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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 interceptions with harmful organisms by Member States and the need for further action.

The Commission presented an overview of the interceptions from 16 May to 12 June 2019, highlighting six interceptions for *Spodoptera frugiperda* (fall armyworm) from Peru, Senegal, Suriname and Zimbabwe and fourteen interceptions for *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (false codling moth) in roses from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda and in peppers from Rwanda and Uganda. On internal trade, the Commission highlighted 15 interceptions for *Phytophthora ramorum* in Rhododendron, 13 of which were dispatched from The Netherlands.

An issue on interceptions for *Phytophthora ramorum* in Rhododendron was discussed, upon request of a Member State. The Commission explained that under the current legislation *Phytophthora ramorum* is a quarantine pest. Discussions about its future status are on-going.

The Commission informed about the follow-up to issues of seeds of *Medicago sativa* from Uruguay.

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

The Commission presented the overview of the outbreaks notified by Member States for the period 14 May 2019 to 11 June 2019. The outbreak of Tomato brown rugose fruit virus in Italy was discussed in detail under point A.09. Furthermore, Croatia gave detailed information on the outbreak of *Anoplophora chinensis* found on a new host, namely *Vaccinium corymbosum*. This triggered the discussion on the need to update the existing emergency measures for the pest and to include this host within the scope.

The Commission discussed with Member States the current ways of dissemination to stakeholders of the notified outbreaks, and the possibility to enlarge them in view of the new plant health law applicable from 14 December 2019. As further reflection is needed, the discussion will be continued at a follow-up meeting.

A.03 EFSA newsletters on horizon scanning of media and literature for new and emerging plant health risks.

EFSA presented the 27th edition of the media monitoring newsletter. Main highlights from the media were reported, mainly on *Anoplophora glabripennis*, Bell pepper mottle virus, *Candidatus Phytoplasma cynodontis*, Parsley severe stunt-associated virus, Southern tomato virus, *Spodoptera frugiperda*, Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus, and *Xylella fastidiosa* in relation to their distribution and the actions taken for their control.

The 6th pilot edition of the literature monitoring newsletter was presented. It was focused on the first findings of pests, changes in host range, identification/detection methods and new control methods reported by scientific literature on regulated and non-regulated pests.

A.04 Update on the situation of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Italy.

Italy informed that a national decree was adopted on 21 May 2019 aiming at simplifying the application of quarantine measures in the Italian territory and supporting the affected olive sector of Apulia with an extraordinary plan of EUR 150 million to be allocated for 2020 and 2021. The decree also specifies that the phytosanitary measures and any other activity connected to them, including the destruction of infected plants, are implemented in derogation to any other provision in force (e.g. environmental constraints). Administrative fines are detailed for those not complying with the decree, as well as specific measures for accessing to private properties.

As regards the presence of *Xylella fastidiosa* subspecies *multiplex* in Monte Argentario (Tuscany), Italy informed that eradication measures are being applied and movement restrictions introduced. Survey activities within the demarcated area are ongoing as required by the EU Decision. Several ornamental and landscape host plants have been found infected, as well as *Ficus carica* and *Prunus dulcis*.

As regards the situation in Apulia, the 2018-2019 survey activities carried out in the demarcated area were concluded in May 2019 detecting 165 infected plants in the 20 km infected zone and no infected plants in the buffer zone. Felling activities are ongoing. Italy informed that 5 nurseries have recently been authorised to move specified plants out of the demarcated areas fulfilling the conditions laid down under Article 9(2) of Decision (EU) 789/2015.

A.05 Exchange of views on the need and the urgency of EU legislative actions against Citrus bark cracking viroid (CBCVd), *Heterodera elachista*, *Meloidogyne enterolobii*, *Meloidogyne luci*, *Thrips setosus* and *Xylosandrus crassiusculus*.

