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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 13 November and 13 December 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 India, Israel, Peru and Thailand and of peppers from India, China, Israel, Morocco and Peru, (ii) *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Rosa* from Kenya and Zambia, and on *Punica granatum* from Israel, (iii) *Bactrocera dorsalis* on *Psidium guajava* from India and *Capsicum frutescens* from Cambodia, and (iv) the high number of non-compliances due to *Spodoptera frugiperda* on strawberries from Egypt. In EU trade the Commission highlighted the non-compliances due to (i) *Elsinoe* sp. on lemons from Spain, (ii) *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens* on *Phaseolus vulgaris* from Hungary and (iii) Citrus tristeza virus on citrus fruits from Italy and Spain. The Commission also presented an update on audits and on the follow-up actions to the non-compliances.

Member States expressed concern about the uncertainty as regards the presence of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* in Morocco. The notifying Member State informed that it had written to Morocco about the finding a month ago but there has been no reply since. The Commission informed that following the confirmation of the laboratory result by the EURL on insects and mites, a letter is under preparation requesting Morocco to investigate, inform the Commission and eventually update its status. Member States also expressed concern about the high number of non-compliances due to *Spodoptera frugiperda* in strawberries from Egypt. A Member State suggested to broaden the scope of the audit to Egypt to include verification of the absence of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* as declared by Egypt following the relevant finding by the EU and investigations as regards the non-compliances due to *Spodoptera frugiperda* in strawberries. The Commission informed that the feasibility of the proposal regarding the scope of the audit to Egypt will be investigated further with the relevant Commission services and that a letter is also under preparation regarding those 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 gave details on the findings of *Diaphorina citri*. Surveys revealed the presence of the pest in more areas of the island. Eradication efforts are continuing. It was confirmed that *Liberibacter* species causing huanglongbing (citrus greening disease) have not been found.

The Netherlands gave an overview of the evolution and eradication of the outbreaks of *Meloidogyne enterolobii* found in greenhouses.

Portugal and Spain informed on the eradication efforts for *Scirtothrips aurantii* and *Scirtothrips dorsalis* respectively.

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

The Commission presented EPPO's reporting service of November 2023 and EFSA presented its newsletter of December 2023.

A.04 Exchange of views on a harmonised approach for documentary verification of compliance of tomato seed consignments at import with Regulation (EU) 2023/1032.

Compliance of the additional declaration on phytosanitary certificates with point (b) or Article 10(1) of the Regulation, on the traceability requirement up to the production site in the third country of origin, is in certain cases difficult to verify by the Member States, notably for imports from large third countries for which a geographical origin is recorded as production site. Nevertheless, the requirement for pest freedom of the production site in the Regulation related to the ToBRFV measures is clear and applicable since the start of the first ToBRFV Regulation. No common opinion was reached on the need to check the reliability of the additional declarations on phytosanitary certificates at import. Nevertheless, measures can be taken on the related consignments at import when declarations are found not to be reliable. The Commission will consider the issue and possible solutions during the revision of the Regulation in a forthcoming meeting of the Standing Committee in 2024.

A.05 Evaluation of the phytosanitary situation of the 2023 citrus import season.

The Committee continued the discussion on the way forward for the imports of citrus. The Commission informed that for imports of citrus fruits from Brazil regarding *Elsinoe*, it will present a technical document for discussion, if possible at the meeting of the Committee of 18-19 January 2024.

For imports of citrus fruits from South Africa regarding *Phyllosticta citricarpa*, the Commission proposed to submit South Africa's systems approach to EFSA for assessment of its effectiveness, and to request EFSA to assess whether the scientific publication on whether citrus fruits are a pathway of introduction for the pest would necessitate a revision of the pest risk assessment.

A.06 Exchange of views on potential need for EU plant health regulation for *Blissus insularis*, *Fusarium oxysporum f.s. cubense* TR4 and *Solenopsis invicta*.

The Commission discussed the need of EU plant health actions for the above-mentioned pests.

- a) *Blissus insularis*: It was decided not to include this pest in the list of EU quarantine pests. The pest is already present in the EU and experience from the EU outbreak situation indicates that control of the pest is very difficult, as the pest continues to spread regardless the measures taken. However, a specific discussion to exchange on the need to revise the current prohibitions and import requirements on specific ornamental grasses (main host of the pest) will take place in view of the forthcoming revision of the Annexes to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.
- b) *Fusarium oxysporum f.s. cubense* TR4: This worldwide emerging pest of bananas is of concern for the EU as well. Given the uncertainties identified in the EFSA pest categorisation, additional information will be requested by EFSA to clarify those uncertainties and quantify specific introduction pathways (phase two quantitative risk assessment).
- c) *Solenopsis invicta*: Discussion on this invasive ant was initiated based on the availability of an EFSA pest categorisation. The discussion was focused on the entry pathways and the impact observed (amongst other impacts) on certain agricultural crops. The pest is listed as EU invasive alien species and could enter (although being prohibited) the EU via plants of plants in soil, with soil and other debris attached in conveyances or as a hitchhiker. The pest has been recently reported in Italy. Further exchanges will continue with a broader discussion on the phytosanitary risk of conveyances and the way forward.

