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## Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed

### Section *Plant Health*

15 - 16 June 2020

**CIRCABC Link:** <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/4fd60ae3-d94f-43df-aced-8d6188dbb4dd>

## SUMMARY REPORT

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

The Commission and the Member States, discussed the interceptions for the period between 14 May and 10 June 2020.

As regards imports, the Commission highlighted the relevant interceptions of priority pests. Firstly, the increasing number of interceptions of Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus on seeds of *Capsicum* and of *Solanum lycopersicum* from Israel: Member States expressed great concern and requested that measures are taken. It was decided to contact Israel to request for the results of any investigations carried out by Israel and of any actions taken to address this issue. Member States also noted that species of *Capsicum* which are considered resistant were also infected by the virus. Secondly, the continuing interceptions of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Rosa* and *Capsicum* from Uganda: Member States reiterated their great concern for the very high number of such interceptions from Uganda. Thirdly, the interceptions of *Momordica charantia* from Mexico by UK were also discussed. As the import of fruits of *Momordica* are temporarily banned in the context of the Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 on high risk plants, plant products and other objects, it was agreed that more information will be sought about the status of the imports from Mexico (information on pest free areas in Mexico, species of *Thrips* intercepted etc.).

Certain Member States also referred to the interceptions of *Tephritidae*. While acknowledging that it is difficult for some species of *Tephritidae* to be identified at species level, it was considered important as some of the species of *Tephritidae* are included in the list of priority pests.

### **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 the Member States in the period from 16 May to 7 June 2020. Germany gave information on the recent outbreak notification of the non-regulated pest *Peronospora aquilegiicola* in a private garden. The outbreak is under eradication. Italy informed the Committee on the absence of *Bactrocera dorsalis* and *Bactrocera latifrons* from their territory, this being the outcome of increased surveillance in the past years.

**A.03 EFSA newsletters on horizon scanning of media and literature for new and emerging plant health risks; EPPO monthly reporting service on harmful organisms.**

The EFSA media newsletters and the EFSA pilot of scientific literature newsletters of June 2020 and the EPPO Reporting Service No. 5 of 2020 have been disseminated to Member States. EFSA gave a brief presentation on the highlights. The EFSA media newsletter is published at the EFSA Journal and the EPPO Reporting Service can be found at the EPPO website.

**A.04 EFSA ranking tool of the non-EU regulated pests identified by media and scientific monitoring.**

EFSA presented the methodological updates on the ranking tool. A discussion with the Member States followed that gave feedback on the methodology. To avoid any confusion with other EU similar activities related to the EU priority pests, the tool has been renamed as *PeMo (Pest Monitoring) scoring tool*. The principle aim of this tool is to create a list of pests for which a decision has to be made on whether a pest categorisation is needed. These pest categorisations will form the basis for the discussion on potential EU regulation. The list does not represent a rank or a comparison amongst the pests identified via the monitoring. It comprises the pests passing a certain scoring threshold based on a multicriteria analysis. The outcome of this analysis has been presented to the Member States. A dedicated discussion and a decision for a potential mandate to EFSA is anticipated for the next Committee meeting.

**A.05 Surveillance for *Xylella fastidiosa*: 2019 results and 2020 plans of Member States campaigns.**

The Commission provided an update about the survey activities carried out on *Xylella fastidiosa* by Member States in 2019. Member States were invited to check the details of data presented and inform the Commission as soon as possible about any modifications needed. Overall, the number of inspections (124.784) and tested samples (74.876) carried out in 2019 in the Union territory, outside demarcated areas, was higher than in 2018. The number of inspections (247.323) carried out in the demarcated areas was also higher than in 2018, while the number of tested samples (91.388) was lower than in 2019 (102.048). The final figures may differ as activities were still ongoing in some demarcated areas when Member States reported the data.

As regards the 2020 survey plans, Member States intend to continue the survey activities with some necessary modifications. Priorities continue to be production and trading sites of plants for planting originating in the EU and third countries. Main plant species which are subject to inspection are agricultural and horticultural crops of main economic importance, forests natural habitats, gardens and urban areas.