Citrus bark cracking viroid (CBCVd): Slovenia provided additional information on the outbreak situation in their territory and the impact the virus has in the hop production. A number of Member States expressed their concern on the potential impact that the spread of this virus could have in hop production in their territories. Given the low impact of the virus on the citrus production the potential regulation as a Union quarantine pest seems inappropriate. Regulation as a regulated non-quarantine pest (RNQP) will be considered further.

Heterodera elachista: This harmful organism affects crops as rice and maize. A pest assessment will shed more light on the need of potential regulation.

Meloidogyne enterolobii and *Meloidogyne luci*: These nematodes affect many plant species. The taxonomic difference between the species is currently unclear. Additionally, the EU pest status for these pests needs to be defined further. The available pest risk analysis for *Meloidogyne enterolobii* is currently under discussion in the relevant working group.

Thrips setosus: The EU has been co-financing the territory surveillance for this pest during the past years. It is now known that the pest is present and established in several areas of the EU. With the current available information, it was decided that regulation as a Union quarantine pest is not relevant.

Xylosandrus crassiusculus: The Member States having outbreaks shared their experiences. It has to be noted that so far no significant impact has been observed. The pest belongs to the group of *Scolytinae*, for which the legislative status discussion awaits EFSA and EPPO risk assessments.

A.06 Exchange of views and conclusion of the Committee on the need for prolongation of Decision 2005/51/EC on the derogation for import of contaminated soil for decontamination purposes.

Decision 2005/51/EC has been extended several times and will expire in December 2019. The Commission asked Member States in the February meeting to confirm whether a further extension of the Decision is necessary. No written comments were received since then, but one Member State now requested an extension during the meeting. The Commission will, accordingly, prepare a draft and present it to the Standing Committee soon.

A.07 Exchange of views on the renewal of Commission Implementing Decision 2013/413/EU on the derogation for the import of potatoes from Lebanon.

The Commission informed about the new request from Lebanon to export ware potatoes from the regions of Akkar and Bekaa to the Netherlands. The Commission presented the technical information provided by Lebanon in relation to the phytosanitary status of potato pests in those regions. Based on the comments and suggestions of Member States, the Commission will request to Lebanon further information in relation to the sampling to detect *Ralstonia solanacearum* in water and will prepare a new Draft Commission Implementing Decision that will be discussed in forthcoming meetings.

The Commission recalled that Commission Implementing Decision 2013/413/EU, amended by Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/2057 and allowing Member States to import ware potatoes from Akkar and Bekaa regions under specified conditions, expired on 31 October 2018 and was not prolonged because no Member States requested such prolongation. The Netherlands informed that unfortunately they received the new request only in 2019.

A.08 Presentation by EFSA of the commodity risk assessment of black pine (*Pinus thunbergii*) bonsai from Japan.

EFSA presented the opinion which was published on 17 May 2019. EFSA was mandated by the Commission to perform a risk assessment of this commodity following a request from Japan for a derogation from the import ban under Directive 2000/29/EC.

The Committee held a discussion on the methodology used for the risk assessment and its outcomes.

A.09 Presentation by Italy of the pest risk assessment of Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV).

Italy presented the pest risk assessment of ToBRFV and the committee had an exchange of views on the state of this disease, transmissible via plants for planting including seeds. The need to prevent the introduction and spread of ToBRFV in Europe was clear and Member States urged to take EU measures.

A.10 Information by the Commission of the outcome of the meeting of the EU-US Plant Health Technical Working Group.

Item postponed.

A.11 Presentation by the Netherlands of the conclusions of the Workshop on the implementation of EU Plant Passport rules on 14-15 May 2019.

The Netherlands gave an overview of the workshop and its conclusions. The Dutch National Plant Protection Organisation (NVWA) organized the workshop. Over 50 participants from 18 Member States attended the meeting and discussed number of aspects related to the implementation of the EU rules on plant passports. The participants agreed that a Commission's action or assistance needed to be sought in the following four elements:

1. Delegated act seems needed under Article 65.4 of the Regulation 2016/2031 (registration exemptions);
2. Harmonization support is requested from the Commission (or through EPPO) to Member States to provide information to operators under Article 89 of Regulation 2016/2031;
3. Further harmonization (exchange) is needed on plant passport rules in relation with 'distant contracts' and eCommerce (Article 81.1(a));
4. BTSF courses in future years should put specific focus on registration of operators and plant passport rules.

