



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 26 APRIL 2018 - 27 APRIL 2018  
(Section *Plant Health*)**

**CIRCABC Link:** <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/971c91c4-8079-4b6a-9812-9a04a0fe8f74>

**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 14 March to 19 April 2018. The Commission highlighted the interceptions of citrus fruit for citrus canker, the continuing interceptions of cut roses for false codling moth mainly from Tanzania and Kenya, the interceptions for *Bemisia tabaci*, for fruit flies, thrips and leafminers, a first interception in 10 years for pink hibiscus mealbug and the continuing interceptions of wood packaging material most of which were marked compatible to ISPM15 standard.

The Commission also reported the interception of blackberry plants from US for the presence of *Xylella fastidiosa* deriving from an area which has been declared free from *Xylella* by the US authorities. It was agreed to follow up with a Commission's letter to US to get further details about this case.

On the issue of false codling moth on cut flowers the proposal by a Member State to review the reduced frequencies of control was discussed. It was concluded that the frequencies will be reviewed during the working group meeting of June and Member States were invited to provide input to support the discussions.

On the updated risk management system (RMS) for citrus black spot submitted by South Africa, the proposal by a Member State to amend Decision (EU) 2016/715 by (i) reintroducing a threshold of 5 interceptions above which the products would be banned and (ii) including the new measures submitted by South Africa's RMS was discussed. Some Member States supported the proposal while other Member States not. The Commission took note of the arguments and explained that the proposal will be examined further.

One Member State highlighted the high number of interceptions for leafminers. The Commission took note of the information which will be followed-up.

#### **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 9 March to 19 April 2018 was presented by the Commission. Lithuania gave an overview of the state of the art of the outbreaks of *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *sepedonicus* in their territory. Portugal informed the Committee of the state of the art of the outbreak of *Eotetranychus lewisi* in Madeira and all measures taken to eradicate it and avoid spread to mainland Portugal. France gave information on the recent finding of *Melampsora medusae*, Italy on their actions taken for the eradication of *Anoplophora chinensis*. Additionally, the Netherlands gave information on an outbreak of *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3. During this point the recent reclassification of *Ralstonia solanacearum* into three species was discussed together with the necessary legislative changes in the Annexes to Directive 2000/29/EC and the relevant potato Council Directive.

Spain informed that *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* (ST6), the same subspecies as that found in Alicante, was detected in an olive orchard located in the Autonomous Region of Madrid. The area has been demarcated according to Decision (EU) 2015/789 and the removal of all host plants in the 100 m radius around the infected plants, together with movement restrictions have been implemented. Trace-back activities to confirm the origin of the outbreak and survey activities are ongoing.

Spain also reported the detection of *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* on three plants of *Polygala myrtifolia* in a greenhouse of a nursery located in Almeria (Andalusia). All plants are currently being destroyed, while trace-back and other surveys activities are ongoing to identify the source of the infection. The area has not been demarcated as foreseen by Article 4(6) of Decision (EU) 2015/789 for these specific findings.

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

EFSA presented the thirteenth pilot edition of the newsletter. Highlights from the media were reported mainly on *Agrilus planipennis*, *Anoplophora glabripennis*, *Spodoptera frugiperda* and *Xylella fastidiosa*. For the harmful organisms not listed in the EU legislation a report from the media on the first finding of *Meloidogyne ethiopica* on citrus plants in India was given.

#### **A.04 Exchange of views concerning the possible need for protective measures against the introduction and spread of *Thrips setosus*.**

A discussion took place on the need of potential protective measures for *Thrips setosus*. Currently, the pest is included in the list of organisms eligible for EU co-financing for surveillance. A number of Member States survey for the pest and reported its finding in their territory. Given the current presence of the pest it was suggested to have an evaluation of the possibility of having it regulated as a future regulated non-quarantine pest (RNQP) for certain ornamental species.

#### **A.05 Exchange of views on control measures for wood packaging material and the revision of Decision 2013/92/EU.**

The Commission provided the state of play on import controls for wood packaging material, outlining the need for measures because of the high number of interceptions of harmful organisms, and informing about the development of the legislation under the Official Control Regulation.

There was a general support to extend the current emergency measures and to address other third countries in addition to China. A further discussion is needed on whether to regulate specific commodities or to leave the possibility to Member States to target commodities, provided that a system for prior notification of commodities accompanied by wood packaging material is put in place. Member States were asked to provide comments in two weeks' time.

