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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*
17 - 18 March 2022

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SUMMARY REPORT

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

The Commission presented the interceptions for the period between 16 February and 14 March 2022. In non-EU trade the Commission highlighted the thirteen non-compliances of Tomato brown rugose fruit virus on seeds of *Solanum lycopersicum* from countries such as Israel, China, and Peru and on seeds of *Capsicum* from China and Israel. Concerns were expressed again about the non-compliances from China and Israel.

The Commission also highlighted the interceptions of (i) *Spodoptera frugiperda* on *Asparagus officinalis* from Peru, on *Rosa agrestis* from Kenya and *Tagetes erecta* from Thailand, (ii) *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Capsicum annuum* from Uganda and on *Eryngium* from Zimbabwe.

A Member State expressed concerns about the interceptions from Peru and the interceptions on roses from Kenya and raised the point of reviewing the reduced frequency of import controls on roses from that country.

The Commission also noted the non-compliances of *Buprestidae*, *Cerambycidae*, *Coleoptera*, *Formica*, *Hemiptera* on logs of *Juglans nigra* from United States. A Member State expressed concerns about the recurrent non-compliances for *Juglans nigra* from US.

Finally, the Commission highlighted the non-compliances of (i) *Ceratothripoides brunneus* on *Momordica* from Uganda, (ii) *Diaphania indica* on *Momordica charantia*, (iii) *Spodoptera ornithogalli* on *Asparagus officinalis* from Mexico (iv) *Leucinodes* on *Solanum melongena* from Congo.

On EU trade the Commission highlighted the non-compliance of Tomato brown rugose fruit virus on seeds of *Solanum lycopersicum* from the Netherlands (reported by Italy).

The Commission also informed Member States about the follow-up actions for the period between 27 January 2022 and 17 March 2022, in relation to the non-compliances of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on pomelos from China and the exchange of letters on the review of the measures for *Phyllosticta citricarpa* and *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*.

The Commission and the Member States agreed to continue monitoring the non-compliances, to contact the countries for which concerns were raised and to revisit the issue of the reduced frequency on roses.

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 15 February to 8 March 2022.

Italy informed about the update of outbreak of *Xylella* in Monte Argentario:

Xylella fastidiosa subsp. *multiplex* (ST87) was found in December 2018 in Tuscany in the municipality of Monte Argentario. All the measures in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 2020/1201 are implemented in the demarcated area. Only one professional operator is located inside the demarcated area. 2021 survey results: an intensive survey campaign was carried out in the demarcated area from August 2021 to February 2022, in private and public areas, including large areas with spontaneous vegetation typical of the Mediterranean maquis. In total, 2918 samples were taken using the statistical approach Ribess+ (1299 in IZ and 1619 in BZ). 111 plants were found positive. Felling activities are ongoing and will be completed by June 2022. The new infected plants found in 2021 do not affect the border of the demarcated area. A new species for *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex*, *Clematis vitalba*, has been found infected. 441 vectors were collected in the demarcated area and 743 outside. 13 *Philaenus spumarius* specimens tested positive inside DA. Two insecticide treatments were carried out along one of the access route to the promontory.

Portugal updated the Committee about the outbreak of *Xylella* in Algarve:

Portugal has changed the phytosanitary measures reducing the buffer to 1 km width. The subspecies of *Xylella fastidiosa* detected in the *Salvia rosmarinus* composite sample in July 2021 was undetermined. As a result of the intensive survey in the infected zone, sampling and testing of 1988 plants were carried out from all lots of the host plants present in the place of production all with negative results. Within the buffer zone 2,5 km width, a survey using the statistical approach Ribess+ was also performed right after the establishment of the demarcated area, which included sampling and testing of 1520 host plants, all with negative results. Potential insect vectors were identified in 16 out of the 30 samples of insects collected in the infected zone and buffer zone, all tested negative for the presence of *Xylella fastidiosa*. All specified plants within 50m radius, all the plants of *Salvia rosmarinus* present in the place of production, as well as other immobilized specified plants were destroyed in situ (45.822 plants) after insecticide treatment. All trace back and trace forward investigations led to negative results. Taking into account that all conditions set out in Regulation (EU) 2020/1201, Article 5(1)(a), (b), (c), (d) were met and therefore it is possible to conclude that the initial presence of *Xylella fastidiosa* did not result in its spread, the buffer zone was reduced to 1 km width (Despacho n° 12/G/2022).

Portugal announced that according to Article 6 (2) of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1201 it is going to lift the demarcated area.

Spain updated the Committee about the outbreak of *Trioza erytreae* in the Autonomous Region of País Vasco. The demarcated areas were increased as a result of the 2021 surveys. The pest was found in public and private gardens and in some orchards. Measures were taken involving treatment with chemicals, cutting of trees and

destruction of plants. The information about the presence of the pest was communicated to operators in the demarcated area. measures have not changed in comparison to previous outbreaks as they are considered extensive and sufficient where they have been implemented. Difficulties in reaching private areas and natural spread are the main issues encountered. When asked about the effectiveness of Tamarixia, Spain informed that the results are quite satisfactory.

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

The Commission presented highlights from the EPPO reporting service of February 2022.

EFSA presented the highlights of the media and literature scanning, together with information on PeMoScoring of the non-regulated pests identified this month.

