*Ralstonia solanacearum*) and potato ring rot (*Clavibacter sepedonicus*), for the potato cyst nematodes *Globodera pallida* and *Globodera rostochiensis* and for *Epitrix*.

Ring rot and Brown rot

Survey results were received from all Member States and from Switzerland, Turkey, Bosnia Herzegovina and Serbia.

During the last potato growing period ring rot was detected in nine Member States. In Lithuania the situation has improved significantly with no findings in seed and halved ring rot outbreaks in ware potatoes. In six Member States, ring rot incidence remains stable with very low levels of findings in ware potato production. Increased sampling efforts in Poland and Romania revealed double ring rot incidence in seed potatoes and elevated levels of outbreaks in ware.

Brown rot was overall detected in six Member States with somewhat decreased findings in seed potatoes but significantly increased findings and incidence in ware, when compared to the last growing period. This was mainly due to the increased findings of infected lots in both seed and ware potatoes in Hungary. The origin of the twenty identified cases of brown rot, two in seed and 18 in ware potatoes, is not known but they could possibly be attributed to the use of untested farm-saved seed. Four cases of brown rot outbreaks, three in seed and one in ware, were detected in the Netherlands.

Both bacteria occurred simultaneously in Germany, Poland and Spain. Two non-EU consignments were intercepted due to the presence of ring rot in potatoes from Turkey and brown rot in potatoes from Egypt.

Potato cyst nematodes

Survey results were received from all Member States and from Switzerland. Similar trends as in the previous potato growing seasons were observed. Both nematode species were found in 13 Member States whilst Croatia, Hungary, Luxemburg, Malta and Slovenia remain free. Overall, the incidence of potato seed nematode during the last growing period has slightly decreased in both seed and ware potato production.

Potato flea beetles

Survey results received from all Member States confirmed the absence of the pest in their territory, except for Portugal and Spain where measures for the containment of *Epitrix* sp. are in place. Two new demarcated areas were established in Cantabria and Andalucía whilst circa 70% of the total ware potato producing areas in Portugal are infested. No interceptions of potato consignments from Spain or Portugal have been reported.

A.16 State of play on the development of new methodology for simplifying the financial management of plant health under the Single Market Programme - Commission's Joint Research Centre.

The Commission replied to the questions and remarks from Member States, submitted on the Commission's request after the committee meeting of June 2020, on the simplification process of the financial management of future plant health surveys. On the basis of these replies, decisions were taken and explained by the Joint Research Centre of the Commission and DG SANTE. A methodology to calculate a unit cost for contracted activities remains the last open issue.

A.17 Exchange of views on the draft Work Programme for EU co-financing of phytosanitary measures in 2021 under the new Single Market Programme 2021-2027.

The Commission presented the technical part of the draft Phytosanitary Work Programme for 2021 detailing the conditions for EU-cofinancing in the area of surveillance, eradication and containment. The draft Programme also details the list of

pests for which EU co-financing of survey activities is foreseen, as well as relevant priorities. Based on the comments received by Member States, the Commission will present a consolidated draft Programme at the forthcoming Standing Committee.

A.18 Exchange of views of the draft Work Programme of EU Reference Laboratories for Plant Health in 2021-2022.

The Commission presented the draft lists of the pests proposed to be part of the next working program of the five European Reference Laboratories. Members States were asked to send their comments in writing by 15 August.

A.19 Outcome of the EU-US bilateral meeting of the Plant Health Technical Working Group on 14-15 May 2020.

Postponed.

A.20 Phytosanitary readiness and preparedness for the EU-UK trade from 1/1/2021 onwards.

The Commission reminded Member States that the transition period for the EU-UK relations will end on 31 December 2020. From 1 January 2021, the trade of regulated plant material shall be submitted to the same requirements as trade with other European non-EU countries. The current EU import requirements will be fully applicable, the new UK import requirements are not known so far. The status of Nothern Ireland, being part of the UK but remaining under the EU acquis was clarified.

A.21 Update on the Farm to Fork Strategy.

