



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

sante.g.3(2023)10742792

Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed

Section *Plant Health*

10 - 11 July 2023

CIRCABC Link: https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/2fef964-6d34-495a-b870-fa14e7b50f3d/library/070c903e-ffaa-44fc-beac-50f710fa471b?p=2&n=10&sort=name_ASC

SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Evaluation of recent import non-compliances notified by Member States and the actions taken.

The Commission highlighted the non-compliances due to the presence of pests for the period between 21 June and 3 July 2023. In non-EU trade the Commission highlighted the non-compliances due to (i) Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus on seeds of tomatoes from Peru, Chile, India, Israel and Türkiye and of peppers from Israel, India and Türkiye, (ii) *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on lemons and oranges from South Africa and oranges from Egypt, (iii) *Bactrocera dorsalis* on mangoes from Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso, (iv) *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on peppers from Kenya.

In EU trade the Commission highlighted the non-compliances due to (i) *Meloidogyne enterolobii* on *Ficus microcarpa* originating in the Netherlands, reported by Germany and (ii) Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus on leaves of *Solanum lycopersicum* originating in France, reported by Belgium.

A Member State raised the issue of the presence of *Unaspis citri* and other non-regulated scales on fruits from Mexico for the attention of the other Member States.

The Commission informed the Committee of a meeting with South Africa on non-compliances of citrus fruits. South Africa informed that the investigations of the non-compliances due to *Phyllosticta citricarpa* are ongoing, stressed the unusual rain conditions that may have affected the efficacy of chemical treatments. The Commission urged South Africa to take immediate corrective actions, including, if necessary, the suspension of exports to the Union. On *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*, the Commission requested that the start and end dates of the cold treatment on oranges are clearly communicated, in accordance with the relevant audit recommendation. South Africa will consider the way to comply with this recommendation.

The Commission also presented an update on audits and on the follow-up actions to the non-compliances due to (i) *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on citrus from Egypt and (ii) *Thrips palmi* on *Momordica charantia* from Mexico.

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.

The Commission presented the overview of the outbreaks that were notified from 22 May to 2 July 2023.

Cyprus gave an overview of the activities related to *Spodoptera frugiperda* that was recently found on the island.

Portugal informed about the situation related to *Elsinoë fawcettii* that was found on the Azores islands affecting different *Citrus* plant species in private gardens and small orchards. Following the official surveys, the pest was found to be present on more islands. Official measures are in place aiming at eradication of the pest, including movement prohibitions.

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 July 2023 and EPPO's reporting service of June 2023.

A.04 Exchange of views on the renewal of requirements for the import of ware potatoes from Egypt (Decision 2011/787/EU).

The Commission highlighted that requirements of Decision 2011/787/EU need to be updated for alignment with provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031. Discussion took place concerning the requirements that should be laid down in a new legal act. A proposal will be discussed in a further meeting.

A.05 Exchange of views on a possible amendment of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1927 establishing measures for the containment of *Aleurocanthus spiniferus* within certain demarcated areas to include new areas under containment.

The Commission informed, on request from Croatia and Italy, to include new areas under containment for *Aleurocanthus spiniferus*, following the surveys carried out in 2023.

The Committee agreed that before amending the Implementing Regulation by adding new areas for containment the affected Member States will make a presentation to explain the new geographical extent of the area requested and explain the details of the measures carried out to contain the pest. The point will be discussed again in the meeting of September.

A.06 Exchange of views on a possible amendment of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1629 establishing measures for the containment of *Ceratocystis platani* within certain demarcated areas to include new areas under containment.

The Commission informed on the request of Italy to include new areas under containment for *Ceratocystis platani*, following the surveys carried out in 2023.

The Committee agreed that before amending the Implementing Regulation by adding new areas for containment the affected Member States will make a presentation to explain the new geographical extent of the area requested and explain the details of the

measures carried out to contain the pest. The point will be discussed again in the meeting of September.

A.07 Exchange of views on temporary measures against the introduction into and spread within the Union territory of *Bactrocera* spp.

The Commission presented an overview of the comments submitted in writing by Member States after the presentation of the first version of a non- paper in June.

All Member States that took the floor welcomed the initiative. A number of Member States, however, found the provisions on monitoring, trapping and eradication too detailed and too prescriptive and requested more margin to adapt them to the local conditions in their territory.

The necessity to authorise attractants as active substances under Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 for use under certain conditions was discussed and reaching out to contact points for plant protection products legislation was agreed.

The discussion will be continued at the meeting in September.

A.08 Exchange of views on the extension of the requirements for the introduction into the Union of wood packaging material for the transport of certain commodities originating in certain third countries and for plant health checks.

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/127 sets minimum rates for phytosanitary checks of wood packaging material used in the transport of certain commodities originating in Belarus, China or India. This Regulation will expire on 31 December 2023.

A number of Member States expressed their support for extending the provisions on minimum rates for phytosanitary checks of wood packaging material in use. Discussion is necessary whether, following the recent evolution of the numbers of interceptions, the list of commodities or third countries would have to be extended.

The Commission will prepare a first draft legal act for discussion at the meeting in September.

A.09 Exchange of views and selection of a list of Positive PeMoScore pests for submission to EFSA for pest categorization.

