



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 MARCH 2017 - 31 MARCH 2017  
(Section Plant Health)**

**CIRCABC Link:** <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/1cdc2f99-0ed3-4cb5-ad00-dde55f386ef2>

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

A brief overview was given of the interceptions with harmful organisms reported from 15 February to 15 March 2017. The interceptions of commodities originating in USA of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* and PSTVd were analysed in detail. Other notifications highlighted were the interceptions of *Xylella fastidiosa* and the interceptions of *Ripersiella hibiscus* found on planting material from China.

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

The main outbreaks were addressed. Germany gave extra information on the outbreak of *Aromia bungii*, a non-regulated harmful organism. A technical discussion on the possibilities for regulating this organism has been organised in the annexes working group based on an EPPO pest risk assessment. The final report will be shortly presented in the Committee.

Malta presented the outbreaks of three harmful organisms and will provide further information in the next meeting.

**A.03 Update on the situation and official controls for *Xylella fastidiosa* in the EU.**

Italy informed that survey activities were concluded within the last 20 km infected zone of Apulia, with 253 olive plants found infected, out of which 19 trees already removed, while felling orders were being issued for the remaining trees. The Commission stressed the importance of proceeding with the immediate removal of those infected plants in view of the flight season of the vector approaching soon.

Spain informed that surveys activities in the Balearic Islands were still ongoing. So far, 124 infected plants were detected in Mallorca, 49 in Ibiza and 16 in Menorca. *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* and *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *fastidiosa* were confirmed in Mallorca, while *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *pauca* and *X. fastidiosa* susp. *multiplex* were detected respectively in Ibiza and Menorca. Main concern remains for cultivated and wild olive trees, as well as almond plants which are widely present on the islands. The Commission stressed the importance of applying eradication measures and intensifying survey activities in order to confirm the extension of the bacterial distribution.

France provided an overview of the number of outbreaks detected so far in PACA and Corsica. The Committee was also informed that considering the wide distribution of the bacterium in Corsica, the French Authorities officially requested to declare the entire island of Corsica as area under containment. The Committee was informed that a Commission's audit was currently ongoing in France to assess the situation on the ground and more details will be presented in the forthcoming meeting of the PAFF Committee.

Lastly, the Czech Republic informed that a suspected positive finding was reported on a *Polygala myrtifolia* kept in a close environment of a private house. The plant was part of a bigger lot of plants already placed on the market. They were introduced from Spain via a garden centre of Czech Republic. A recall campaign was put in place to trace-back the plants sold by the garden centre. Diagnostic analysis was still ongoing. The Spanish Authorities informed that survey activities were carried out in the nurseries from which the plants were bought, with negative results. The Commission stressed the importance to ensure a close monitoring of the situation, while increasing survey activities in the Spanish nursery and invited Spain to provide more information on sampling methodology.

**A.04 Presentation by the European Food Safety Authority of the scientific report on current knowledge regarding tolerance of *Olea* plants for planting to *Xylella fastidiosa*, followed by an exchange of views.**

EFSA presented the scientific information available as regards the susceptibility of *Olea europaea* L. varieties to Apulian strain of *Xylella fastidiosa*. In this respect, they informed that only limited information on tolerance/resistance of olive varieties was available. At the time, based on experimental infectivity studies and on-field survey activities, converging evidences existed for 'Leccino' variety which shows milder symptoms in field conditions than other susceptible varieties. The concentration of bacteria is lower, although the variety can still get infected. Preliminary positive results were also collected for one rootstock cultivar (FS17). The Committee was informed that research is ongoing as part of the EU funded research projects PONTE and XF-ACTORS.

**A.05 Exchange of views on the elements to amend the *Xylella fastidiosa* emergency measures in Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/789.**

The Commission informed that based on recent developments of *Xylella fastidiosa* in the Union territory and technical/scientific information available, some elements of

Decision (EU) 2015/789 may be reviewed. More particularly, the Committee was informed that, among others, the review may address the legal provisions related to the planting of olive tolerant varieties in the infected zone of Apulia and the free movement of grapevine resistant varieties out of that demarcated area; conditions for movement of some high risk plants (e.g. *Polygala myrtifolia*) within the Union territory, including some specified plants which are grown as mother plants outside demarcated areas and not under insect proof conditions. The Committee was also informed that the recent developments in Corsica could also be addressed and the possibility to switch to containment measures, as well as the conditions to establish/lift the demarcated area for isolated cases. The Commission informed that a text will be presented for further discussion in the forthcoming meeting of the PAFF Committee. Member States were invited to submit comments and suggestions in writing.