The Committee was informed about the Commission's Communication on "A Farm to Fork Strategy" published on 20 May 2020, its overall goals and the proposed targets for 2030 to ensure a sustainable food production. The presentation also covered the actions foreseen in a number of sectors along the food chain, as well as aspects covering the international dimension, research and innovation, investments, skills and data.

A.22 Exchange of views on possible emergency measures for Meloidogyne graminicola.

The Commission presented a first draft of the text. Until now, *Meloidogyne graminicola* has only been found in Italy on plants for planting of *Oryza sativa* L. For this reason the emergency measures focus on rice plants. An exchange of views on the draft measures took place. The Commission asked to send written comments by mid-August.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible technical 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 technical opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation as regards measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of *Xylella fastidiosa* (Wells *et al.*).

The Commission presented the consolidated draft Implementing Regulation on *Xylella* repealing current Decision (EU) 2015/789. A few aspects of the draft text were clarified. This final version was broadly supported and it was agreed to proceed with the opinion of the Committee by written procedure. The Commission's adoption might take place by the end of August.

C.01 Exchange of views 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 a revised draft text whereby the exemption from a traceability code on the plant passports for consignments ready for the final user (Article 83.2) would not apply to plant species or genera that are subject to control directives, emergency measures or measures under Annex VIII of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072, and which feature in internal market interceptions and/or outbreak notifications. Some Member States expressed their continued concern over the extent of the draft text in terms of a number of plant taxa included, and argued for the delay of the discussion only after the report to the European Parliament and the Council according to Article 79(6) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 will be completed. Others expressed their support for the draft and stressed the importance of the proposed provisions for ensuring the required traceability in cases of an outbreak. The Commission will reflect on the discussion and the opinions expressed.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on a derogation from Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 concerning the introduction into the Union of naturally or artificially dwarfed plants for planting of Chamaecyparis Spach, Juniperus L. and certain species of Pinus L., originating in Japan, and repealing Decision 2002/887/EC.

The Commission presented the draft Regulation and announced that it will finalize the internal procedures, followed by the opinion of the Committee by written procedure.

M.01 Update on dossiers of high-risk plants

The Commission presented an update on the progress of the draft proposals for removing certain plants for planting of *Albizia julibrissin and Robinia pseudoacacia* originating in Israel, *Malus domestica* originating in Serbia and certain *Acer* species originating in New Zealand, from the list of high-risk plants following a scientific opinion by the European Food Safety Authority.

ANNEX

ADDITIONAL DECLARATION AS AGREED AT MEETING OF PAFF OF 13-14 JULY 2020

EXAMPLE OF CITRUS

1. ANNEX VII

1. ANNEX VII					
Point	Plants, plant		Additional Declaration		
	products				
	and other				
	objects				
			The consignment complies with Annex VII of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.		
		(a)	58(a) [NAME OF COUNTRY] is recognised as free of		
			Xanthomonas citri pv. aurantifolii and/or Xanthomonas citri pv. citri.		
		(b)	58(b) the fruits originate in an area [NAME OF AREA] established as free from <i>Xanthomonas citri pv. aurantifolii</i> and/or <i>Xanthomonas citri pv. citri</i> .		
			NB. The name of the pest free area can also be included in the box 'PLACE OF ORIGIN'		
		(c)	58(c) the fruits originate in a place of production established as free from <i>Xanthomonas citri</i> pv. <i>aurantifolii</i> and/or <i>Xanthomonas citri</i> pv. <i>citri</i>		
58	Fruits of Citrus L., Fortunella Swingle, Poncirus Raf., Microcitrus Swingle, Naringi	(d)	58(d) the site of production and the immediate vicinity have been subject to appropriate treatments and cultural practices against <i>Xanthomonas citri</i> pv. <i>aurantifolii</i> and/or <i>Xanthomonas citri</i> pv. <i>citri</i> , and the fruits have been subjected to a treatment with [NAME OF TREATMENT] and official inspections carried out at appropriate times prior to export have shown that the fruits are free from symptoms of <i>Xanthomonas citri</i> pv. <i>aurantifolii</i> (and/or <i>Xanthomonas citri</i> pv. <i>citri</i> .		
	Adans., Swinglea Merr., and their hybrids		 N.B. 1. The name of the post-harvest treatment can also be mentioned under the respective box of the PC. 2. Traceability information can also be put together with the 		
			description of the commodity)		
		(e)	58(e) FRUITS DESTINED FOR INDUSTRIAL PROCESSING:		
			inspections prior to export have shown that the fruits are free from		
			symptoms of Xanthomonas citri pv. aurantifolii and/or Xanthomonas		
			citri pv. citri ,		
			and the site of production and the immediate vicinity have been subject to appropriate treatments and cultural practices against <i>Xanthomonas citri</i> pv. <i>aurantifolii</i> and/or <i>Xanthomonas citri</i> pv. <i>citri</i>		
			Adminomonus curi pv. aurumijom and/or Adminomonus curi pv. curi		