Following the horizon scanning activities of EFSA a number of non-regulated pests have been identified and further analysed via the EFSA PeMoScoring tool used for assessing potential plant health threats. 45 non-regulated pests scored positively in PeMoScoring for the period of July 2020 to June 2023. The Commission presented the list of the non-regulated pests to be potentially sent to EFSA for pest categorization. For pests that have been present in the EU for several years and/or in several Member States, with low/unknown yield losses or when the pathway was closed, it was proposed not to follow up with such request. Based on the discussion with Member States 20 pests of the list will not be sent for pest categorisation.

In order for the Commission to refine further the list of pests to be sent for pest categorisation written comments by Member States are requested by 1 September 2023.

A.10 Report on a Commission audit in Israel to evaluate the system of official controls for the export of certain plants and plant products to the European Union.

The objective of the audit was to assess the system of official plant health controls for the export of plants and plant products to the European Union, which are hosts of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (FCM), tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV) and *Xylella fastidiosa* (Xf).

There were some concerns with regard to controls of FCM, however the identified shortcomings have already been addressed by the Competent Authority. With regard to Xf a delimiting survey completed in November 2022 resulted in a significantly larger demarcated area with the size of approximately 150.000 ha (5 times increase). A nationwide survey to confirm the pest status in Israel is limited to agricultural areas and covers only a small number of host plants. The action plan provided by the Competent Authority needs to be modified and a reply has to be provided to the Commission by early August. As far as ToBRFV is concerned, there were no major issues identified with regard to the controls of the virus in plants for planting, however, for seeds, the issue of the delegation of both sampling and laboratory analysis to private bodies and lack or limitations in supervision by the Competent Authority remains the biggest concern. The Competent Authority provided a good action plan to address these concerns.

A.11 Overview of Member States 2022 survey activities for potato pests.

This was the first summary of the calendar year-based reports, this way it is not fully comparable with the previous years' production season-based reports.

Ring rot and Brown rot

Survey results were received from all Member States and from Bosnia Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Switzerland and UK.

During the last calendar year ring rot was detected in nine Member States. Poland and Romania are the most highly infected areas. After ten years this was the first year when Romania did not report any finding in seed potatoes, while Poland had the highest number (39) in seeds for the same period. Findings in other potatoes are similar to the previous year's data.

Brown rot was detected in four Member States with six findings only in ware potatoes, which is the lowest since the statistical data are available (1995).

Both bacteria occurred simultaneously in Portugal, Bulgaria and Spain.

No findings were reported from Bosnia Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Switzerland and UK.

Potato cyst nematodes

Similar trends as in the previous potato growing seasons were observed. Both nematode species were found in 14 Member States whilst four Member States reported no findings during this survey period.

Three Member States reported ten findings of *potato wart disease*.

Potato flea beetles

Measures for the containment of *Epitrix* sp. are in place in Portugal and Spain. Nine new infested fields were found inside the demarcated area in Portugal. In Spain, new

infested fields were found outside the demarcated area in Pais Vasco and Cantabria. No interceptions of potato consignments from Spain or Portugal have been reported.

A.12 Overview of Member States 2022 imports for scientific purposes (Regulation (EU) 2019/829).

The Commission presented an overview of the reports received from Member States related to the movement and introduction of prohibited material for scientific purposes in 2021 and 2022. The Commission particularly highlighted the numbers and the countries of origin of the exchanged material, as well as the aim of the activities (e.g. research, proficiency tests, varietal selection), the types of organisms (i.e. bacteria, fungi, insects, nematodes and viruses). The level of details reported by Member States as regards their consignment facilities and quarantine stations were also discussed. Member States agreed to the Commission's proposal of adding a layout for further reports in Regulation (EU) 2019/829, in view to simplify the reporting and to allow further quantitative data analysis.

A.13 Information on import-export issues between the EU and UK(GB).

No item 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 item raised.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1201 as regards the list of plants known to be susceptible to *Xylella fastidiosa*.

The Commission presented the outcome of the stakeholder consultation and informed that no comments have been received on the SPS consultation with third countries on this text.

The Commission explained that the suggestion received from stakeholders to include the list of synonyms for the plants and the addition of the EPPO codes has not been taken on board. The Commission explained that the usual practice is to include the latest name and that the inclusion of the synonyms would complicate the text instead of clarifying. With regards to the EPPO codes, the Commission explained that they are used for pests, but not for plants in the EU legislation.

The draft Regulation was proposed for a vote to the Standing Committee.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annexes III, IX and X to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 as regards the listing of protected zones and respective quarantine pests, the prohibition of introduction of plants, plant products and other objects into certain protected zones, and the special requirements for such introduction.

The draft Regulation would renew the recognition of existing temporary protected zones and withdraw Czechia as protected zone for *Cryphonectria parasitica* and 1 region of Switzerland for *Erwinia amylovora*.

The draft Regulation was proposed for a vote to the Standing Committee.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

M.01 Information concerning recent cases of forged phytosanitary certificates for imported wood.

The Commission explained the current situation of forged phytosanitary certificates accompanying wood consignments, reported by Polish authorities. An officer from the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) explained the role of OLAF with this issue and its collaboration with the Commission to tackle fraud cases. The Commission also explained that past and future cases of phytosanitary fraud shall be notified to other Member States in the iRASFF - Food Fraud system, and not in the iRASFF – Plant Health system. In order to do so, the Commission urged Plant Health representatives to contact their iRASFF - Food Fraud contact points.