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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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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 non-compliances notified by Member States and the actions taken.

The Commission presented an overview of non-compliances between 8 July and 10 September 2023. In non-EU trade the Commission highlighted the high number of non-compliances due to (i) Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus on seeds of tomatoes from China, Peru, Israel, Thailand and Türkiye and of peppers from China, and India, (ii) *Bactrocera dorsalis* on guavas from Bangladesh and Colombia (iii) *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on citrus fruits from South Africa, Argentina and Zimbabwe, (iv) *Spodoptera frugiperda* on *Rosa* from Kenya, *Asparagus officinalis* from Mexico, and *Zea mays* from Morocco (v) *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Rosa* from Kenya and Uganda, *Capsicum* from Kenya and *Solanum melongena* from Uganda.

In EU trade the Commission highlighted the non-compliances due to (i) *Phytophthora bisheria* on plants of *Rubus idaeus* from Germany, (ii) Plum Pox virus on *Prunus persica* from Italy; (iii) Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus on seeds of *Solanum lycopersicum* from Italy.

The Commission also provided an update on audits and on the follow-up actions to the non-compliances.

The Committee agreed to continue with the procedure of follow-up actions by means of written communication and meetings and to monitor closely the evolution of those non-compliances.

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

Cyprus updated on the outbreak situation regarding the recent finding of *Diaphorina citri* in their territory, which is one of the vectors of citrus greening disease. Surveys are continuing, demarcation is in place, and the analysis of all samples did not reveal the presence of the citrus greening agent neither in the vectors nor in citrus orchards.

Italy gave information related to a recent finding of *Bactrocera zonata*. The pest was found in the trap close to a fruit and vegetable market. Furthermore, IT informed about

the evolution of the *Toumeyella parvicornis* outbreak in the region of Tuscany. The pest is not regulated in the EU. Official measures are in place.

Germany informed on the eradication campaign of *Saperda candida*. The pest is present only in an island. Monitoring activities have been intensified and the eradication measures continue.

Greece gave a detailed presentation regarding the first findings of the priority pest *Spodoptera frugiperda*. So far, the pest has only been found in traps placed as part of the annual official surveys. Surveys are continuing and have been intensified around the traps where the pests were captured.

Portugal informed of the first finding of *Spodoptera frugiperda* in its territory in the island of Madeira. One insect was captured in a monitoring trap. Surveys are continuing.

A.03 EFSA newsletter on horizon scanning for new pests; EPPO monthly reporting service on pests.

The Commission presented highlights from EFSA's newsletter on horizon scanning, issue of October 2023, and EPPO's reporting service of September 2023.

A.04 Outcome of the Commission Working Group meeting on listing of new pests and delisting of quarantine pests.

New information available for certain Union quarantine pests resulted in the re-assessment of their pest status. Furthermore, the potential regulation of non-regulated pests identified by horizon scanning, High Risk Plant dossiers risk assessments and derogations' risk assessments were discussed, based on data provided by the pest categorisations published by the EFSA.

The future regulation/deregulation for those pests or the decision to take no EU action is currently under discussion (see point A07).

A.05 EFSA opinion on the probability of introduction of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* into the Union with the import of cut roses.

EFSA has presented the outcome of the above-mentioned opinion. Given the increased number of interceptions of roses because of findings of the pest, the aim of this work was to clarify whether the cut roses constitute an introduction pathway and to obtain recent and detailed data on the climatic suitability of its establishment. The issue will be further discussed in a forthcoming Committee meeting.

A.06 Exchange of views on establishing measures to prevent the establishment and spread within the Union territory of *Candidatus Liberibacter*.

Postponed.

A.07 Exchange of views on the revision of the phytosanitary conditions of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.

The Commission discussed a comprehensive package of revisions to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. This includes the potential addition of new Union quarantine pests (QPs) and the deregulation of some of the existing QPs or their potential regulation as regulated non-quarantine pests (RNQPs). As a result, a number of new import requirements will be discussed further, while some existing import

requirements will be discussed for removal from Annex VII of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. Some Member States urged the Commission to move fast with the deregulation of those pests. Furthermore, the need for import requirements for cut roses related to the priority pest *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*, based on a recent opinion of the EFSA, has been discussed. The Commission asked that any written comments are sent within 10 working days. The exchange of views will continue in the next Committee meeting.

