



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 17 SEPTEMBER 2015 - 18 SEPTEMBER 2015
(Section Plant Health)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/1ff51159-12f9-44cd-8388-f962b73c01ac>

A.01 Overview of new outbreaks of harmful organisms notified by Member States.

The Commission presented an overview of the outbreak notifications of harmful organisms reported from 1 July 2015 to 10 September 2015, giving highlights on certain notifications of regulated and non-regulated organisms.

A.02 Update by Italy and France on the situation of *Xylella fastidiosa* in the territory and on the activities for its control in line with Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/789, followed by an exchange of views.

Italy informed that an Action Plan in line with Decision (EU) 789/2015 was currently being prepared and its official adoption was expected very soon. Italy also informed that the state of emergency was extended by additional 180 days while three outbreaks were reported in the buffer zone surrounding the infected zone of Lecce (Apulia). The Committee was also informed that no nurseries were authorised to move any specified plant out of the demarcated areas in Apulia, while the trace-back activities carried out by the Italian Authorities in a number of nurseries, as follow up to the discovery of infected plants of *Poligala mytifolia* in Corsica, were concluded with no positive findings.

France informed that the number of outbreaks and affected plant species in Corsica are regularly increasing as investigations progress. So far the bacterium was not yet found on *Olea europea* (olive tree). Eradication measures were currently being taken. No movement of specified plants was authorised out of the current demarcated areas. Trace-back activities are still ongoing to define the source of infection, as well as the studies about the epidemiology of the bacterium and the insect vectors involved. Any link of infection with the *Xylella fastidiosa* outbreak found in Apulia (Italy) has been excluded.

A.03 Presentation by the European Food Safety Authority of the Scientific Opinion of the Panel on Plant Health regarding the hot water treatment of *Vitis* sp. for *Xylella fastidiosa*, followed by an exchange of views.

EFSA presented the results of a scientific review carried out on the Italian technical guidelines on hot water treatment of *Vitis* planting material against *Xylella fastidiosa* and of a scientific opinion made available by the *Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail* (France) also on hot water treatment against *Xylella fastidiosa*. The scientific opinion is accessible via the following link:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/scientific_output/files/main_documents/4225.pdf

A.04 Report by Italy on the dossier on pathogenicity testing of *Vitis* sp. for *Xylella fastidiosa*, followed by an exchange of views.

Italy presented the outcome of the pathogenicity tests of *Vitis* sp. carried out for *Xylella fastidiosa*, subspecies *pauca*, strain Co.Di.RO.. The Committee agreed to transmit such information for scientific review to the European Food Safety Authority before taking a decision about the delisting of *Vitis* sp. from EU emergency measures currently in place for the Apulian strain.

A.05 Presentation by the Commission of the outcome of the Task Force for the control of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (pine wood nematode) in Portugal and Spain, followed by an exchange of views.

The Commission presented the activities of the Task Force set up in September 2014 to support the control of pinewood nematode in Portugal and Spain. A series of recommendations were prepared by the Task Force in order to strengthen actions against further spread of pinewood nematode from the current infected zone of Portugal to the buffer zone, free from the nematode, set up along the Portuguese and Spanish border, as well as for the control of three outbreaks currently under eradication in the Spanish territory. The Committee was informed that the last meeting of the Task Force was planned in October 2015. The Committee agreed to wait for the final report of the Task Force before discussing further follow-up activities to be planned as part of the EU regulatory framework.

A.06 Presentation by the Commission of an overview of the 2014 Member States' monitoring results for the presence of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*, followed by an exchange of views for reviewing Decision 2012/535/EU.

The Commission presented the results of the 2014 Member States' monitoring results for the presence of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (pine wood nematode). Efforts put by Member States on survey and movement checks have increased compared to previous year. The number of non-compliances of susceptible material moved within the Union territory has decreased, while pinewood nematode was never found in 2014 in 27 Member States, except in Portugal mainland where the nematode is currently under containment. The publication of the 2014 overview report is currently planned.

A.07 Information by the Commission on the state of play of the dossiers introduced by Member States for EU co-financing in 2015 of plant health emergency measures and survey programmes (especially for *Xylella fastidiosa*) (Articles 16 and 19 of Regulation (EU) N° 652/2014).

The Commission presented the overview of survey programmes presented by Member States for 2016 and of application for emergency measures for the year 2015. In addition, the Commission presented an overview of the Member States intensified programme for *Xylella fastidiosa* in 2015.

A.08 Exchange of views concerning a revision of the protected zones laid down in Regulation (EC) N° 690/2008 and amendments in Directive 2000/29/EC.

The Commission presented draft proposals listing the current issues to be addressed through the revision of the Protected Zone Regulation and the annexes of Directive 2000/29. The Committee accepted the planning whereby the current issues shall be codified in conjunction with a possible extension of temporary Protected Zones, which is due for decision by 30 April 2016. In order to facilitate that discussion in the beginning of 2016, the Commission requested that Member States send by 31 December 2015 to the Commission their reports on 2015 surveys on Protected Zones.

A.09 Follow-up discussion concerning the state of play of import of plants from India and review of Decision 2014/237/EU.

An exchange of views took place as regards a possible amendment to Decision 2014/237/EU in relation to the restriction of the import of certain commodities originating in India. Based on the comments provided by Member States, the Commission will present a proposal for a possible opinion in a forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of harmful organisms as regards certain vegetables originating in Ghana.

The Decision would prohibit until 31 December 2016 the import of plants other than seeds, of *Capsicum* L., *Lagenaria* Ser., *Luffa* Mill., *Momordica* L. and *Solanum* L. other than *S. lycopersicum* L originating in Ghana.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Commission 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 proposal for a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending some elements of Decision (EU) 2015/789, including additional provisions

aiming at preventing further introduction and spread of *Xylella fastidiosa* within the Union territory. Based on the Member States' comments, the Commission will present a proposal for a possible opinion in a forthcoming meeting of the Committee.