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

The exchange of views continued on a package of revisions that includes deregulation of some Union quarantine pests and/or their potential regulation as regulated non-quarantine pests (RNQPs), the deregulation of certain regulated non-quarantine pests (RNQPs), the revision of existing import requirements, the measures for pests that are currently regulated by emergency measures and the update of the customs/tariff designation codes (CN codes).

The Commission invited Member States to submit any new comments in writing by 8 January.

A.08 Exchange of views on the measures against *Xylella fastidiosa* (revision of Regulation (EU) 2020/1201).

The Commission presented a revised draft of the non-paper, following the comments provided by Member States during the previous discussion and after the meeting in writing. The Commission invited Member States to submit new comments in writing by 15 January. The exchange of views will continue in a forthcoming Committee meeting.

A.09 Exchange of views on the eradication measures against *Pomacea*.

The Commission presented a revised draft of the non-paper, following the comments provided by Member States during the previous discussion and after the meeting in writing. The Commission invited Member States to submit new comments in writing by 8 January, after which it will prepare a draft Regulation for discussion at a forthcoming Committee meeting.

A.10 Exchange of views on a possible revision of the priority pests listed in Regulation (EU) 2019/1702.

The committee continued its discussions on the draft list of pests, shortlisted to undergo a full assessment as potential priority pests, based on the outcome of JRC/EFSA work. Based on the comments received, EFSA and JRC will proceed with the full assessment of up to 30 pests and most of the 28 pests already assessed during the first exercise.

A.11 Presentation by EFSA of the new approach to assess the impact on the environment within the priority pests mandate.

EFSA outlined the changes in the methodology for assessment of environmental impact. The changes concern mainly better coverage of impact of the biodiversity component and ecosystem services and will be used in the new mandate and to re-assess the current priority pests.

A.12 Overview of Member States 2022 survey results for the presence of *Anoplophora chinensis*, *A. glabripennis* and *Aromia bungii* within the Union territory.

The Commission presented the survey results for longhorn beetles carried out by the Member States in 2022. It was noted that while several outbreaks were declared eradicated in 2022 and 2023 in FR and DE, several new ones were notified (ALB – 2 new outbreaks in IT, increase of some demarcated areas, *Aromia bungii* – 1 new outbreak in IT, CLB – increase of one demarcated area in HR). The Commission has finalised the series of audits on longhorn beetles and will follow up on the progress on recommendations with some countries.

A.13 Outcome of the evaluation procedure of the phytosanitary programmes submitted by Member States for Union financial contribution for 2024.

HaDEA presented the final outcome of the evaluation procedure of the applications for 2024 co-funding and 2023 re-allocation exercise. The signature of the grant agreements will take place into the eGRANT IT tool (no paper transmission). The preparation of the grant agreement information into eGRANT needs to be finalised by the Member States asap in order to allow for signature of the grant before 31/01/2024.

A.14 Update of the LUPP-table with Committee decisions on non-regulated pests.

Postponed.

A.15 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 opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 (high risk plants) to delist certain plants for planting of *Malus domestica* originating in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Regulation to the Committee. No concerns were raised by the Committee.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1217 concerning the period of derogation and the pests of concern for the introduction into the Union territory of naturally or artificially dwarfed plants for planting of *Chamaecyparis* Spach, *Juniperus* L. and certain species of *Pinus* L., originating in Japan.

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1217 concerning the period of derogation and the pests of concern for the introduction into the Union territory of naturally or artificially dwarfed plants for planting of *Chamaecyparis* Spach, *Juniperus* L. and certain species of *Pinus* L., originating in Japan. The amendment prolongs the derogation with one additional year and will be applicable as from 1 January 2024.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/2389 concerning the establishment of frequency rates for identity checks and physical checks on consignments of plants, plant products and other objects entering the Union.

Postponed.

Vote Postponed.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation concerning rates for plant health checks for the introduction into the Union territory of wood packaging material carrying, protecting or supporting certain commodities from certain third countries.

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Regulation to the Committee. The Commission recalled that the current legislation will expire by the end of the year and that a slight delay may be expected before the new legislation will be applicable. Some Member States raised concerns because not all provisions of the current Regulation have been taken over in the new draft for the new Regulation. The Commission clarified that these provisions could not be added to the current draft for legal reasons, but that there is a possibility to address them in a Commission Delegated act in the future, if necessary.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on measures to prevent the establishment and spread of *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire within the Union territory.

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on measures to prevent the establishment and spread of *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire within the Union territory and the comments received following the consultation on the Better Regulation Portal. The Committee had an exchange of views and agreed on the final amendments.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the adoption of the multiannual work programme for 2025-2027 for the implementation of veterinary programmes for animal diseases and zoonoses and phytosanitary programmes for plant pests.

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision on the adoption of the multiannual work programme for 2025-2027 for the implementation of veterinary programmes for animal diseases and zoonoses and phytosanitary programmes for plant pests. In the phytosanitary part, there are no changes in the co-funding rates or priorities. Measures for *Diaphorina citri* will also be eligible for co-funding in 2025-2027. Some Member States expressed concerns that the continued limited co-funding will undermine the survey and eradication activities in their territories.

