



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 30 NOVEMBER 2018  
(Section *Plant Health*)**

**CIRCABC Link:** <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/0671e083-2b30-458d-bccf-0d17f2168a76>

**A.01 Evaluation of recent import interceptions with harmful organisms by Member States and the need for further actions.**

The Commission presented an overview of the interceptions from 4 October to 28 November 2018. During this period no certification took place of citrus from Argentina or Brazil, but consignments certified earlier have been intercepted with citrus black spot (CBS, *Phyllosticta citricarpa*), bringing to 51 the total number of CBS interceptions in 2018. The Commission reminded Member States of their obligation to report the fruits imported under Decision (EU) 2016/715, and requested, in view of the revision of this measure early next year, to include within their report the month of entry of the fruits. The Commission informed that the revision of the emergency measure of CBS is going to take into account the trade, the interceptions and the action plan proposed by each affected country.

The Commission highlighted the interceptions of false codling moth (FCM, *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*) and informed that 23 new interceptions were notified during this period, bringing the total this year to 192. The Commission reminded that this is the first year this pest is regulated and a complete analysis of the interceptions will be carried out at the end of the year.

The Commission noted that during this period, 11 further interceptions of fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) were notified, bringing the total this year to 40. On internal trade, the Commission highlighted the finding of *Xylella fastidiosa* by Belgium on olive plants originating from Spain as well as three interceptions of pine wood nematode (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*) on ISPM 15 marked pallets from Portugal. Portugal informed that they are very concerned about the latter interceptions; they have suspended the heat treatment installation that marked the intercepted pallets and are currently collecting all the packages marked from that installation.

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

A brief overview of the outbreaks notified by Member States for the period of 6 October to 25 October 2018 was presented by the Commission. Italy gave short information on the outbreak of *Bactrocera dorsalis*. Surveillance has been intensified, the source of the outbreak is currently unknown. Further discussion will follow in the next Committee meeting, when more information is available. The Netherlands informed about the state of art of the outbreak of *Tetranychus mexicanus*, a non-regulated harmful organism. Based on the current information available, this pest might not be of an immediate concern to the EU. Germany gave a detailed presentation on the outbreak of Tomato brown rugose fruit virus, also a non-regulated harmful organism. The latter is a newly identified virus that causes damages on tomatoes in some areas of the Middle East. Tracing back and further surveys are ongoing. The outbreak will be discussed later in view of new information, together with the need of any potential legislative action.

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

EFSA presented the 20th pilot edition of the newsletter. Highlights from the media were reported mainly on *Anoplophora glabripennis*, Citrus Huanglongbing disease, *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *actinidiae*, *Xylella fastidiosa* in relation to their distribution. A report of the non-regulated harmful organism *Toumeyella parvicornis*, an insect that causes death in pines trees in Italy, was highlighted.

**A.04 Presentation of the comments received from third countries regarding a draft Commission Implementing Regulation provisionally listing high risk plants, plant products or other objects within the meaning of Article 42 and plants for which phytosanitary certificates are not required within the meaning of Article 73 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.**

The draft Regulation was notified to WTO-SPS for a 60 days consultation of third countries (26 September to 25 November). The text received comments from 11 countries (Republic of Korea, Israel, Uganda, South Africa, Peru, Japan, New Zealand, Chile, Kenya, Australia and Thailand). The Commission will provide a written answer to the comments received. The comments were discussed and the Committee identified no need to modify the list of high risk plants and plants exempted from phytosanitary certificate.

**A.05 Presentation of the stakeholders' comments on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down specific rules concerning the procedure to be followed in order to carry out the risk assessment of high risk plants, plant products and other objects within the meaning of Article 42(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.**

The draft Regulation was published for stakeholders' consultation (18 October to 15 November). Comments from three stakeholders were received. The major concern of the stakeholders is the timing of the risk assessment. The Commission clarified that the timing for carrying out the risk assessment will depend on the completeness of the dossiers submitted by third countries, informed that dossiers from groups of third countries will be accepted if they contain all relevant information justified by the National Plant Protection Organisations of each country, and highlighted that the European Food Safety Authority, responsible to carry out the risk assessment, is ready to start the risk assessment of the dossiers once the legal texts have been approved. The Committee identified no need to modify the text.

**A.06 Presentation of the stakeholders' comments on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on rules on uniform practical arrangements for the performance of official controls on plants, plant products and other objects and authorised operators in order to verify compliance with the plant health legislation.**

The Commission received one stakeholder comment on the text on uniform practical arrangements for the performance of official controls. This comment did not suggest any modification of the text, only raised some questions.

The Commission clarified that the minimum 1% of identity and physical checks at consignments entering the Union could also be performed at the place of destination. Other issues raised were in relation with the plant health measures under the official control regulation. To this regard, the Commission informed about a scheduled meeting with certain stakeholders of the plant sector, including the one that submitted comments. The meeting is meant to inform about the state of play of the tertiary legislation currently under discussion in the expert and working groups of the official control regulation.

The Committee identified no need to modify the text.

**A.07 Presentation of the stakeholders' comments on a draft Commission Implementing Directive amending Annexes I to V of Council Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community.**

The Commission presented the outcome of the stakeholders' consultation on the above mentioned draft Commission Implementing Directive. Forty-two feedback responses have been received during the 4 weeks consultation, from which three duplicates. The feedback touched upon various aspects of the draft Commission proposal. Main issues commented were: a) import inspection of coconut fibre, b) new import requirements and inspection of certain fruit species, c) import requirements for soil and growing media, d) import and internal movement requirements for wood commodities and e) movement requirements to Protected Zones in relation to *Bemisia tabaci*.

The draft Commission Implementing Directive has been revised to take into account certain elements raised during the stakeholder consultation.

**A.08 Continued exchange of views and possible approval of the minimum reduced frequencies of import inspections for 2019.**

The Commission presented a revised draft, that had been modified in the light of the discussion the Committee held in its previous meeting. The Commission also commented on some additional written comments received from some Member States, and suggested to introduce the additional category of ‘used machinery’ (as included in the parallel revision of the Annexes of Directive 2000/29/EC) into the reduced frequency framework. After a discussion, the Committee agreed on the Commission’s draft, and requested that the publication of the final set of reduced frequencies for 2019, to be applied as of 1 February 2019, be aligned with the results of the indicative vote on the revision of the Annexes of Directive 2000/29/EC in the forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

**A.09 Presentation by the Commission of the application procedure for 2019-2020 plant health survey programmes.**

The Commission presented the preliminary list of the approved programmes with the provisional amount allocated per programme for the Member States participating in the Survey Programme 2019. No comments have been recorded during the PAFF Committee by the Member States. The Commission informed Member States that amounts could be revised in the coming weeks and that the final amounts allocated per Member State will be presented in the PAFF Committee of January 2019.

**A.10 Overview by the Commission of the intermediate reports submitted by Member States for the 2018 plant health survey programmes.**

The Commission presented the outcome of the reallocation exercise in relation to the 2018 survey programmes: the exercise is based on the data provided by Member States by 31st August 2018 (intermediate report as by Regulation (EU) No 652/2014). The overview presented to the Member States indicated that a number of Member States (9) inserted additional measures and activities in the intermediate rapport and other Member States reduced their activities. Therefore a redistribution of funds amongst Member States is needed for the year 2018. This redistribution will reduce the total awarded amount for 2018 survey programmes from 12.529.000 € to 11.976.000 €.