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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 interceptions with harmful organisms by Member States and the need for further action.

The Commission presented an overview of the interceptions from 14 November 2019 to 3 December 2019, highlighting the various interceptions in citrus fruit including the four interceptions of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on citrus fruits from China, the first interception on citrus fruit from Brazil in 2019, due to *Xanthomonas citri* pv *citri* and the eight interceptions of *Elsinoe fawcettii* on citrus fruit from Bangladesh.

Regarding planting material the Commission noted the three interceptions of *Bemisia tabaci* on *Chlorophytum laxum* from Sri Lanka, cuttings of *Salvia* sp. from Israel and plants for planting of *Musa* sp. from the US.

Upon request from the Commission, the UK provided information on the interceptions of *Elasmopalpus lignosellus* (pest not regulated at EU level) on *Asparagus* from Peru.

In case of a finding of a non-EU regulated pest during import control, a Member State should only make an interception from a precautionary approach if this can be technically justified. This justification should be communicated to the Commission.

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

The Commission presented the overview of the outbreaks notified by the Member States in the period from 12 November 2019 to 4 December 2019.

France provided information of the isolated findings of *Bactrocera dorsalis* in traps. Furthermore, the outbreaks of Tomato brown rugose fruit virus were discussed.

The potential regulation of Citrus bark cracking viroid was discussed, following the recent outbreak in Germany. The discussion was focused on the possibility to regulate either as future Union quarantine pest or as a regulated non-quarantine pest (RNQP). The lack of symptoms and impact on Citrus was noted.

A.03 EFSA newsletters on horizon scanning of media and literature for new and emerging plant health risks; EPPO monthly reporting service on harmful organisms.

The EFSA media newsletter of December 2019, together with the EPPO Reporting Service No. 1, of November 2019 have been disseminated to Member States.

A.04 Exchange of views on the phytosanitary requirements to be put in place to control the spread of Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma under Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

Postponed.

A.05 Presentation of the report of the Commission audit from 18 to 29 March 2019 to the United States of America to evaluate the system of official controls of wood intended for export to the European Union.

The Commission presented the main findings of the audit on wood certification. The Commission informed about an upcoming video conference with US, requested specifically to clarify the missing issues. It was concluded that the additional information should be awaited before deciding on the follow-up.

A.06 Exchange of views on the formats of the reports on surveys on Union quarantine pests and pests provisionally qualifying as Union quarantine pests and the formats of the multiannual survey programmes.

The Commission presented the report of the working group held on 29 October 2019 on the multi-annual survey programs and the annual survey reports under Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 and presented a preliminary draft of the implementing regulation. After receiving comments from Member States, the Commission will proceed with the preparation of the formal draft to the Committee in one of its next meetings.

A.07 Exchange of views on Member States experiences with the implementation of the emergency measures against Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus - Decision (EU) 2019/1739.

The Commission informed about the possibilities of co-financing surveys. Countries with outbreaks can send eradication dossiers, including surveillance of the whole territory. Countries with no outbreaks can use Article 16.2 of Regulation (EU) 652/2014.

The Commission informed on the ongoing diagnostic work of EPPO and on a recent meeting of the EURL-virology, where it was decided to prioritize the work on this disease. Updated information is available in the EURL website and a constructive process of information sharing is taking place within the scientific community.

The Netherlands provided a brief update on the state of play in relation to their outbreak, while the Commission requested more information on the most recent outbreak in Almeria (ES).

Many Member States expressed their concerns on the movement of seed and on the importance of testing prior to the movements to other Member States.

A.08 Exchange of views on the use and location of sentinel trees for monitoring for *Anoplophora glabripennis* in demarcated areas.

Postponed.

A.09 Exchange of views on the revision of the EU emergency measures on *Xylella fastidiosa*.

A second exchange of views with Member States took place on the revision of the current *Xylella* measures laid down under Decision (EU) 2015/789. Discussions mainly focused on survey activities within and outside the demarcated areas, eradication and containment measures, as well as restrictions of movement of susceptible plants within and into the Union. A follow-up discussion will take place in the PAFF Committee of January 2020.

A.10 Exchange of views on the spread of the brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*/Asian stink bug).

The Commission explained that this point was put on the agenda as a follow-up of the discussion in the last meeting. The Commission recalled that *Halyomorpha halys* is known to occur in Europe since 2004 and that it was discussed several times in the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed as well as in Panels of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) since then. The prevalence of the pest in the places where it was found was always low and no severe damages were reported before 2019 through the EUROPHYT system.

Several Member States took the floor and agreed that *H. halys* seems to continue spreading, but does not qualify as a quarantine pest.