A.04 Exchange of views for regulating eradication and containment measures against *Popillia japonica*.

The Commission presented an initial draft Implementing Regulation detailing the eradication and containment measures against *Popillia japonica* Newman. Member States provided preliminary comments to the draft. The Commission invited Member States to submit written comments by 15 April 2022. The Commission will present a revised draft, taking into account the comments, during the next meeting.

A.05 Exchange of views on the feedback from the stakeholder consultation of the draft Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 regarding the import requirements related to *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*.

The Commission presented the outcome of the stakeholder consultations and the related statistics per country and category of respondent. Several concerns raised referred to the implementation of the cold treatment regime proposed, its effects and its scope. To discuss the concerns on the cold sensitivity of the oranges, including organic and 'chem'-free fruits, the Commission asked the Member States to share their experiences with the import and export of *Citrus* fruits with the proposed cold treatment regime. The draft Regulation will be discussed with the Member States after the end of the ongoing WTO-SPS consultation.

A.06 Derogation request by Canada for the introduction of veneer wood of *Acer* sp. under a systems approach.

The Commission informed about an application from Canada for the introduction of veneer wood of *Acer*. The application was supported by a dossier setting out a systems approach for sanitary treatment. The Commission invited Member States to submit any comments on the application in writing by 8 April. The Commission intends to prepare a consultation of EFSA afterwards.

A.07 Information point 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 Decision on emergency action against a plant pest in the Union and third countries.

No item raised.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on measures to eradicate and prevent the spread of *Globodera pallida* (Stone) Behrens and *Globodera rostochiensis* (Wollenweber) Behrens.

The Commission presented to the Committee the draft Regulation implemented with some comments following the public consultation, presented during the Committee of January 2022, and revised by the legal service of the Commission. After an exchange of views, the Member States were invited to provide their comments in writing by Thursday 31 March. Thereafter, the written procedure for vote will be launched.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on measures to eradicate and prevent the spread of *Synchytrium endobioticum* (Schilb.) Perc.

The Commission presented to the Committee the draft Regulation implemented with some comments following the public consultation, presented during the Committee of January 2022, and revised by the legal service of the Commission. After an exchange of views, the Member States were invited to provide their comments in writing by Thursday 31 March. Thereafter, the written procedure for vote will be launched.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on measures to eradicate and prevent the spread of *Clavibacter sepedonicus* (Speckermann & Kotthoff 1914) Nouioui et al. 2018.

The Commission presented to the Committee the draft Regulation implemented with some comments following the public consultation, presented during the Committee of January 2022, and revised by the legal service of the Commission. After an exchange of views, the Member States were invited to provide their comments in writing by Thursday 31 March. Thereafter, the written procedure for vote will be launched.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on measures to eradicate and prevent the spread of *Ralstonia solanacearum* (Smith 1896) Yabuuchi et al. 1996 emend. Safni et al. 2014.

The Commission presented to the Committee the draft Regulation implemented with some comments following the public consultation, presented during the Committee of January 2022, and revised by the legal service of the Commission. After an exchange of views, the Member States were invited to provide their comments in writing by Thursday 31 March. Thereafter, the written procedure for vote will be launched.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 as regards fruits of *Momordica charantia* from Sri Lanka, Thailand, Mexico and Honduras, and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 as regards the phytosanitary import requirements for the introduction of those fruits into the Union territory.

The Commission presented to the Committee a draft Regulation for delisting from the list of high risk plants, fruits of *Momordica charantia* L. originating in Honduras, Mexico, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The changes resulting from the Commission's internal consultation procedures were highlighted. The Committee had some comments concerning the Annex to the draft Regulation. Those comments will be looked into by the Commission, and an amended version of the text will be shared with the Member States for agreement before launching the written procedure. The Commission also explained that the written procedure will be launched only after consultation with the third countries concerned. In addition, Suriname, a third country whose request for a derogation for export of *Momordica charantia* fruits to the EU was considered not acceptable, will be notified of the decision concerning their dossier and the notification letter will be shared with the Member States.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.07 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation establishing measures to prevent the introduction into, establishment and spread within the Union territory of *Anoplophora chinensis* (Forster) and repealing Decision 2012/138/EU.

Postponed.

B.08 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation as regards temporary measures to prevent the entry into, the movement and the spread within, and the multiplication and release in, the Union of *Meloidogyne graminicola* (Golden & Birchfield).

The Commission presented the changes to the draft Implementing Regulation highlighting the update of the Italian demarcated areas in Annex II to the draft Regulation. The Commission asked Italy to provide a list of species that could be used for crop rotation in the case that containment measures are applied.

Vote Postponed

B.09 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/178 as regards the addition of United Kingdom (Northern Ireland) to the information in the poster to be displayed by Member States, seaports, airports, international transport operators and transport means concerning the introduction of plants, plant products and other objects into the Union territory.

The Committee discussed the draft proposed by the Commission. It was agreed to improve the text by clarifying in the Annex of the draft Regulation that the indication of UK will 'only' apply to Northern Ireland.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 as regards the specific requirements for the introduction into the Union of plants in relation to the Union quarantine pest *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (Meyrick).

Postponed.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation establishing emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of Rose Rosette Virus and repealing Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/1739.

The Commission presented a draft Regulation to the Committee. Member States provided some comments and proposals to clarify the draft. An updated draft will be presented in a further Committee.