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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 29 JANUARY 2018 - 30 JANUARY 2018
(Section *Plant Health*)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/e8d9d658-92fa-4d3f-92b5-9c0bb6eef8a7>

A.01 Evaluation of recent import interceptions with harmful organisms by Member States and the need for further actions.

An overview was given of the interceptions from 6 December 2017 to 22 January 2018. The 7 interceptions of citrus canker from China were highlighted. The Commission informed about the bilateral contacts with China on this matter. Furthermore, the Commission informed about the follow up in relation to the interceptions of pine wood nematode notified by Spain on pine wood originating in Portugal. In addition, the Commission explained the communications with Bangladesh, Ivory Coast, Pakistan and South Africa in relation to interceptions.

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

An overview of the outbreaks notified by Member States for the period of 12 December 2017 to 15 January 2018 was presented by the Commission. Slovenia presented the state of play of the outbreak of the non-regulated pest *Choanephora cucurbitarum* and explained that a Pest Risk Assessment (PRA) for this pest is under preparation. Italy provided information on the outbreak of *Meloidogyne graminicola*, which was already found in 2016 in rice fields, and informed that a PRA is under preparation. It also explained the surveillance and phytosanitary measures taken in its territory against this harmful organism. The Netherlands presented the outbreak of Tomato Chlorosis Virus, which is transmitted by *Bemisia tabaci*, and described the eradication efforts done in their territory. It was clarified that the virus is known to be present in at least 7 other Member States without the application of compulsory control measures. The Commission clarified that this virus is not directly listed as a regulated harmful organism under Directive 2000/29/EC. Bulgaria presented the outbreak of the regulated harmful organism *Lecanosticta acicula* and informed on the eradication practices adopted in their territory.

A.03 EFSA newsletter on horizon scanning for new and emerging plant health risks.

EFSA presented the tenth pilot newsletter, which was the outcome of a horizon scanning of the media. In this issue, highlights on *Agrilus planipennis*, *Spodoptera frugiperda*, Huanglongbing (HLB) disease and its vectors, and *Xylella fastidiosa* were included. Information was also provided on *Dendroctonus rufipennis*, *Elsinoe australis*, Tomato leaf curl New Delhi virus and *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*.

A.04 Presentation by the Commission of the results of the 2016 Member States' survey results for *Phytophthora ramorum*, followed by an exchange of views.

The Commission presented an overview of the survey results submitted by all 28 Member States and Switzerland for the period 2014-2017.

The incidence of positive identification of *Phytophthora ramorum* in the EU has been quite similar over the 4 years, with a fairly static distribution across each category (nurseries/green spaces/forests). The harmful organism was reported by 4 Member States (UK, IE, DE and FR) in all 3 categories, but is predominantly a UK and IE issue (with 73% and 12% of the total findings respectively). Some Member States asked the Commission for a more substantial discussion on the topic in one of the coming Standing Committee meetings to possibly redefine the status of the regulation of this harmful organism.

A.05 Exchange of views on the elements for a temporary derogation for Portugal in relation to the felling obligations as provided for by Decision 2012/535/EU (PWN measures).

Following the request of the Portuguese Authorities to derogate from current felling provisions due to the exceptional forest fires occurred in 2017, the Commission presented the main elements for a possible temporary derogation to be introduced under Decision 2012/535/EU. Based on the comments and suggestions of the Member States, a draft Commission Implementing Decision will be presented for exchange of views and possible opinion in the forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

A.06 Exchange of views on the elements for emergency measures against *Aromia bungii* (Red neck longhorn beetle).

The Commission presented the elements for emergency measures against this non-regulated harmful organism. Measures for eradication of outbreaks, import requirements for susceptible plants and surveillance activities of the Union territory are envisaged. With the comments and technical suggestions of the Member States, a text will be presented for exchange of views and possible opinion of a forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

A.07 Presentation by the Commission of an overview report of the Member States' plant health checks carried out on imported citrus fruit from Argentina, Brazil, South Africa and Uruguay in accordance with Commission Decision 2016/715/EC and a global overview on citrus fruit import interceptions in 2015, followed by an exchange of views.

The Commission presented an overview of the reports provided by Member States, the interceptions on citrus fruits imported into the EU during 2017 and the follow up carried out by the Commission and the relevant third countries. The imports under the option included in the Decision (EU) 2016/715 for citrus fruits destined exclusively for industrial processing were very limited. The Decision (EU) 2016/715 remains in place for the 2018 import season. Several Member States raised their concerns due to the high number of interceptions notified on citrus fruit originating in South Africa. On the basis of further information awaited from South Africa discussions will follow. The phytosanitary situation related to citrus imports from other countries was considered acceptable.