With respect to the increasing economic damage seen first in 2019, the Commission recalls the research project BINGO, which was carried out in the framework of the Horizon 2020 framework and which may advance the development of innovative integrated control of *Halyomorpha halys*, e.g. by beneficial insects.

A.11 Exchange of views on tightening import requirements and extending the scope of the Regulation as regards *Agrilus planipennis*.

The presence of *Agrilus planipennis* in Ukraine has now been officially confirmed. Since Ukraine is not amongst the countries from which import of wood is currently regulated, the Commission will proceed with a fast emergency measure. Official information is to be asked from Ukraine. The situation in Belarus is also to be explored. A discussion took place on the EU import requirements for ash wood, namely on the currently allowed system approach and the Pest Free Area certification/declaration. At a later stage, the Commission will proceed with an amendment of the permanent measure as regards *Agrilus planipennis*.

A.12 Importation and placing on the market of vine propagating material from Moldova – feedback from the first meeting of an ad-hoc expert working group on 6 December.

Further to a request from the Moldovian Authorities, the Commission reported about a working group meeting concerning the possibility to import and market propagation material of *Vitis sp.* from Moldova into the EU.

The request touches upon the legislation on Plant Health as well as upon the legislation on Plant Reproductive Material. The documentation submitted together with the request was evaluated by the experts and the need for additional information was identified. The Commission will get into touch with the Moldavian Authorities for a follow-up.

The Commission gave an overview about the further process.

A.13 Exchange of views on a harmonised approach for the acceptance of phytosanitary certificates as related to signatures at import control.

The topic was not discussed in detail, as there were no further developments from the previous discussion.

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 the arrangements for the presentation of information to passengers arriving from third countries and clients of postal services and certain professional operators concerning the rules for the introduction into the Union of plants, plant products and other objects.

The draft Regulation introduces the obligation for relevant stakeholders to display a standard poster at points where travellers enter the EU in order to make them aware of the prohibition to bring regulated plants, plant products and other objects into the Union without a phytosanitary certificate.

The Commission informed that the poster is already available in all EU languages and announced that also versions in Russian, Chinese and Arabic will be provided.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation concerning types or species of plants for planting for which the exemption referred to in Article 83(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 does not apply and repealing Commission Directive 92/105/EEC.

The Commission presented a revised draft. In the discussion, the Committee expressed several views. It was agreed to submit a further revision to a public consultation on the Commission's 'Have Your Say' (Better Regulation) Portal (https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say_en), and to come back to the draft text once the public consultation is finalised.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/66 as regards post-import checks of plants for planting.

The draft prepared by the Commission was discussed and amended to take into account some Member States' concerns. Clarifications were provided on the practical implementation of results recording on IMSOC. Some Member States expressed their concerns as regard the additional costs for the operators and the additional burden on

the competent authorities. The Commission stressed how important it will be to have post-import controls for plants for planting which are checked at border control posts when in a dormant stage, and then released for free circulation. The Commission also clarified that under Article 80 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625, Member States would be able to collect fees for these particular official controls.

C.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2012/138/EU as regards the specific import conditions and conditions for movement in respect of specified plants to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of *Anoplophora chinensis* (Forster).

Following the finding of *Anoplophora chinensis* (Forster) on a new host (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) in Croatia, the measure is being amended to cover also this host plant. Croatia updated on the state of play of the outbreak. The draft will be presented at one of the next Committee meetings for vote.

C.04 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2002/887/EC authorising derogations from certain provisions of Council Directive 2000/29/EC in respect of naturally or artificially dwarfed plants of *Chamaecyparis* Spach, *Juniperus* L. and *Pinus* L., originating in Japan

A discussion took place on the possible extension of the scope of the existing bonsai derogation for Japan to include also black pine bonsai. It was noted that the entry into force of the new Plant Health Regulation and the change of the legal basis for the derogations, the legal form of the bonsai derogation should be changed accordingly. The draft will be presented at one of the next Committee meetings for vote.

M.01 Clarifications regarding the upcoming entry into application of the import ban of high risk plants.

The Commission clarified that as of 14 December 2019, with the entry into application of Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 on high risk plants, import of fruits of *Momordica* sp. is prohibited unless they originate in countries free from *Thrips palmi* or in areas within third countries which are free from *Thrips palmi*. The pest freedom should be declared on the phytosanitary certificate under the heading “Additional declaration”, in accordance with point 71 of Annex VII of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.

The Commission also clarified that in cases of commodities that are listed both under the Annex of Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 as banned commodities, and under Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 as banned commodities for some third countries or in relation to specific pests, it is the ban of Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 that prevails. If a third country wants to import any of those commodities to the EU they need to follow the procedure laid down in Regulation (EU) 2018/2018, i.e. they have to submit a technical dossier.