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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*
16 - 17 December 2021

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SUMMARY REPORT

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

The Committee discussed the interceptions for the period between 15 November and 10 December. The Commission highlighted in particular two interceptions of *Spodoptera frugiperda* on cuttings of *Codiaeum variegatum* from Costa Rica; five interceptions of Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus on seeds of *Solanum lycopersicum* from Israel and Thailand and *Capsicum annuum* from China and India; two interceptions of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on *Citrus sinensis* from Argentina and Uruguay; two interceptions of *Bactrocera dorsalis* on *Psidium guajava* from India; four interceptions of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Rosa* sp. from Kenya and Ethiopia.

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 for the period between 17 November to 13 December the Commission informed the Committee about the new systems approach for *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* submitted by South Africa on 2 December 2021.

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 (including recent cases of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Italy and Portugal).

The Commission presented the overview of the outbreaks notified by the Member States in the period from 10 November 2021.

Croatia and Italy gave an update on the state of art of the outbreaks of *Aleurocanthus spiniferus*. France gave an update on the outbreaks of *Ceratocystis platani* and the finding of the non-regulated pest *Pochazia shantungensis*, a polyphagous pest attacking fruit trees as well. Further surveys will be carried out.

Germany gave extra information about the finding of *Elachiptera decipiens* in a maize field. This is a non-regulated pest in the EU. Further surveys will be carried out.

Italy, France and Portugal presented to the Committee the situation of their outbreaks, focusing in particular on recent findings and providing updates of the measures put in

place. From the presentation provided by Portugal, it seems that *Salvia rosmarinus* is a species very susceptible to *Xylella fastidiosa*. Some Member States suggested to add it to the 5 species already indicated in the legislation as high risk plants. The subspecies of the last two findings in Portugal, in Lisbon and Algarve, has not been identified. Some more samples from the demarcated areas are going to be tested and in case of positives the subspecies identification will be performed.

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 Commission presented some highlights from the EFSA media newsletter and the EFSA scientific literature newsletter of December 2021 and the latest EPPO reporting service shared with the Committee.

A.04 Exchange of views on the procedures for transfer of consignments to control points for plant health checks (Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2123).

It appears that the current practice of authorizing consignments to be controlled at control points is not harmonized in all Member States, especially with regard to the application of the reduced frequency of inspection regime.

This is causing confusion, especially in cases where the BCP and CP are situated in different Member States. In some cases however, this is then regulated by a bilateral agreement. The Commission informed that the reduced frequency regime for plant health will be regulated by an implementing act soon to be drafted. Meanwhile, it has to be clarified if the current practices are in line with the general horizontal rules of OCR and if not, Member States need to rectify them.

A.05 Findings and conclusions of the Commission audits in France, Italy, Portugal and Spain in relation to the application of provisions of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1201 in the demarcated areas for *Xylella fastidiosa*.

The Commission presented an overview of the preliminary findings of a recent audit series in the Member States with outbreaks of *Xylella fastidiosa*. Particular attention has been given to the surveys activities inside the demarcated areas. The effectiveness of the new approach as defined in Regulation (EU) 2020/1201 has still to be verified during the 2022 audits. In the demarcated areas (except for one outbreak) there were significant delays in the completion of plant removals and the vector population in all stages was not sufficiently controlled. In some Member States there were shortcomings in the controls of plant movements.

A.06 Overview of the Member States' 2020 surveys results for *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*.

The Commission presented the 2020 surveys results in pest free areas and demarcated areas for *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* submitted by the Member States. The pest presence seems to remain under control.

A.07 Exchange of views on the phytosanitary programmes for 2023-2024.

Based on the experience with the 2021 and 2022 co-funding applications, the Committee held a discussion on the future priorities. The available budget for 2021 and 2022 was not sufficient to co-fund all 5 priority groups and many Member States expressed disappointment. The Committee discussed the possibility of reducing the

number of priorities in the future, setting budget limits per priority group and reducing the co-funding rates if applications continue to exceed the available budget. Some Member States suggested re-considering the co-funding of containment measures or setting a maximum percentage limit. The question will be discussed again at the next Committee meeting aiming at provisional agreement on an approach.

A.08 Information point on import-export issues between the EU and UK(GB).

