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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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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 non-compliances notified by Member States and the actions taken.

The Commission presented an overview of non-compliances between 24 June and 28 August 2024. Amongst the non-compliances in non-EU trade, the Commission highlighted the ones due to (i) Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus on tomato and pepper seeds from Chile, China, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Israel, Mexico, Peru, Tanzania, Thailand and Türkiye; (ii) *Spodoptera frugiperda* on *Eryngium* from Zimbabwe, on *Asparagus officinalis* from Peru and Ecuador, on *Solanum aethiopicum* from Senegal and on *Aloe vera* from Guatemala; (iii) *Thaumatococcus leucocotretus* on roses from Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia, on peppers and oranges from South Africa, and on lemons and blueberries from Zimbabwe; (iv) *Bactrocera dorsalis* on *Annona muricata* from Sri Lanka, and on mangoes from Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Senegal and Uganda; (v) *Bactrocera zonata* on mangoes from Israel; (vi) *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on mandarins from South Africa, on *grapefruits* from Eswatini and South Africa, on oranges from South Africa, Uruguay and Zimbabwe, on lemons from Argentina and South Africa. The Commission also presented an update on audits and on the follow-up actions to the non-compliances.

The Committee agreed to continue with the procedure of follow-up actions by means of written communication and meetings and to monitor closely the evolution of those non-compliances.

A.02 Evaluation of recent outbreaks of pests notified by Member States and the control actions taken, including in particular on *Anoplophora* sp. in Italy.

Italy, Germany, Slovenia and Switzerland presented the outbreaks of *Popillia japonica* in their respective territories. Several specimens were found during surveys and most were caught in traps around highways, orchards, airports and nurseries. Most outbreaks are considered as isolated incursions and measures are in place when necessary. Regarding *Anoplophora glabripennis*, Italy presented the outbreaks in Lombardia and Marche regions, while the outbreaks in Lombardy seem to be under control and measures are in place, more actions and further efforts are being done and planned to control/eradicate the outbreaks in Marche. The Commission asked Italy to provide detailed action plan for the felling operations and the other measures taken in Marche

and will continue to monitor the situation closely, including bilaterally with Italy. France also explained that the outbreak in Gien has been under intense survey since 2016, and no pest has been found since 2020. However, French authorities found several trees infested in 2024 and measures are in place to eradicate the outbreak.

Ireland presented the current situation regarding *Erwinia amylovora* where many outbreaks were detected in 2024, in all counties. In 2022, Ireland only had 6 outbreaks in its entire territory. Impacts are variable, sometimes with no visible symptoms and sometimes with a lot of damage. Irish authorities will, after completion of the 2024 surveys, submit an overview document for the forthcoming Committee meeting.

Cyprus presented an outbreak of *Dacus ciliatus* where the presence of the fruit fly was confirmed via laboratory analysis. Adults were found in traps, and larvae in fruits in a specific field and private gardens around. Several main hosts are located within infested areas. Measures are in place and surveys are ongoing.

A.03 EFSA newsletter on horizon scanning for new pests; EPPO monthly reporting service on pests.

The Commission presented highlights from EFSA's newsletter on horizon scanning, issues of July, August and September 2024, and EPPO's reporting service of July and August 2024.

A.04 Exchange of views on the revision of the measures against *Ralstonia solanacearum* on ware potatoes from Egypt (Implementing Decision 2011/787/EU).

The Commission presented a revised draft Regulation, based on the written comments Member States have provided after the Committee meeting of July. Member States were invited to provide, by 26 September, written proposals on the provisions which still need a clarification.

A.05 Exchange of views on the renewal of the measures to prevent the introduction into and spread within the Union of *Aromia bungii* (Decision (EU) 2018/1503).

The Committee discussed the update of the existing measure which will include the relevant import and internal movement requirements in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 and will revise the eradication/containment requirements. The revision takes into account the experience built during the recent years in the EU, as well as the relevant recent EFSA and other scientific outputs. Deadline for written comments is 20 September 2024.

A.06 Exchange of views on the revision of the structure of the measures to prevent the presence of RNQPs on specific plants for planting of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 - Annex V.

The Commission explained the need to revise the format of Annex V of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 in view of the upcoming amendment of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 that will require that third countries include information regarding RNQPs in the phytosanitary certificate.

The Commission presented a non-paper with some examples of the changes that will be needed and informed the Committee that a working group will be organised to go through Annex V, before presenting a revised version to the Committee.

A.07 Exchange of views on a draft EURL work programme for 2025-2026.

The directors of the five EURLs in Plant Health presented their draft work programs for 2025-2027 (and not just for the next 2 years as indicated in the title). Discussions were held on activities and lists of the pests proposed. No issues were raised.

A.08 Overview of the 2023 survey results for the presence of *Anoplophora* sp and *Aromia bungii*.

The Commission presented an overview of the 2023 survey results for the long-horn beetles in EU. Increase in the efforts (visual examination, trapping and sampling) can be noted comparing to previous years. The Committee also took stock of the recent developments with the outbreaks management and the new findings during last year.

A.09 Overview report by the Commission on Member States contingency plans for priority pests.

