



Minutes

Meeting of the Expert Group on Plant Health (E00925) 23 September 2020

1) Wood Packaging Material in the form of ammunition boxes from US, 10:00-11:30

2) Scientific Exceptions, 11h30-12h15

Chair : European Commission (COM), DG SANTE (Unit G1 - Plant Health) Present : Experts of the Member States (AU, BG, CY, GR, HU, IE, LU, RO, SK, SE absent).
No delegates from EU Parliament and Council.

Part 1

Topic	Documents
<p>Objectives of the meeting</p> <p>Presentation of a draft Delegated Regulation setting out rules concerning Wood Packaging Material (WPM) in the form of ammunition boxes from US.</p>	<p>draft Delegated Regulation</p>
<p>Introduction</p> <p>The Commission opened the first meeting of the Expert Group, welcomed the participants and presented the agenda.</p> <p>The Commission noted that the Council and the Parliament were not present.</p>	
<p>Discussion</p> <p>The Commission presented the state of a request from US as regard the extension in time and scope of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/179, which authorises Member States to introduce into the Union WPM of conifers in the form of ammunition boxes originating in the US and it is to apply until 31 December 2020. In September 2018 the US has submitted a dossier to support their request to extend the said Derogation and expand the scope to WPM made of hard wood.</p> <p>The Commission recalled that this US request has been discussed at PAFF level in order to assess the phytosanitary risk involved. Following those discussions, the Commission has requested US further information and has received a detailed planning of shipments for the ammunition boxes destined to certain EU Member States.</p> <p>Having to adapt the current derogation, Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/179, to the new legal framework that entered into application on December 2019, the Commission suggested to use the empowerment of article 43(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 and presented a draft Delegated Regulation for a temporary derogation. In order to cover the aspects under the official controls side, a binding with Article 22(2) of Regulation 2017/625 was considered needed.</p>	<p>Draft Delegated Regulation,</p> <p>Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/179.</p>

<p>The Member States welcomed the draft and had very few comments on it. Some suggested to include an article on the notification of all planned shipments every six months from US to EU Member States. After an exchange of views, it was agreed that such information and updates on planned shipments could be given every 6 months in the framework of the bilateral dialogue of the plant health technical working group EU-US, without including a special provision in the draft legal text.</p>	
<p>Next steps</p> <p>The Commission will ask APHIS to include a permanent point in the agenda of the bilateral meetings of the plant health technical working group, for information on the planned shipments of ammunition boxes.</p>	
<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Almost all MS endorsed the suggested draft for the subsequent legal steps to extend the measures of Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/179 and expand the scope to hard wood.</p>	

Part 2

Topic	Documents
<p>Objectives of the meeting</p> <p>Discussion for a revision of the Letter of Authority and its traceability in IMSOC as regard to the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/829 setting out rules concerning exceptions for pests, plants, plant products and other objects for the purpose of scientific trials under the new Regulation 2016/2031.</p>	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>The Commission opened the 6th meeting of the Expert Group, welcomed the Experts, and presented the objectives of the meeting.</p> <p>The Commission noted that the Council and the Parliament were not present.</p>	
<p>Discussion</p> <p>The aim of the meeting was to ask assistance to the Experts as regards to :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the endorsement of the Letter of Authority by the NPPOs of Third Countries (point 3 of Article 6, Annex II B, box 12); 2) the traceability requirements in IMSOC (point 3 of Article 6, Annex II A, box 14, and B, box 13). <p>1. Endorsement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overall, the Experts agreed on the difficulties or impossibility to obtain an official endorsement from the Third Countries using the Letter of Authority. The Commission proposed a draft text with an alternative for the Third Country to attach an official document instead of endorsing the Letter of Authority as currently required. The Commission asked the Experts to send their alternative proposals within 3 weeks 	Delegated Regulation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commission asked the Experts to enquire about the types of documents and procedures required by the Third Countries when Member states export scientific material to them. <p>2. IMSOC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Up to now, the upload of the Letter of Authority in IMSOC is an available option in the CHED-PP form. However, CHED-PP fulfilment is not mandatory for all material covered by the present delegated regulation, e.g. pure cultures of pests, what leads to a partial traceability of the material moved in or introduced into the EU territory. The Commission clarified that the annual report which is required from the Member states could instead be generated by the Commission if the CHED-PPs are used on a voluntary basis. The Experts did not express objection on this option. - The Commission will evaluate the system in place in the veterinary field to evaluate whether options could be applied to the plant health sector as regards to the two issues. 	
<p>Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commission thanked the Experts for their assistance. - The following planning was agreed by the Experts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Experts send by writing by 16 October 2020 : their comments, their proposals and a short state of the play of the requirements required by Third countries for exports of scientific material; 2. The Commission circulates a draft proposal of point 3, Article 6 ; 3. The Commission investigates the traceability of research material in the veterinary sector in IMSOC. 	