No new developments noted. The Commission is preparing the legal texts to simplify the certification for the movement of plants, other than plants for planting, fruits, vegetables and cut flowers from GB/UK to NI/UK retailers.

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 establishing measures for the containment of Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma within certain demarcated areas.

The Commission presented the legal act updated with new data on demarcated areas. From the discussion it was apparent that certain buffer zones of demarcated areas extend to neighboring Member States. The Commission asked those countries to send information on demarcation in order to include it in this legal act.

Vote Postponed

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on temporary measures for certain fruits originating in certain third countries to prevent the introduction into and spread within the Union of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* (Mc Alpine) Van der Aa.

The Commission presented a revised version of the draft Regulation and its annexes on the temporary measures for certain fruits originating in certain third countries to prevent the introduction into and spread within the Union of *Phyllosticta citricarpa*. The changes were discussed and the Commission will revise the draft accordingly before proceeding with the internal consultations. The Commission explained that after completing the internal procedures it will proceed to the bilateral consultation with the third countries concerned and then the draft will be presented for vote.

C.02 Exchange of views 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.

The Commission presented a revised version of the draft Regulation and its annexes. The changes were discussed and the Commission will revise the draft accordingly before proceeding with the finalisation of its internal consultations. The final draft will be discussed again in one of the next Committee meetings.

C.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 as regards tubers of *Ulluco tuberosus* originating in Peru and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1213 as regards the phytosanitary measures for the introduction of those tubers into the Union territory.

The Commission presented a draft Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 as regards tubers of *Ullucus tuberosus* originating in Peru and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1213 as regards the phytosanitary measures for the introduction of those tubers into the Union territory. The Commission will take into account the comments received and will subsequently proceed with a view to submitting a formal proposal at one of the forthcoming meetings of the Committee.

C.04 Exchange of views of the Committee on a possible amendment of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 (high risk plants) to delist plants for planting of *Juglans regia*, *Nerium oleander* and *Robinia pseudoacacia* from Turkey.

The Commission presented an amended version of the draft measures for delisting plants for planting of *Juglans regia*, *Nerium oleander* and *Robinia pseudoacacia* originating in Turkey from the list of high risk plants. The Committee raised concern about the actions needed within the Union in case of findings at Union level of a pest which becomes newly regulated for this import only. The Commission clarified that due to the potential impact those pests may have in the Union if widespread, it is necessary to try to limit their entry from third countries on a precautionary basis. The pest risk as well as those measures will then need further scientific analysis to eventually justify further regulation of the pest. If no further comments are received from the Committee by 7 January 2022, the Commission shall proceed with the internal procedures.

C.05 Exchange of views of the Committee on a possible amendment of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 (high risk plants) to delist fruits of *Momordica charantia* from Honduras, Mexico, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The Commission presented an amended version of the draft measures for delisting *Momordica charantia* fruits originating in Honduras, Mexico, Sri Lanka and Thailand from the list of high risk plants, taking in to consideration the comments from the Committee on the previous version. Further comments from the Committee shall be sent to the Commission in writing by 7 January 2022. The Commission will subsequently contact the third countries concerned with the draft decisions, after which the internal procedures will be launched.

C.06 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft amendment of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 regarding the import requirements of *Thaumatococcus leucocretus*.

The Commission exchanged with the Member States on a legal draft that anticipates the amendment of the current import requirements for *Thaumatococcus leucocretus*, aiming at tackling the interceptions of this priority pest in the various host commodities. Member States were asked to send comments by the end of the first week of January.

M.01 Need to notify findings of regulated non quarantine pests (RNQP)

The Committee agreed that the findings of RNQPs should be notified, as it is done for the findings of QP.

M.02 Need of CHED PP for the introduction of plant material for scientific purposes

The Commission explained that, in the case of scientific material, the Letter of Authority replaces the phytosanitary certificate but not the obligation to have a CHED PP.

M.03 Derogation for the introduction of cuttings of *Petunia* and *Calibrachoa*

The Commission explained that the discussions about the mandate have been initiated and an official reply from EFSA, including the deadline by when the assessment will be done, is expected soon.

M.04 Data collection for *Meloidogyne chitwoodi* and *M. fallax*

It was clarified that the survey efforts in Member States should as much as possible be continued in 2022 to collect sufficient data on the pest status of the 2 nematodes across the Union. These are essential data to allow afterwards a re-evaluation of the situation.