**A.06 New methodology from the Commission's Joint Research Center for simplifying the management of plant health co-financing dossiers under the Single Market Programme**

The Commission and JRC presented the state of play of the latest developments on the simplification process as well as the outcome of the questionnaire to which the Member States replied. The Commission is still investigating the most appropriate

option to be applied for the calculation of a unit cost for the sampling taking into account simplification and budgetary capacity.

The Member States welcomed the current ongoing work and raised specific points concerning the presentation and process. The Commission informed the Member States that they would have two weeks to react in writing to the presentation and their views on the options presented.

The Commission also presented the conclusions of the Working Group meeting held on 3 June 2020 on the 2021 Phytosanitary Programme and informed that an exchange of views about the consolidated draft programme will take place in the July committee meeting.

**A.07 Exchange of views on the update of the lists of EU regulated pests and potential import and internal movement requirements of Commission Regulation 2019/2072, based on the conclusions of the Annexes Working Group meetings.**

The Commission presented the planning of the upcoming first amendment of Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072.

**A.08 Request by Belgium for further harmonization of the rules for professional operators authorized to apply ISPM15 mark.**

Belgium presented an overview of the trade flows for the production of wood packaging material and the operators' registration requirements in Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

Belgium highlighted the critical points for traceability and presented some practical commercial cases where wholesalers from EU and third countries are involved.

Member States were requested to react in writing presenting their situation in relation to operators' registration and traceability requirements.

**A.09 Request by Belarus for a derogation from the import prohibition for ware potatoes.**

The Commission presented the state of play of this dossier, related to the request from the Republic of Belarus to export ware potatoes in the EU territory. Many Member States expressed their concerns about the fact that *Clavibacter sepedonicus* has the status of quarantine pest in pre-basic seed potato production only, and not in ware potato production. Furthermore, many Member States considered that the information provided is too general for them to assess positively the dossier. Member States were asked to send their comments and questions in writing in view of an official reply to the Republic of Belarus.

**A.10 Request by the US for a new derogation from the import prohibition for US oak logs with bark attached.**

The Commission presented the state of play of this dossier, related to the request from the United States to export to the EU oak logs with bark subject to a systems approach which includes fumigation treatments alternative to methyl bromide (MB). The current derogation allowing for the use of MB will expire in December 2020. The Commission needs to consult EFSA for an opinion on the suggested systems approach.

**A.11 Request by the US for the prolongation and extension to hard wood of the derogation for the import of US ammunition boxes from ISPM 15 requirements.**

The Commission presented the state of play of this dossier, related to the request from the United States to export to the EU hard wood ammunition boxes of the US Department of Defense, which were not treated under ISPM15 rules. Member States were requested to analyse the additional information recently provided by US and express their position by sending comments.

**A.12 Request by the US for a derogation from the existing import requirements for seeds of *Zea mays* L as regards *Pantoea stewartii* subsp. *stewartii*.**

The Commission presented the state of play of this dossier, related to the request from the United States to export to the EU corn seed derogating from the horizontal import requirements of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. An EFSA opinion was published in September 2019 and a possible draft derogation was discussed.

**A.13 The use of plant genus and species names in TRACES TNT.**

The Netherlands presented concerns regarding the issue of using EPPO plant codes in TRACES NT at the genus level, whereby only EPPO codes for ‘genus’ (e.g. *Rosa* - 1ROSG) are accepted, while codes for ‘genus sp.’ (e.g. *Rosa* sp. – ROSSS) are not. The Commission explained that this decision was taken for statistical reasons during the migration from TRACES to TRACES NT to avoid ambiguities when searching the database, and explained that such use of EPPO codes would not have any negative impact on the future operation of ePhyto system in the Union. No other Member State mentioned a similar experience. It was concluded that the current approach will be maintained. The Commission also invited Member States to make use of the TRACES helpdesk whenever encountering problems with the use or availability of EPPO codes, e.g. when a code for a specific plant is missing. Experience so far has shown that this is then solved very quickly.