			Traceability information: [INCLUDE HERE]
			N.B. Traceability information can also be put together with the description of the commodity)
59	Fruits of Citrus L., Fortunella Swingle, Poncirus Raf., and their hybrids	(a) (b)	59(a) [NAME OF COUNTRY] is free from <i>Pseudocercospora</i> angolensis. 59(b) the fruits originate in an area [NAME OF AREA] recognised as free from <i>Pseudocercospora</i> angolensis. NB. The name of the pest free area can also be included in the box 'PLACE OF ORIGIN' 59(c) no symptoms of <i>Pseudocercospora</i> angolensis have been observed in the site of production and in its immediate vicinity since the beginning of the last cycle of vegetation, and none of the fruits harvested in the site of production has shown, in appropriate official
60	Fruits of Citrus L., Fortunella Swingle, Poncirus Raf., and their hybrids, other than fruits of Citrus aurantium L. and Citrus latifolia Tanaka	(a) (b)	examination, symptoms of this pest. 60(a) [NAME OF COUNTRY] is free from Phyllosticta citricarpa. 60(b) the fruits originate in an area [NAME OF AREA] established as free from Phyllosticta citricarpa NB. The name of the pest free area can also be included in the box 'PLACE OF ORIGIN' 60(c) the fruits originate in a place of production established as free from Phyllosticta citricarpa and the fruits are found free of symptoms of Phyllosticta citricarpa by official inspection of a representative sample, defined in accordance with international standards 60(d) the fruits originate in a site of production subjected to appropriate treatments and cultural measures against Phyllosticta citricarpa and official inspections have been carried out in the site of production during the growing season since the beginning of the last cycle of vegetation, and no symptoms of Phyllosticta citricarpa have been detected in the fruits, and the harvested fruits from that site of production have been found free of symptoms of Phyllosticta citricarpa during an official inspection prior to export, of a representative sample, defined in accordance with international standards. Traceability information: [INCLUDE HERE] N.B. Traceability information can also be put together with the description of the commodity)
		(e)	60(e) FRUITS DESTINED FOR INDUSTRIAL PROICESSING - the fruits have been found free of symptoms of <i>Phyllosticta citricarpa</i> prior to the export during an official inspection of a

