



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 21 SEPTEMBER 2017 - 22 SEPTEMBER 2017
(Section *Plant Health*)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/15b12a48-45fe-4252-870e-7a4831b1045c>

A.01 Evaluation of recent 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 and the follow-up carried out by the Commission from 5 July to 12 September 2017. The 7 interceptions of citrus black spot (2 from Argentina, 4 from South Africa and 1 from Uruguay) were highlighted together with the 4 interceptions of false codling moth on citrus fruits from South Africa. A significant number of interceptions of fruit flies on mangoes from different origins were notified. A follow-up will be needed for the interceptions on mangoes originating from Senegal.

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

An overview of the outbreaks was presented by the Commission. The state of play of the outbreak of *Pomacea* sp. in Spain was discussed. Furthermore, the Netherlands provided information on the outbreak of *Viteus vitifoliae*. As a result of this finding, the surveillance practices were revised to include inspections to the root system of the plants. Portugal gave an overview of the outbreak of *Meloidogyne luci*, a non-regulated organism, found in a potato field, and Italy gave information on the outbreak of *Pantoea stewartii* in a maize field.

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

EFSA presented the fifth and sixth pilot newsletters which were the outcome of a horizon scanning of the media. Highlights were presented on *Adelges tsugae*, *Agrius planipennis*, Citrus greening disease, Maize Lethal Necrosis, Maize Yellow Mosaic Virus, *Nipponaclerda biwakoensis*, *Popillia japonica*, *Spodoptera frugiperda* and *Xylella fastidiosa*. Of particular interest were the articles related to new control measures for a number of EU regulated harmful organisms that are currently under development or under field trial in non-EU countries.

A.04 Update by Italy, France, Spain and Germany on the situation and official controls for *Xylella fastidiosa*.

Spain informed that 45 plants of almond have been found infected by *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* in Alicante (Valencia). The area has been demarcated in accordance with Decision (EU) 2015/789 with movement restrictions in place. Eradication measures are currently being taken, with insecticide treatments applied and all almond plants located in the infected zone, irrespective of the health status, being removed by priority. Other *multiplex* host plants located in the infected zone have been tested for the presence of *X. fastidiosa* with negative results, although not yet removed, as required by EU emergency measures. In Balears, the ban on movement out of the islands of specified plants remains in place with official controls carried out at the airport and ferry ports. The number of positive cases and new plant species on the islands increases as investigation progresses. Additional findings of *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *fastidiosa* have been reported on *Vitis*.

France informed that *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* has been detected so far in 25 outbreaks in PACA and 349 in Corsica, while *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *pauca* only in an outbreak in Menton (PACA). 35 plant species have been detected so far as infected. Controls on movement of specified plants out of Corsica and PACA are currently being stepped up as requested by the last Commission's audit recommendation. The survey in the buffer zones of the outbreak areas in PACA is ongoing. The clear cut in PACA has been carried out in the majority of the outbreaks, although many non-infected plants still remain to be removed in some outbreaks.

Italy informed that 113 infected olive trees located in the last 20 km infected zone, adjacent to the buffer zone, remain not yet felled as affected by six different administrative appeals to the Regional Court of Apulia. 19 infected olive plants also located in the last 20 km infected zone, have not been felled as being monumental trees, while 50 infected live trees will soon be removed. Italy also informed that two new infected plants have been recently detected in the buffer zone, in the proximity of an area densely populated by monumental olive trees. The survey in the buffer zone is being finalised, while it recently started in the last 20 km infected zone.

Germany informed that all plants located in the small nursery of the isolated finding detected in Saxony have been destroyed. Surveys in the buffer zone are being finalised, with no further positive cases. Movement restrictions out of the demarcated area remain in place.

A.05 Outcome of the online survey on Chinese wood packaging material and exchange of views on the next steps.

A preliminary overview of the results of the online survey launched in May and closed on 30 June 2017 was provided.

Data on the annual reports provided by Member States under Decision 2013/92/EU were briefly discussed. Interceptions of the 8 regulated commodities, referred to the period April 2016- March 2017, were summarized and presented by the Commission.

Information was given about a meeting with a high-level AQSIQ (Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China) delegation held in Brussels on 1st September 2017.

Some Member States expressed their support to take more durable measures towards WPM from China. Other Member States informed about new alternatives to WPM that are currently used by some operators.

A.06 Results of the Working Group meeting on reduced frequency of import inspections, followed by an exchange of views and possible approval of the minimum reduced frequencies for 2018.

Postponed.

A.07 Exchange of views on the EU risk management measures against *Spodoptera frugiperda*.

Postponed.

A.08 Conclusions of the audit carried out in Poland from 28 February to 9 March 2017 to evaluate the plant health controls in the potato sector.

