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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed

Section *Plant Health*

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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Evaluation of recent import interceptions with pests by Member States and the actions taken.

The Commission discussed the interceptions for the period between 19 May and 15 June 2021. On non-EU trade, the Commission highlighted the eight interceptions of Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus, of which six on seeds of *Solanum lycopersicum* (four from China and one from Thailand), one on seeds of *Capsicum annuum* from Mexico and one on plants of *Capsicum annuum/Solanum lycopersicum* from Bosnia/Herzegovina.

The Commission also highlighted the very high number of interceptions of fruit flies (30 in total), in particular on mangoes, especially from Cote d'Ivoire, but also from Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Mali and Uganda, Bangladesh Philippines, Dominican Republic, Cambodia and Sri Lanka.

The Commission also highlighted the first interception of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on *Citrus limon* from South Africa, the four interceptions of *Spodoptera frugiperda*, on *Xanthosoma* from Suriname and on *Eringium* from Zimbabwe, and the twenty interceptions of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Capsicum* species from Uganda, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Kenya, on *Citrus paradisi* from Zimbabwe and South Africa, on *Rosa*, especially from Kenya, but also from Ethiopia and Zambia and on *Gypsophila* from Kenya.

It was agreed to monitor closely the development of those interceptions in relation to relevant actions already taken for respective cases and to assess the relevant proposals.

Regarding the follow-up actions of the same reporting period, the Commission informed the Committee about the results of investigations and actions taken by Sri Lanka as a follow-up to the several interceptions, about the actions taken by South Africa regarding the first interception of false codling moth and fruit flies, and about the communication to Israel on the next steps following the EFSA opinion on Israel's systems approach for citrus fruit against false codling moth.

On EU trade, the Commission highlighted the two interceptions of Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus of which one on plants of *Solanum lycopersicum*, one on seedlings of *Capsicum annuum*, and one on seedlings of *Solanum lycopersicum* all from Italy (all reported by Malta), one interception of *Meloidogyne fallax* on *Solanum tuberosum* from

the Netherlands (reported by Sweden) and the four interceptions of *Globodera pallida* on *Solanum tuberosum* of which three from Cyprus and one from Spain (reported by Poland).

Finally, the Commission updated the Committee on the completed, ongoing and planned audits of the period.

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

The Commission presented the overview of the outbreaks notified by the Member States in the period from 18 May to 15 June 2021.

Finland gave information on the finding of *Grapholita inopinata* in traps. Surveys will continue.

Italy gave a presentation on the eradication efforts taken in Sicily regarding the outbreaks of *Ripersiella hibisci*. Following trace forward activities after the notification of Italy, Belgium and Germany notified the first presence of *Ripersiella hibisci* in their territory. Eradication actions and surveys are in place in all Member States.

Malta gave information on the findings of *Xylosandrus crassiusculus*. Surveys activities will continue, together with awareness raising and determination of the level of impact that this pest causes under the ecoclimatic conditions of the country.

Sweden gave an overview presentation regarding the outbreaks of *Meloidogyne fallax* in their territory, the surveys and control measures taken. A specific point on this pest will be added to the agenda to share information from all Member States where this pest is present.

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

The EFSA media newsletter and the EFSA scientific literature newsletter of June 2021 and the EPPO reporting service no 5 were disseminated to Member States.

A.04 Outcome of EFSA's Pest Monitoring Scoring tool for the non-EU regulated pests identified by media and scientific monitoring from January 2020 to April 2021.

EFSA presented the result of the PeMoScoring on the identified non-EU regulated pests. Most of the pests have been scored as 'negative' pests, meaning not passing the set threshold in the methodology for a recommendation to perform a pest categorisation. Furthermore, several of the 'positive' pests are present in the EU. A discussion with the Member States will follow to decide which of the pests are going to be included in a follow-up mandate to EFSA requesting a pest categorisation.

