



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 19 DECEMBER 2016 - 20 DECEMBER 2016
(Section Plant Health)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/e8cb0455-0dba-4c44-93af-76d31ec39b7a>

A.01 Evaluation of new outbreaks of harmful organisms notified by Member States and of the control actions taken.

An overview of the outbreak notifications from 11 November to 8 December 2016 was given by the Commission. An extended discussion followed on the situation of *Thrips setosus* in the EU and the regulated potato harmful organisms.

Spain presented the recent developments of *Xylella fastidiosa* in the island of Mallorca. More particularly, the Committee was informed that the presence of *Xylella fastidiosa* has recently also been found on four plants of *Polygala myrtifolia* located in the same garden centre where the first finding was reported. Investigations are ongoing to confirm the subspecies concerned and the possible origin of the infection. Strict control measures are in place in accordance with Decision (EU) 2015/789.

A.02 Follow-up discussion of outbreak evaluation on actions regarding *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *poinsettiae*, *Puccinia hemerocallidis*, *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 1, and *Scrobipalopsis solanivora*.

A brief discussion took place on the outbreaks of the harmful organisms mentioned above. The exchange of views will continue in the next Committee meeting with the aim to decide on the need of future legislative actions to be taken.

A.03 Evaluation of new import interceptions with harmful organisms by Member States and the need for further actions.

A brief overview was given of the interceptions with harmful organisms reported from 14 November to 12 December 2016. In relation to commodities originating in non-EU countries, the interception of PSTVd on pepper seeds from US and the citrus related interceptions were analysed in detail. Other notifications highlighted were the

Murraya leaves from India found infested with *Bemisia tabaci* and the interception of *Xiphinema californicum* on bamboo from USA.

A.04 Presentation by Spain of the pest risk analysis for the Ambrosia beetle *Euwallacea* sp.

A discussion followed the presentation of the risk these harmful organisms pose for the EU, together with the pathways of introduction. Spain will complete the pest risk analysis and subsequently a detailed discussion on future regulation will continue at the relevant working group on the basis of the Spanish pest risk analysis with the objective of a possible listing as a regulated harmful organism in Directive 2000/29/EC.

A.05 Exchange of views on the follow-up to the Scientific Opinion of the EFSA Panel on Plant Health regarding the susceptibility of *Citrus* sp., *Quercus ilex* and *Vitis* sp. to *Xylella fastidiosa* - strain CoDiRo.

The Committee discussed the susceptibility of *Vitis* sp., *Quercus ilex* and *Citrus* sp. to the Apulian strain of *Xylella* and the possibility of revising the movement restrictions in place for preventing further spread of the Apulian strain of *Xylella fastidiosa* to the rest of the Union territory. Based on the EFSA opinion and current knowledge, the Committee believed that it is still premature to exclude the potential risk for the plant species concerned. However, the Committee was invited to take a position at the forthcoming Standing Committee meeting concerning the possibility of exempting at least the tested varieties of *Vitis vinifera* (Cabernet Sauvigno, Negroamaro and Primitivo) for which both the absence of systemic infections upon mechanical and insect-mediated inoculation and the failure to detect infected grapevines in the infected zone of Apulia provide sufficient demonstration that the varieties concerned do not support a systemic infection by the Apulian strain of *Xylella fastidiosa*.

A.06 Exchange of views on the recommendations of the Commission working group meetings concerning the listing of harmful organisms of Annex II A II to Directive 2000/29/EC.

The Commission presented the recommendations of the II A II Working Group on (1) *Dothistroma septosporum* (Dorog.) M. Morelet (*Mycosphaerella pini* E. Rostrup, syn *Scirrhia pini*), (2) *Scirrhia pini* *Scirrhia acicola* (preferred scientific name *Mycosphaerella dearnessii*), (3) *Liriomyza huidobrensis* (Branchard) and *Liriomyza trifolii* (Burgess), and (4) *Plasmopara halstedii* (Farlow) Berlese & de Toni. The Committee concluded that the organisms concerned do no longer qualify for a quarantine status and supported including them in the "EU Quality Pests Project" to assess the feasibility of a Regulated Non-Quarantine status and, if this is not feasible, proceed with the de-regulation as a Union quarantine pest as part of the new plant health legislation.