The Committee was informed that the controls and measures applied in the potato sector against *Clavibacter michiganensis* spp. *sepedonicus* (Cms) and *Ralstonia solanacearum* (Rs) are in most cases in line with those required by the Polish certification requirements and meet the minimum requirements of the EU Directives. The overall situation of Cms has slightly improved since 2014. In the case of Rs outbreaks on potato, adequate measures have been taken to eradicate the disease (also for recent outbreaks on Rosa). Considerable efforts have been made to promote the use of certified seeds or tested material by both registered and non-registered farmers in view to suppress ring rot.

However, some shortcomings remain in the organisation of the controls. The surveillance is largely seed-potato oriented and focuses on large-scale registered professional producers. Thus a considerable part of the small-scale producers is not registered and consequently not subject to systematic supervision and controls, hence the average Cms potato contamination is more than double than for registered producers. Although sanctions are imposed by Polish Authorities for movements without the necessary certificate, they do not seem dissuasive enough. Uncertified movements also concerned registered producers and some of them related to trade with other Member States.

Poland explained the two-step strategy adopted to control Cms and Rs. Firstly, it consists in a general use of certified seeds or tested material, a step that has almost been achieved. Secondly, the reduction of Cms and Rs is currently targeting the large scale registered producers selling their production on the EU market.

A.09 Certification of and controls on Polish potatoes moving into other Member States.

Poland summarized the Polish proposal for new rules governing the certification of Polish potatoes in the EU. The 3-year control of the occurrence of bacteria in the place of production was clarified, as well as the percentage of the controlled production. The new rules were recently adopted and Poland underlined that it is too early to evaluate their impact. Poland informed the Committee that the results of the road controls are provided every 6 months to the Commission. Poland was requested to submit additional information to allow the completion of the revision of the Polish Cms control system.

A.10 Conclusions of the audit carried out in Ghana from 12 to 21 September 2017 to evaluate the system of official controls for export of plants and plant products to the EU.

The audit carried out in Ghana revealed that a number of recommendations of the previous audit have been addressed. However, some shortcomings remain in the organisation of the controls and the import requirements for plants for planting. Decision (EU) 2015/1849 restricts the import of certain commodities originating in Ghana until the end of 2017. The Committee concluded that further analysis of the situation is needed before deciding on a possible prolongation of the EU emergency measures during a forthcoming Committee meeting.

A.11 Measures to prevent the spread of *Corythucha arcuata* on *Quercus* in Croatia.

An overview of the situation of the oak disease caused by *Corythucha arcuata* in Croatia was given by a Croatian expert.

The state of play of the disease and the measures taken by Croatia on 2 June 2017 were discussed. Information was given in relation to the concerns expressed by the European wood business operators whose trade is being affected by those measures.

The Committee concluded that an updated Pest Risk Assessment for this disease is needed. Further discussion will take place in order to monitor the situation of oak logs trade in the EU.

A.12 State of play on electronic certification in the plant health sector.

Postponed.

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

The Commission presented the draft Decision amending numerous elements of the current emergency measures against *Xylella fastidiosa*. Due to several last minute changes requested by Member States and diverging views on some elements of the Decision, the text was finally not presented for vote. The Commission informed that some legal redrafting was needed, together with internal consultation on some changes proposed by Member States. A consolidated draft Decision will be presented for exchange of views and possible vote at the PAFF Committee of 18 and 19 October 2017.

Overall, the Committee reached an agreement, subject to further legal re-drafting, on the following points: granting containment to Corsica and Baleares; harmonisation of diagnostic procedures within and outside the demarcated areas; reduced buffer zone (5 km) for outbreaks under eradication, while keeping 10 km for outbreaks under containment; specific conditions for the establishment and earlier lifting of demarcated areas in case of isolated outbreaks; providing Member States with the possibility of granting authorisations of planting host plants within the areas under containment (e.g. Apulia, Corsica and Baleares), but outside the last 20 km adjacent to the buffer zone (applicable in Apulia), while giving preference to tolerant/resistant varieties; derogation from preventing felling of non-infected monumental trees when located in the clear cut area (100 m); non-application of the concept of the last 20 km strip of the infected zone adjacent to the buffer zone, as in Apulia, in case of islands as in Corsica and Baleares; de-listing of some grapevine varieties tested to the Apulian strain from the movement restrictions applied in the demarcated area of Apulia.

No consensus was achieved on the movement requirements of plants more susceptible to *Xylella* when grown in non-infected areas of the Union territory and non-EU countries, as well as the appropriate time for carrying out surveys in the demarcated areas, while further consultation is still needed as regards further specifications about the timing for the removal of plants subject to eradication or containment measures.

Vote Postponed

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Directive amending Annex IV to Council Directive 2000/29/EC as regards the movement of seeds of *Solanum tuberosum* L. originating in the Union.

The draft Commission Implementing Directive provides for special requirements concerning the movement in EU of true seeds of potatoes originating in the EU. The new provisions require, firstly, that the seeds derive from plants complying with the requirements set out in points regulating movement of tubers of *Solanum tuberosum* intended for planting, as applicable. Secondly, the provisions set either that the specified seeds should originate in areas known to be free from relevant potato pests, or that the production site should be subject to specific hygiene and phytosanitary requirements ensuring that the site is pest free.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.