A.05 Findings and provisional conclusions of a recent Commission audit in Israel to evaluate the system of official phytosanitary controls of host plants of ToBRFV and of *Xylella fastidiosa* and controls of certain high-risk plants.

The Commission presented the findings of a remote audit of Israel on the implementation of the specific EU import requirements related to host plants of tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV) and *Xylella fastidiosa* and EU requirements on plants for planting of certain high risk species (*Albizia julibrissin* and *Robinia pseudoacacia*). Some Member States expressed concerns that Israel may re-export to

the EU tomato and pepper seeds which were rejected by a Member State based on positive test results for ToBRFV and requested that all seed consignments tested positive for the virus must be destroyed and not allowed to be sent back to the exporting country.

A.06 Overview of demarcated areas established by Member States in 2020 for the eradication of quarantine pest outbreaks and notified as per Article 18.6 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

As this is a new legal obligation for the Member States stipulated in the new plant health law, a brief discussion took place regarding the receipt of such data and their format. Synergies and potential extraction of data available in the EUROPHYT Outbreak notification IT tool or the survey IT tool will be sought.

A.07 Presentation by Malta of national measures for the control of ToBRFV, followed by an exchange of views.

Malta informed about their national measures to contain the spread of ToBRFV after recent internal interceptions and the identification of a number of outbreaks. Malta is taking temporary measures under Article 52. Such measures were discussed with the Commission and the other Member States.

The discussion will feed into the ongoing consultation for the amendment of Regulation (EU) 2020/1191.

A.08 Outcome of the EU-US bilateral meeting of the Plant Health Technical Working Group of 11-12 May 2021.

The Commission informed the Committee on the outcome of the recent bilateral meeting, with a focus on the US request for export of oak logs to the EU and the prolongation and extension of the existing derogation for ammunition boxes.

A.09 Information point on import-export issues between the EU and UK(GB).

The Commission informed the Committee about the recent meeting between EFSA and the UK authorities concerning the submission of dossiers for the high risk plants. The meeting was facilitated by the Commission and its purpose was to help the UK authorities to prepare those dossiers. No chronological priority will be given to those dossiers, compared to the ones of the other third countries.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible 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.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible technical opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annexes II to XIV of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 establishing uniform conditions for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and the Council, as regards protective measures against pests of plants.

The Commission proposal to amend Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 was discussed with the Member States. Written comments are invited by 30

June. After this period the Commission will address the comments received and will seek the technical approval of the Committee. This piece of draft legislation will appear in the Better Regulation Portal (BRP) for a 4 weeks stakeholder consultation and will be notified to WTO-SPS for a commenting period of 60 days.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2020/1201 as regards measures to prevent the introduction into and spread within the Union of *Xylella fastidiosa*.

The Commission presented the updated version of the draft amending the annexes of the Regulation on *Xylella fastidiosa*. The amendment is needed because of the updated host plants database recently published by EFSA. In the article on import control the Commission inserted a new wording aligned with the Official Control Regulation.

A general agreement has been reached and the text will soon be submitted for vote.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation reviewing Regulation (EU) 2020/1191 establishing measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of ToBRFV.

The Commission presented the suggested amendments of the current regulation on ToBRFV and the need for stricter measures. An increase of import controls for certain origins is envisaged and more prescriptive internal measures for eradication were included. Some points raised concerns with Member States and some other were well accepted. The Commission requested written comments with a tight deadline and intends to present an updated draft to the next PAFF.

C.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 as regards certain plants for planting of *Ficus carica* L. and *Persea americana* Mill. originating in Israel and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1213 as regards the phytosanitary measures for the introduction of those plants for planting into the Union territory.

The Commission presented the draft Regulation removing certain plants for planting of *Ficus carica* and *Persea americana* originating in Israel and the phytosanitary measures in support of that removal. The Committee discussed the proposal and agreed to provide comments to the Commission by 25 June 2021. The Commission will subsequently proceed with a view to submitting a formal proposal at one of the forthcoming meetings of the Committee.