A.08 Exchange of views on potential need for EU regulation for *Blissus insularis*, *Pulvinaria Psidii*, *Lasiodiplodia pseudotheobromae*, *Penthimiola bella* and *Takahashia japonica*.

Portugal presented an update on the outbreaks of *Blissus insularis* to the Committee. It highlighted that the pest is difficult to eradicate. The Commission explained the need to clarify the exemption in the prohibition in point 14 of Annex VI to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072, as the perennial grasses form a pathway for entry into the Union of pests such as *Blissus insularis*. Further discussion is needed for that clarification and to decide on the regulatory status of *Blissus insularis*. The Commission also presented to the Committee the highlights from the scientific opinions on the pest categorisations for *Pulvinaria psidii*, *Lasiodiplodia pseudotheobromae*, *Penthimiola bella* and *Takahashia japonica*, with proposals for the regulatory status of each pest. For *Pulvinaria psidii*, Spain clarified that no significant impact has been observed on host plants in its territory due to effective biological control by predators and parasitoids. The Committee concluded that *Pulvinaria psidii*, *Lasiodiplodia pseudotheobromae*, *Penthimiola bella* and *Takahashia japonica* should not be regulated.

A.09 Exchange of views on a possible amendment of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715 concerning the use of CHED-PP for imported plants and in respect of the content of notifications in the case of outbreaks of pests.

The Commission presented a draft revision of Regulation (EU) 2019/1715 for the Plant Health sector. The first part of the text sets out the possibility to issue a CHED-PP for goods under Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2019/66. The second part concerns the system EUROPHYT-Outbreaks, regarding the pest status and the details of the buffer zone. Member States welcomed this proposal and made suggestions to improve the text. Several Member States also expressed their dissatisfaction with the non-uniform use of CHED-PP for goods under Article 73 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 across the Union. The Commission took note of Member States' suggestions and will update the IMSOC draft Regulation.

A.10 Overview of the results of the 2022 survey campaign by Member States for the presence of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*.

The Commission presented an overview of the 2022 survey results for *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* submitted by the Member States in the Europhyt Surveys IT-module. An increase of the survey efforts in the demarcated areas is noted comparing to previous years, while less surveys outside demarcated areas and checks on movement were performed.

A.11 Overview of EU research programmes for plant health.

The Commission gave a presentation on the EU research funding under the Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe programmes that is relevant for plant health activities. The scope of that funding can be divided into three areas: addressing specific EU quarantine pests, addressing activities related to territory surveillance and import controls and generation of new plant protection products. Details on the expected outcomes of specific EU-funded programmes have been given.

A.12 Information on import-export issues between the EU and UK(GB).

No issue raised.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on emergency action against a plant pest in the Union and third countries.

No issue raised.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible technical opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation establishing measures to prevent the establishment and spread within the Union territory of *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire.

The Committee held an exchange of views on the draft eradication measures for *Agrilus planipennis*. No major issues were identified and a deadline of one week was set out for further written comments. The Commission informed that after that the draft Regulation will be uploaded on the Better Regulation Portal for consultation.

Vote Postponed

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 as regards certain plants for planting of *Fagus sylvatica* originating in the United Kingdom 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 a draft act and Annex to the Committee. The Committee discussed the reasons why it decided in the past not to regulate the *Phytophthora kernoviae*, identified by EFSA as relevant in this dossier. Ireland, the only Member State where outbreaks of this pest occurs, updated the Committee on the situation concerning the pest in its territory. The Commission clarified the reason for requesting the specification of the registered sites of production on the phytosanitary certificate from the UK.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation establishing rules for the uniform application of frequency rates for identity checks and physical checks on consignments of plants, plant products and other objects, and requirements for the wood packaging material carrying, protecting or supporting certain commodities, entering the Union, and repealing Commission Implementing Regulations (EU) 2021/127 and (EU) 2022/2389.

The Commission presented the results of the working group meeting and a draft Regulation with its Annex to the Committee. A number of comments submitted by the Member States following the last discussion in the Standing Committee have been taken into account in the revision. Because the text is a combination of 2 existing Regulations, further reflection on the legal structure of the text is needed.