**A.06 Presentation by the European Food Safety Authority of the first media monitoring newsletter and the work plan for horizon scanning for new and emerging plant health risks.**

The Commission presented the mandate sent to EFSA in December 2016 aiming at providing technical assistance in view of crisis preparedness in plant health. EFSA has been requested to perform a horizon scanning exercise of media and scientific publications in order to identify pests that might be of concern to the EU territory. This exercise is expected to alert Member States to focus import and territory surveillance and to allow an early response in the case of new and emerging threats. EFSA presented the first monthly pilot letter, containing the outcome of horizon scanning of media. Subsequently, discussion took place on the invasive behaviour of *Spodoptera frugiperda*, a pest that is already regulated as a quarantine organism. The outbreaks of stem rust caused by a new virulent strain of *Puccinia graminis* f.sp. *tritici* threatening durum and bread wheat crops were also highlighted. Member States welcomed this initiative and the preliminary newsletter made available by EFSA. They also submitted initial comments in view of further improvements.

**A.07 Exchange of views on a common format of plant passports, based on Article 83 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.**

The Commission presented its ideas for the common format of plant passports. In the following discussion, the Committee expressed its views on several elements of the common format, in particular on a general structure of codes, a traceability code, model plant passports to be provided in the future implementing act and a transitional period to be granted and specified in the legislation. The Commission asked for written comments to be sent by 18 April 2017.

**A.08 Exchange of views on the conditions to be laid down for the use of electronic phytosanitary certificates in the EU.**

The Netherlands gave a presentation expressing a need for legal arrangements allowing the use of electronic phytosanitary certificates for imports of plants and plant products into the EU. In a short discussion that followed, the Committee supported the idea. The Commission stressed that any arrangements will have to be in line with

the ongoing development of the Integrated Management System for Official Controls and committed to come back to the topic in the near future.

**A.09 Exchange of views on the elements for laying down measures for the introduction into, and movement within, the Union of specified fruits destined exclusively for industrial processing.**

The Commission presented the main elements for the movement, storage and processing for the citrus fruits destined exclusively for industrial processing. The objective is to develop the new option that will be introduced in the next amendment of the annexes of the Directive 2000/29/EC for citrus canker and citrus black spot. Comments will be provided by Member States. A further discussion will take place in a forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

**A.10 Exchange of views on the revision of the listing and requirements of Plum Pox Virus in the Annexes of Council Directive 2000/29/EC.**

The Commission presented the state of art of the discussions that took place in the annexes working group in relation to Plum Pox Virus (PPV). It was decided to elaborate a proposal to revise the current measures in place for PPV, in a way which reflects the heterogenicity of spread of the harmful organism within the EU.

**A.11 Presentation of the revision of the Commission Working document "Guidelines for applicants for EU Funding of Plant health Emergency Measures" (SANTE/10527/2016).**

The Commission presented the working document (SANTE/10527/2016) with title "Guidelines for applicants for EU funding for plant health emergency measures" to the Member States. A number of comments from Member States were recorded during the PAFF Committee and the Commission informed the Member States that additional comments concerning the working document would be accepted till Friday 14<sup>th</sup> of April.

**B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2013/92/EU on the supervision, plant health checks and measures to be taken on wood packaging material actually in use in the transport of specified commodities originating in China.**

The draft Decision provided for a prolongation of the existing emergency measures on 9 commodities of heavy materials (stones, steel) from China with wooden packaging material that need to be inspected at a 15 % level at import in the EU. The Decision would provide for a prolongation of 1 year, during which a possible new approach should be discussed and put in place together with the Chinese competent authorities on the basis of the data to be collected, in order to find a way out for this recurrent problem, satisfactory for both parties.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/715 setting out measures in respect of certain fruits originating in certain third countries to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of the harmful organism *Phyllosticta citricarpa* (McAlpine) Van der Aa.**

The Commission presented a document to include Argentina under the existing emergency measures for citrus black spot, (Decision (EU) 2016/715, due to the interceptions notified by Member States during the 2016 import season. The measures impose stricter import requirements for Argentinian citrus fruits, including increased import inspections at arrival in the EU. Member States welcomed the document. The vote will take place in a forthcoming meeting of the Committee before the end of April.

**C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/159 as regards the procedures for the submission of applications for grants and requests for payment in respect of the emergency measures against plant pests.**

The Commission presented to the Member States the first draft of the amendments of the Decision (EU) 159/2016 related to application of the emergency measures files. The current Decision needs to be amended since from 1st of January 2017, Article 18, 1(d) of Regulation No 652/2014 has entered into force allowing the EU to co-fund also for the value of destroyed plants, plant products or other objects subject to the measures referred to in Article 16 of Directive 2000/29/EC. A number of Member States' comments were recorded during the PAFF Committee and the Commission informed the Member States that additional comments concerning the working document (SANTE/ 12038/2017) would be accepted till Friday 14th of April.