Instead of the contingency plans for priority pests (as announced in the title) the Commission presented the results of the desk study on the Member States multiannual pest survey programmes. While significant progress should be noted, certain programmes are still to be completed or further detailed. The Commission will start audit series on contingency planning and surveillance this year and the project will be continued in 2025.

A.10 Information on import-export issues between the EU and UK(GB).

No issues raised.

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

No issues raised.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1194 establishing measures to eradicate and prevent the spread of *Clavibacter sepedonicus* (Spieckermann & Kotthoff 1914) Nouioui *et al.* 2018, concerning the responsibilities of professional operators for certain measures and the content of the template to report survey results.

The Commission presented a revised draft Implementing Regulation to the Committee. The revision concerned an amendment as regards the responsibility and the role of the professional operator in ensuring that the infected specified plants are destroyed or are otherwise disposed of in another way. Also the amendments made to the template for report of survey results were presented.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1193 establishing measures to eradicate and prevent the spread of *Ralstonia solanacearum* (Smith 1896) Yabuuchi *et al.* 1996 emend. Safni *et al.* 2014.

The Commission presented a revised draft Implementing Regulation to the Committee.

The revision concerned an amendment as regards the responsibility of the role of the professional operator in ensuring that the infected specified plants are destroyed or are otherwise disposed of in another way. Also the amendments made as regards the elements to be taken into account for considering water 'infected' and to related eradication measures on water were presented, as well as the conditions for using water for irrigation.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1201 as regards measures to prevent the introduction into and spread within the Union of *Xylella fastidiosa* (Wells et al.).

The Commission presented an overview of the comments received from trading partners following the WTO-SPS consultation and from the public consultation (Have your say).

The Commission explained that, following the comments received, the revised draft includes a deferred entry into force for the plants that have been added under the scope of Articles 25(2), 28(d), 29(e) of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1201 and the need of these plants to require a traceability code pursuant to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1770.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation establishing a derogation from Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 as regards the requirements for the introduction into the Union territory of naturally or artificially dwarfed plants for planting of *Chamaecyparis* Spach, *Juniperus* L. and certain species of *Pinus* L., originating in Japan, and repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1217

The Commission presented the draft text and the Committee discussed certain issues including links with the Official Controls Regulation, recent developments with the pests of concern, updates of the lists of authorised nurseries and the deadlines. The Commission will revise the text and will present it for a vote at one of the next Committee meetings.

Deadline for further written comments: 20 September 2024.

Vote Postponed

B.06 Exchange of views and possible technical opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation establishing measures to prevent the establishment and spread within the Union territory of *Bactrocera dorsalis* (Hendel), *Bactrocera latifrons* (Hendel) and *Bactrocera zonata* (Saunders).

The Commission presented the most recent draft Regulation, while some outstanding legal formulations remain under revision. As soon as the draft is finalised, it will be shared with Member States for further commenting in writing within two weeks.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.07 Exchange of views and possible technical opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annexes IV, V, XI and XIII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 as regards the listing of Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV) as regulated non-quarantine pest and the respective measures to prevent its presence, and repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1032.

Member States have provided written comments on the draft text proposed during the Committee of July. The Commission presented a revised draft Implementing Regulation. Member States were invited to provide their final position on the scope proposed in the draft text by 18 September.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

M.01 Length of peduncles on citrus fruits.

A Member State informed the Committee about a complaint from Egypt regarding rejections of consignments of citrus fruits because the length of the peduncles was more than 2 mm. The Commission reminded Member States that in accordance with point 57 of Annex VII of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072, the citrus fruits must be free from peduncles. It also reminded that at the meeting of the Committee of March 2015 the Committee agreed that a peduncle up to 2 mm may be tolerated.

Member States also discussed on the actions following the detection of the non-compliance. Re-export, or cutting the peduncles were the practices shared.

M.02 Method of detection for *Elsinoë fawcettii*, *Elsinoë australis* and *Elsinoë citricola*.

The Committee discussed the detection of the three regulated species of *Elsinoë*: *E. fawcettii*, *E. australis* and *E. citricola*. A Member State informed the Committee that the Elliott *et al.* method was not to be used in the future, as *Elsinoë* species other than the three regulated ones were isolated from samples of citrus fruits. Discussion took place as to the development and use of species-specific methods, the current work of the European Reference laboratory to the optimization and validation of the Ahmed *et al.* method and the possible application of derogations from accredited methods according to Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on official controls, as provided for in Articles 34, 40, 41 and 42.

M.03 *Metamasius hemipterus* in fruits of *Ananas comosus* (pineapples).

A Member State informed about a detection of *Metamasius hemipterus* in pineapples. Pineapples are amongst the 5 commodities that are not regulated at EU level, in accordance with Part C of Annex XI of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. In addition, *Metamasius hemipterus* is listed as an A1 pest according to the ranking of the European Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO). Although its hosts are plants for planting, it was found in fruits. The Commission took note of the finding, but also reminded that all pests listed as A1/A2 under EPPO, have undergone an analysis and decision-making process as to which ones would be regulated and had reached agreement on the 5 fruit commodities that satisfy the criteria for not regulating them.