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

No item raised.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the 2019 work programme on IT tools in the fields of food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare, plant health and official controls in the food and feed area.

The Commission briefly presented the draft for the food and feed financing decision that should provide the funding for the development and operation of IT-systems on the domain of food and feed safety. There were no comments from Member States.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down implementing measures for the Rapid alert system for food and feed, and the rules as regards the computerised information system for notifying and reporting on listed animal diseases, the notification of the presence of, and protective measures taken against, plant pests, administrative assistance and cooperation between Member States' authorities, and the functioning of the information management system for official controls ('the IMSOC Regulation').

The draft IMSOC Implementing Regulation was presented by the Commission for an exchange of views of the Committee, for the third time. The Commission explained the changes introduced in the draft following the comments it has received from Member States and the Commission's legal service.

Some Member States expressed their support on the revised text and appreciated that the Commission took on board their comments on the draft and Annexes. Some Member States, however, stressed that their comments were not taken into account.

Member States asking for further clarifications on certain provisions of the draft were requested to send drafting suggestions. The Commission informed Member States that the draft will be put for vote in July.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft technical Annexes for an Implementing Regulation ('Phytosanitary Conditions Regulation'), including the lists of quarantine pests, RNQPs, regulated commodities and import and movement requirements, under the basic Plant Health Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The discussion on the above mentioned draft Annexes continued, with fine tuning of several aspects. Detailed discussion followed in connection to certain movement requirements of relevant commodities, as for example *Bemisia tabaci*, pine wood nematode and Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma.

C.03 Exchange of views on the revision of Commission Implementing Decision 2018/638/EU on emergency measures against *Spodoptera frugiperda* .

Spodoptera frugiperda has invaded the Asian continent several months ago. The number of countries reporting the presence of the pest is increasing monthly. The need for additional measures was discussed with Member States.

M.01 Croatian National Decree on oak logs movement restrictions due to *Corythucha arcuata*.

The Commission asked Croatia to confirm that National Decree NN 52/2017 on oak log requirements expired on 1 June 2019 and that no other measures are going to be taken in relation to *Chorythuca arcuata*, pest for which the Committee has previously expressed no intention to put in place EU measures.

The Commission also pointed out that Croatia did not reply to the letter of November 2018, requesting the withdrawal of such measures.

Croatia confirmed the expiration of the temporary national measures.

M.02 Progress in declarations submitted by third countries under the new requirements of Directive (EU) 2019/523.

Upon request from a Member State, the Commission informed about the progress in receiving declarations for the new requirements of Directive (EU) 2019/523. The Commission informed that only few declarations have been received so far. A letter will be sent to the IPPC contact points as a reminder of these requirements. The updated information will soon be uploaded on DG SANTE's website.

M.03 Debriefing from various meetings with third countries.

The Commission informed Member States about meetings that took place with the Kingdom of Bhutan, Peru and Israel. More specifically, the Commission presented to the Kingdom of Bhutan the EU requirements for import of fruits and vegetables. The Commission discussed with Peru their request to be exempted from the new requirements of Directive (EU) 2019/523 on mangoes for *Tephritidae*, on the basis of technical information that they provided. The Commission discussed with Israel the progress of their dossiers on high-risk plants, their request for a prolongation of the entry into application of new requirements for soil and the increasing number of interceptions for *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on citrus fruits for which Israel was asked to revise their systems approach. The information in the context of a scientific publication of the presence for the first time in Israel of *Xylella fastidiosa* in almond trees was also discussed with the Commission offering the assistance of the EURL in the determination of the sub-species and the sequence type.