Regarding TRACES NT, the Commission also announced its initiative to simplify the notification of the rejected consignments by merging the CHED-PP and the interception report in one document under the CHED-PP. This change, which will be regulated through an amendment of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715 (the IMSOC Regulation), will introduce changes in the role of the national contact points and the procedure of verification of the interceptions carried out so far. It was agreed that explanations of this initiative are provided in writing to the Chief Officers for Plant Health.

**A.14 Commission Audits in Uganda (2019-6737), Suriname (2019-6740), Dominican Republic (2019-6739) and Malaysia (2019-6738), to evaluate the system of official plant health controls for the export of plants and plant products to the European Union.**

The Commission presented the findings of the abovementioned audits. Member States expressed in particular great concerns about the negative results of the audit in Uganda. Some of them requested that measures are taken. It was agreed to contact Uganda again and request for the most recent developments and any actions taken by Uganda to address this issue.

**B.01 Exchange of views and possible technical 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.

**C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation concerning types or species of plants for planting for which the exemption referred to in Article 83(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 does not apply and repealing Commission Directive 92/105/EEC.**

The Commission presented a revised draft text of the Regulation, where in the draft Annex pests specified in control and emergency measures, relevant for plants for planting, were listed. The Committee expressed divergent views on the draft, including a proposal to postpone further discussion until after December 2021 when a report by the Commission on plant passports to the European Parliament and the Council would have been prepared. It was agreed that Member States would provide their comments in writing within a short deadline expressing their position on the matter.

**C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 as plants for planting of *Acer* originating in New-Zealand and *Malus domestica* originating in Serbia.**

The Commission presented a technical draft text amending the list of high risk plants to remove plants for planting of *Acer* originating in New Zealand and *Malus domestica* originating in Serbia, based on the relevant opinions of the European Food Safety Authority. The technical draft was supported by Member States.

**C.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation concerning the phytosanitary measures for the introduction into the Union of certain plants, plant products and other objects that have been removed from the list of high risk plants, plant products and other objects of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019**

The Commission presented the technical measures for *Acer* plants from New Zealand. Member States supported these measures. They also highlighted the urgency of the file in relation to the *Acer* imports for 2020. The Commission took note of the concerns of Member States and informed of the intention to initiate the internal procedures, followed by a consultation of New Zealand. The Commission will inform Member States once the text is finalised, to launch a written procedure for the vote.

**M.01 Possible amendment of Regulation 2019/2122 on exemption of passenger personal luggage from border control posts official controls.**

The possibility to include a weight limit for plants and plant products falling under the scope of Regulation (EU) 2019/2122 was discussed. The Commission presented the state of play and the discussion recently held during the Expert working group on Official Controls of 8 June 2020. Many Member States expressed their concerns over this possible 2kg limit for personal use. All Member States were requested to provide comments within a short deadline expressing their position on the matter.

**M.02 Prolongation of the derogation from import ban for of naturally or artificially dwarfed plants for planting of *Chamaecyparis* Spach, *Juniperus* L. and certain species of *Pinus* L., originating in the Republic of Korea, and repealing Decision 2002/499/EC.**

The request of, and the subsequent correspondence with the Republic of Korea for a prolongation of the existing derogation, which expires at the end of 2020 was addressed.. In November 2019, the Committee took stock of the reports from the Member States on the imports of bonsai plants from Korea in 2018 and 2019 and no particular problems were noted. A draft text will be presented for discussion in one of the next Committee meetings.

**M.03 Request from Chile to prolong Commission Decision 2003/249/EC authorising Member States to provide for temporary derogations from certain provisions of Council Directive 2000/29/EC in respect of plants of strawberry (*Fragaria* L.), intended for planting, other than seeds, originating in Chile.**

The existing derogation will expire on 30 September 2020. The Commission informed Member States about Chile's request to prolong this derogation. Chilean producers are breeding new strawberry varieties with material of European origin, intended for export to the European Union in the near future. The Commission informed the Committee that a prolongation of the derogation will be prepared for discussion in one of the next Committee meetings.