			representative sample, defined in accordance with international standards, and the fruits originate in a site of production subjected to appropriate treatments against <i>Phyllosticta citricarpa</i> carried out at the appropriate time of the year Traceability information: [INCLUDE HERE] N.B. Traceability information can also be put together with the description of the commodity)
		(a)	61(a) [NAME OF COUNTRY] recognised as free from <i>Tephritidae</i> (non-European), to which those fruits are known to be susceptible
		(b)	61(b) the fruits originate in an area [NAME OF AREA] established by the national plant protection organisation in the country of origin as being free from <i>Tephritidae</i> (non-European), to which those fruits are known to be susceptible
	Fruits of		NB. The name of the pest free area can also be included in the box 'PLACE OF ORIGIN'
61	Citrus L., Fortunella Swingle, Poncirus Raf., and their hybrids, Mangifera	(c)	61(c) no signs of <i>Tephritidae</i> (non-European), to which those fruits are known to be susceptible, have been observed at the place of production and in its immediate vicinity since the beginning of the last complete cycle of vegetation, on official inspections carried out at least monthly during the three months prior to harvesting, and none of the fruits harvested at the place of production has shown, in appropriate official examination, signs of the relevant pest
	L. and Prunus L.		Traceability information: [INCLUDE HERE]
			N.B. Traceability information can also be put together with the description of the commodity)
		(d)	61(d) the fruits have been subjected to an effective systems approach/an effective post-harvest treatment with [NAME OF TREATMENT] to ensure freedom from <i>Tephritidae</i> (non-European), to which those fruits are known to be susceptible
			N.B. the name of the post-harvest treatment can also be mentioned under the respective box of the PC.
	Fruits of Capsicum	(a)	62(a) [NAME OF COUNTRY] recognised as being free from <i>Thaumatotibia leucotreta</i>
62	(L.), Citrus L., other than Citrus	(b)	62(b) the fruits originate in an area [NAME OF AREA] established by the national plant protection organisation in the country of origin as being free from <i>Thaumatotibia leucotreta</i>
	limon (L.) Osbeck. and		NB. The name of the pest free area can also be included in the box

Citrus		'PLACE OF ORIGIN'
aurantiifolia	(c)	62(c) the fruits originate in a place of production established as free
(Christm.)		from Thaumatotibia leucotreta and
Swingle,		official inspections have been carried out in the place of production at
Prunus		appropriate times during the growing season, including a visual
persica (L.)		examination on representative samples of fruit, shown to be free from
Batsch and		Thaumatotibia leucotreta
Punica		
granatum L.		Traceability information: [INCLUDE HERE]
		N.B. Traceability information can also be put together with the description of the commodity)
	(d)	62(d) the fruits have been subjected to an effective treatment [NAME OF TREATMENT]/ effective systems approach to ensure freedom from <i>Thaumatotibia leucotreta</i>
		N.B. the name of the post-harvest treatment can also be mentioned under the respective box of the PC.

2. EMERGENCY MEASURES FOR CBS

The consignment complies with points (a), (b), (c), [(d)] of Article [INSERT NUMBER] Commission Decision (EU) 2016/715

URUGUAY/ SOUTH AFRICA

- (a) the specified fruits originate in a field of production which has been subjected to treatments against *Phyllosticta citricarpa* carried out at the appropriate time since the beginning of the last cycle of vegetation;
- (b) an appropriate official inspection has been carried out in the field of production during the growing season, and no symptoms of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* have been detected in the specified fruit since the beginning of the last cycle of vegetation;
- (c) that a sample has been taken along the line between arrival and packaging in the packing facilities of at least 600 fruits of each species per 30 tonnes, or part thereof, selected as much as possible on the basis of any possible symptom of *Phyllosticta citricarpa*, and all sampled fruits showing symptoms have been tested and found free of that harmful organism;
 - in the case of Citrus sinensis (L.) Osbeck 'Valencia', also
- (d) a sample per 30 tonnes, or part thereof, has been tested for latent infection and found free of *Phyllosticta citricarpa*.

ARGENTINA, BRAZIL

- (a) the specified fruits originate in a field of production which has been subjected to treatments against *Phyllosticta citricarpa* carried out at the appropriate time since the beginning of the last cycle of vegetation;
- (b) an appropriate official inspection has been carried out in the field of production during the growing season, and no symptoms of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* have been detected in the specified fruit since the beginning of the last cycle of vegetation;
- (c) a sample has been taken along the line between arrival and packaging in the packing facilities of at least 600 fruits of each species per 30 tonnes, or part thereof, selected as much as possible on the basis of any possible symptom of *Phyllosticta citricarpa*, and all sampled fruits showing symptoms have been tested and found free of that harmful organism.