A.07 Presentation by the Commission of the conclusions of the meeting of the EU-US Technical Working Group for Plant Health on 28-29 September 2016.

An overview was given of the state of play on ongoing EU-US phytosanitary dossiers on import. This related to the *Xylella fastidiosa*, wood packaging material for military ammunition, the hardwood derogation, ash wood imports and the import requirements for corn seed. The upcoming amendment of the annexes of the Directive 2000/29/EC was mentioned including the revision of the import requirements for citrus canker and citrus black spot.

A.08 Exchange of views on the need for a review of the specified requirements in Annex IV.A.II of Directive 2000/29/EC related to certified fruit plants.

An exchange of view took place in relation to different options to move forward on the above mentioned subject. While several Member States were in favour to continue the exercise of the revision of the requirements of Annex IV.A.II in order to have as soon as possible a harmonized certification scheme at EU level, other Member States preferred to postpone this exercise until the adoption of new rules under the new Plant Health Regulation (EU) 2016/2031. The specific requirements against the Plum Pox Virus, the phytoplasmas and *Erwinia amylovora* were identified as due for further revision. The Commission concluded that it will schedule follow-up discussions on the identified items in a forthcoming Committee meeting.

A.09 Principles and criteria on which is based the reaction of the Commission in case of unsatisfactory implementation of survey programmes co-financed under Article 19 of Regulation EC No 652/2014 (working document SANTE/11991/2016).

The Commission presented a document which lists and clarifies the principles and criteria on which the Commission bases its evaluation of the results of the implementation of EU co-funded survey programmes and the consequence in cases of unsatisfactory implementation of survey programmes. Comments from Member States were recorded and the Commission informed the Member States that additional comments concerning the working document would be accepted till Friday 23 December. A reviewed version of the document will be presented to the Committee during a forthcoming meeting.

A.10 Exchange of views on the follow-up to Commission Implementing Decision 2013/92/EU in relation to wood packaging material from China after 31 March 2017.

Member States clarified their positions concerning a possible prolongation of Decision 2013/92/EU and the continuing deterioration of non-compliant Chinese wood packaging material arriving to the EU. The Committee concluded that continued regulation of Chinese wood packaging material is needed.

A.11 Exchange of views in view of a possible agreement of the Committee as regards the Polish proposal to modify the principles of the Polish protocol for issuing certificates which confirm the ring rot-free status of Polish potatoes moving to other Member States.

There was a general consensus by Member States for the new Polish proposals that would see the sourcing of potatoes from approved pest free places of production by the national competent authorities and identified on the basis of the International Standard ISPM 10. Agreement was also reached to limit the standard sample size to 200 potatoes and to remove the obligation of sealed potato containers prior to shipment. However more information was sought from Poland on the percentage of samples that would be taken for early potatoes and to propose measures to avoid uncontrolled trade of Polish potatoes to other Member States.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision authorising Member States to provide for a temporary derogation from certain provisions of Directive 2000/29/EC in respect of ash wood originating or processed in the United States of America.

The Commission presented a draft Decision for the adoption of a systems approach and replacing the present pest free area recognition for Emerald ash borer that lately saw an expansion of its range to new territories in the United States of America. There was a general agreement in the Committee that the new system would offer enhanced phytosanitary guarantees to the EU and that the pest-free areas should be repealed as they had proven not to be stable. The Committee showed a favourable opinion but also requested that an audit be carried out by the Commission in 2017 to assess and oversee the various processes involved in the USA. The Committee voted in favour of a provisional recognition of the US systems approach until June 2018 and insisted that prolongation would only be considered on condition that this systems approach would previously be audited by the Commission.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision as regards measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *actinidiae* Takikawa, Serizawa, Ichikawa, Tsuyumu & Goto.

This Decision would follow up on Decision 2012/756/EU, which expired on 31 March 2016. It contains measures similar to those in Decision 2012/756, only slightly amended, namely to allow alternative options in buffer zones surrounding free places of production of kiwi plants.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.