**A.06 Exchange of views and common position for the review of the treatment provisions for the import of oak logs originating in the USA, laid down in Decision 2005/359/EC.**

The Commission recalled that Decision 2005/359/EC, amended by Decision 2010/723/EC, allows import of oak logs with bark after a treatment with Methyl bromide (240g/m<sup>3</sup>). This Decision will expire on 31 December 2020. Only a few Member States are currently importing oak logs under the above mentioned regime.

Some Member States stated their position not to renew the derogation; some other will soon provide their view. A general interest in the use of alternatives was expressed but no specific action on the identification and use of such alternatives was agreed.

**A.07 Exchange of views and common position concerning the national emergency measures against *Corythuca arcuata* (oak lace bug) put in place by Croatia.**

Croatia informed the Committee that they have recently delegated an external body for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the national measures addressing the pest *Corythuca arcuata*. The report is expected by the end of June 2018 and it will serve to the competent authority for deciding on the way forward. There was a general agreement not to take EU measures against the above mentioned pest, because it is already present in many other Member States and because of the lack of knowledge on the effectiveness of the measures to limit its spread. A final decision will be taken during the committee of July, after the analysis of the independent report, in order to decide whether the Croatian national measures should be repealed or not.

**A.08 Report of the Commission audit in the USA from 8 to 19 January 2018 for the evaluation of the certification programmes for the export of ash and oak wood to the EU, followed by an exchange of views in relation the revision of Decision (EU) 2017/204.**

The Commission provided a detailed overview of the findings of the recent audit in the United States. A discussion took place on the main shortcomings and the action plan already provided by the United States.

There was a general agreement on the need for a follow-up audit. The action plan provided by the US competent authority on 3 April will soon be complemented with additional information. Other shortcomings of the audit, related to the general certification system under the rules of Annex IV of Directive 2000/29/EC, were presented. Some Member States highlighted the need to have more information on the current derogation of coniferous wood and asked for a specific audit.

**A.09 Report of a Commission audit in Tanzania from 11 to 22 September 2017 in order to evaluate the system of official controls for the export of plants and plant products to the European Union.**

The Commission presented the results of the first audit to Tanzania to evaluate the system of official controls for the export to the EU of plants and plant products regulated by Directive 2000/29/EC. The audit resulted in 8 recommendations. Tanzania submitted and twice updated their action plan. The proposed actions for 4 recommendations are satisfactory, although their timeframe is considered disproportionate to the urgency of required action, while the proposed actions were considered unsatisfactory for 1 recommendation.

**A.10 Report of a Commission audit in Kenya from 21 November to 1 December 2017 in order to evaluate the system of official controls for the export of plants and plant products to the European Union.**

The Commission presented the results of the audit to Kenya to evaluate the system of official controls for the export to the EU of plants and plant products regulated by Directive 2000/29/EC and to follow up on actions taken since the 2013 audit. The audit resulted in 5 recommendations. Tanzania submitted a comprehensive plan with detailed actions and clear deadlines for implementation.

**B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 690/2008 recognising protected zones exposed to particular plant health risks in the Community.**

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 690/2008 and updating the list of recognized protected zones.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on emergency measures against the introduction and spread of *Aromia bungii*.**

The amended draft Commission Implementing Decision was presented to the Committee and a discussion took place related to the stringency and scope of the proposed measures. Member States welcomed the amendments done on the basis of the discussions so far and were invited to send comments and supporting technical information by 11 May 2018. The draft measure will be presented for a vote in one of the next Committee meetings.

**M.01 Clarifications on traceability codes under the new import requirements.**

One Member State informed that there is confusion between the exporting countries and the competent authorities regarding the traceability code and where it should be provided (phytosanitary certificate or accompanying documents). The Commission clarified that the legislation does not provide such details as it is the responsibility of the exporting country to trace the place of origin through the traceability code.

**M.02 Detection by Belgium and France of Pine Wood Nematode (PWN) on bark with wood originating in Portugal.**

Belgium and France informed the Committee about the detection of PWN on bark with wood, on their respective territory, originating from Portugal and the follow-up investigations carried out in the meantime. Portugal informed that the operator concerned by the interception in Belgium has been temporarily suspended from the EU list of operators authorised to treat wood packaging material, wood and bark against PWN, while investigations are still ongoing to confirm the operator concerned by the French interception. Belgium and France presented possibilities to improve the current legal framework, including plant passport and traceability requirements of bark and wood moved out of an area demarcated for the presence of PWN, up to the final users. Member States were invited to submit their views by 15 May 2018 for a follow-up discussion in the forthcoming PAFF Committee.