



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

sante.ddg2.g.5(2018)3275547

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 23 MAY 2018
(Section *Plant Health*)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/8907baec-8d94-4af6-8395-d4de2095fd3b>

A.01 Evaluation of recent import interceptions with harmful organisms by Member States and the need for further actions, including the recent finding of *Xylella* in plants of *Polygala myrtifolia* in a nursery.

The Commission presented an overview of the interceptions from 19 April to 16 May 2018. The Commission highlighted the three interceptions of *Xylella fastidiosa* on frozen raspberry (*Rubus* spp.) root material from areas declared pest free by the US, three interceptions of citrus fruit including one for citrus canker and one for false codling moth, the continuing interceptions of cut roses for false codling moth mainly from Tanzania and Kenya, the interceptions for fruit flies, *Bemisia tabaci*, thrips and leafminers, the interceptions for *Spodoptera* sp. and the continuing interceptions of wood packaging material all of which were marked compatible to ISPM15 standard.

A Member State presented the issue of the new interceptions of peppers and chillies for *Bactericera cockerelli*. The Commission proposed to investigate the possibility of considering specific import requirements.

The Committee discussed the first detection of *Xylella fastidiosa* in trade on *Polygala myrtifolia* in a nursery of Almeria (Spain). Member States expressed views about possible restrictions to be introduced in Decision (EU) 2015/789 to prevent further risk of *Xylella* spreading via *Polygala* plants. The Commission asked Spain to present more details about this finding and its possible origin at the June PAFF Committee. Based on Member States' views, the Commission will reflect about the need of further trade restrictions to be introduced for this specific host plant.

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

A brief overview of the outbreaks notified by Member States for the period of 20 April to 15 May 2018 was presented by the Commission. About a third of these notifications concerned outbreak notifications of harmful organisms that have been successfully eradicated.

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

EFSA presented the fourteenth pilot edition of the newsletter. Highlights from the media were reported mainly on *Agrilus planipennis*, *Spodoptera frugiperda* and *Xylella fastidiosa*. For the harmful organisms not listed in the EU legislation, there was a report from the media on the apple disease caused by *Paecilomyces niveus* which might be of concern for food scientists and gives similar symptoms with other apple fungal diseases. The first finding of *Pterochoiroides persicae* in an area of India where many fruit trees grow has been mentioned in the media. The pest is also present in the EU.

A.04 Exchange of views on the implementation of the certification system of ash wood under Annex IV of Council Directive 2000/29/EC and of the US ash wood derogation.

The Commission provided updated information on the action plan presented by the US Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). With the last information available, all the shortcomings related to the system approach derogation for ash wood seem to be addressed. However there was a general agreement on the need for a follow-up audit.

The Commission presented a suggestion on how to improve the wording of the current derogation, in view of a possible extension. Streamlined rules on the role of APHIS in the whole production system will help with the implementation of the measures and will address the points highlighted by the auditors for improvement.

Other shortcomings of the audit, related to the general certification system under the rules of Annex IV of Directive 2000/29/EC and a possible modification of the requirements for ash wood export (outside the derogation) will be further discussed during the next PAFF meeting.

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 introduction into and the spread within the Union of *Xylella fastidiosa* (Wells et al.).

The Commission presented a draft Decision extending the current demarcated area in Apulia (Italy) by around 20 km towards the north of the region to address the recent developments of *Xylella fastidiosa* and the risk of its further spread. The draft Decision was endorsed by the qualified majority of Member States.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2013/92/EU on the supervision, plant health checks and measures to be taken on wood packaging material actually in use in the transport of specified commodities originating in China.

The Commission presented a draft Implementing Decision on import controls on wood packaging material, highlighting the new elements that will amend the current rules in force until the 31st of July 2018. The suggested approach will be to regulate more commodities than the current ones from other origins beside China. Member States actively contributed to the discussion in defining the critical points of phytosanitary checks of this material and suggested possible options and improvements of the text.

The Commission will consolidate the above mentioned suggestions and comments in a new draft, for a possible vote in July.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down rules on uniform practical arrangements for the performance of official controls for internal movement.

The Commission presented a draft implementing act to be adopted under the empowerment of article 22 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on the official controls of the food chain.

Member States provided their suggestions setting a minimum number of official controls on operators authorized to issue plant passports, on operators authorized to issue the wood packaging material mark and finally on plants, plant products and other objects from a demarcated area or a buffer zone.

The Commission will consolidate the above mentioned suggestions and comments in an updated draft to be presented in July for a possible vote.