



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 15 MAY 2017
(Section Plant Health)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/06b15b2f-7bbb-4c43-8086-31dca4a24067>

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 and the follow-up carried out by the Commission from 12 April 2017 to 3 May 2017. The interception of *Bactericera cockerelli* on a commodity originating in Mexico was highlighted. The specific situation of Bangladesh was discussed in detail. Bangladesh has put in place a self-ban for four commodities and has applied a specific action plan for mangoes. Mangoes will be exported until 30 June 2017. From 1 July 2017 Bangladesh will put in place a self-ban for mangoes. The follow-up actions regarding interceptions originating in Nigeria, Chile and Mexico were also analysed.

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

An overview of the outbreaks was presented by the Commission. The outbreak of *Epitrix papa* in Spain was highlighted and discussed.

As regards *Xylella fastidiosa*, Italy informed that in total 905 olive trees were found infected in the last 20 km infected zone of Apulia, out of which 144 already felled, while felling orders have been issued for 622 infected trees. Italy also informed that the Apulian Action Plan for 2017 was recently adopted. Italy was invited to detail the state of play of each infected tree, including any legal or administrative obstacles for their actual removal, for further assessment by the Commission.

Spain informed that at the present time 232 plants were found infected in the Balearic Islands: 147 in Mallorca, 64 in Ibiza and 21 in Menorca. Almond trees, together with cultivated and wild olive trees, represent the main concern for the islands due to their wide distribution. Spain also informed that a twenty-year old plant of *Vitis vinifera* (vine) was recently found infected in Mallorca. Further investigations on the *Xylella* subspecies are still ongoing. This is the first finding on *Vitis* reported in the Union territory. Spain was invited to keep strict control on the movement of specified plants

out of and within the Balearic Islands and share further details with Member States as soon as available.

The Czech Republic informed that the *Polygala* plant, previously suspected positive for *Xylella*, was confirmed to be negative, while 2 suspicious palm trees are still under investigation.

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

EFSA presented its second pilot newsletter which was the outcome of a horizon scanning of the media. A discussion took place on the news related to *Spodoptera frugiperda*, a pest that is already regulated as a quarantine organism in the EU. In view of the development of the situation of the outbreak of this pest in Africa, it was decided to prioritize the delivery of a pest categorization by EFSA, in order to decide timely whether additional legislative action needs to be taken. Furthermore, Member States gave feedback to EFSA on the newsletter.

A.04 Exchange of views on an amendment of Decision (EU) 2015/789 as regards measures against *Xylella fastidiosa*.

The Commission and Member States had an exchange of views about a possible revision of some legal provisions laid down under Decision (EU) 2015/789, following latest developments of *Xylella* in the EU. More specifically, the discussion focused on the possibility to declare the entire territory of Corsica as area under containment, taking into account its wide distribution; diagnostic methods to be further detailed in line with International Standards; planting of tolerant olive varieties in some parts of the Apulian Demarcated Area (Italy), together with the de-listing from current movement restrictions of grapevine varieties proved so far to be resistant to the Apulian strain of *Xylella fastidiosa*. Additionally, the possibility to adapt some provisions for the establishment of the demarcated areas in case of isolated outbreaks and setting up of buffer zones for outbreaks subject to eradication measures were discussed. Finally, the possibility to extent plant passport requirements up to final users for high risk plants (e.g. *Polygala myrtifolia*) which have been grown into the Union territory was discussed. The Member States were invited to provide further comments in writing by the end of the week. The Commission informed that it will prepare a draft Decision for possible vote in a forthcoming meeting of the Standing Committee.

A.05 Presentation by the Commission of the conclusions of the audit carried out in France from 20 to 31 March 2017 to evaluate the situation and official controls for *Xylella fastidiosa*.

The Commission informed that a centralised institutional structure was found to be in place with clear division of responsibilities to deal with the outbreaks. The national contingency and action plans provide a good basis for implementation of the necessary measures. Shortcomings were identified as regards controls on specified plants moved out of the demarcated areas, intensity of survey activities in the different demarcated areas. Eradication measures in PACA region were considered not fully in line with Decision (EU) 2015/789. Additionally, given the wide distribution of *Xylella*

in Corsica, the implementation of eradication measures in some parts of the island was no longer considered to be a feasible option. The Commission informed that the draft report was sent to France for comments before it is made publically available.

A.06 Exchange of views on an amendment of Annex IV to Council Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community as regards seed of *Solanum tuberosum*.

The Commission and Member States had an exchange of views about the draft amendment of Annex IV to Council Directive 2000/29/EC regarding protective measures for the production and movement of true seeds of *Solanum tuberosum* L. in the European Union. The discussed text would introduce an amendment with specific provisions for seeds of *Solanum tuberosum* L. only. A number of Member States' comments were recorded during the Committee. The Member States were asked for additional written comments to be sent by the end of the week. The Commission informed that it will consult the stakeholders in June-July, and then prepare a text for vote in a forthcoming meeting of the Standing Committee.

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

The Commission presented a discussion paper on the common format for plant passports, in which the Member States' comments, received after the first discussion in the March Committee, were taken into account. In the following discussion, the Committee expressed further its views on several elements of the common format, in particular on a level of detail or flexibility with regards to the details of the format, whether to provide examples or models of plant passports, the combined plant passports with official (certification) labels etc. The Commission asked for additional written comments to be sent by 26 May 2017, and announced a virtual working group for 2 June 2017 to discuss the comments received.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending 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 for vote the draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Decision (EU) 2016/159 as regards the procedures for grants and requests for payment in respect of emergency measures. The draft included comments received by Member States.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision repealing Decision 2007/365/EC on emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Community of *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Olivier).

The Commission presented, for exchange of views, the draft Commission Implementing Decision repealing the existing emergency measures for *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Olivier) (Decision 2007/365/EC). The vote will take place in a forthcoming meeting of the Committee.