A.08 Presentation by Croatia of the pest risk analysis of *Corythuca arcuata* in connection to the national measures for the internal movement of wood of *Quercus* sp. within the EU territory.

The Commission recalled the last discussion on the topic held during the Committee of September and the fact that Croatia sent the PRA in December.

The Croatian expert presented the situation of the infestation of the oak lace bug disease in Croatia, describing how many other diseases have been expanding in the last two years on the oak forests.

Several Member States expressed their concern on the uncertainty of the effectiveness of the phytosanitary measures currently taken by Croatia. They also expressed concern on the lack of knowledge in relation with the spread of the pest and the incomplete information of the PRA. In particular, the pest is already known to be present in 8 Member States.

To this regard the Commission questioned why no official notification of outbreak has been received, beside the Croatian one. The Commission invited Member States to send by the end of February their position on the need to take European measures against this pest or not. The Commission also invited Member States to send any scientific information on the pest that was missing in the PRA.

A.09 Presentation by the Commission of the request by Moldova for a derogation on the EU prohibition for importing plants for planting of *Vitis*.

Moldova requested a derogation to export plants of *Vitis* into the EU.

Member states considered that the dossier as it was sent by the Republic of Moldova is not complete and more information is needed. The Commission will request further information in writing.

The Commission recalled that the current prohibition of importation of *Vitis* could be lifted after reaching an agreement to grant a derogation from Directive 2000/29/EC and after granting the equivalence for the import of vine propagating material under Directive 68/193/EEC.

A.10 Exchange of views on the information received from non-EU countries regarding the new import requirements for some plants as of 1 January 2018 (Commission Directive (EU) 2017/1279).

The Commission presented the information provided by non-EU countries in relation to the obligations introduced by Directive (EU) 2017/1279. An overview of the submitted information is available on the Commission web site (https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/plant/docs/ph_biosec_database_pest_status_non_eu_countries.pdf). Several Member States shared their concerns due to the limited information in relation to the system approach received from several third countries. The Commission will follow it in writing with each non-EU country and report back to the Committee.

A.11 Results of the Commission Working Group meeting on the revision of the Annexes to Directive 2000/29/EC concerning the specific measures against *Ceratocystis platani*, *Cryphonectria parasitica* and soil & growing medium.

The outcome of the discussions that took place in the Annexes Working Group was presented to the Committee. The risk that *Cryphonectria parasitica* and *Ceratocystis platani* pose for the EU, the potential inclusion into the Annexes to Directive 2000/29/EC, with specific import and internal movement requirements, was presented. The report for soil and growing medium is currently under approval by the Annexes Working Group and will be presented at a forthcoming Committee meeting.

A.12 Exchange of views on measures based on Directive 2000/29/EC against Tobacco Rattle Virus for internal movements of seed potatoes.

Recently, a seed potato consignment originating from another Member State was intercepted from entering Cyprus because of the presence of Tobacco Rattle Virus. The interception was based on Article 16.2 of Directive 2000/29/EC. This situation will need to be clarified further as the Tobacco Rattle Virus is present in several Member States but not known to be present in Cyprus. It is not regulated under the above Directive, also not as a harmful organism regulated for protected zone purposes. Cyprus announced that a pest risk analysis is being undertaken and that technical information will be provided during a forthcoming Standing Committee meeting.

A.13 Presentation by EFSA of the evaluation result of a paper by Guarnaccia et al. (2017) on the first report of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* in Europe.

An article was published in 2017 reporting the finding of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* in backyards of Italy, Malta and Portugal. EFSA evaluated the results and highlighted the limitations found in the methodology used in the article. Based on previous models and predictions developed by EFSA, it was confirmed that the sites in Italy, Malta and Portugal to which the paper referred as locations where *P. citricarpa* had been found, can be favourable for the establishment of this pest. Italy, Malta and Portugal informed that samples were taken in the sites mentioned in the paper and no *P. citricarpa* was found. They also indicated that a second series of samples have been taken more recently and are being investigated. The Commission highlighted the importance of intensive surveillance.

A.14 Exchange of views on the 2018 update of Regulation (EU) 707/2014 (protected zones).

As some protected zones have a temporary status and are only authorised until the end of April 2018, the Member States concerned were requested to send the reports as soon as possible in view of a discussion in the February Committee meeting and to allow the preparation of an update of the current Regulation on protected zones which should be presented for vote in the March committee. This discussion should also include possible new requests for withdrawal of existing protected zones and recognition of new ones.

A.15 Update on the outcome of the evaluation procedure of Member States' 2018 survey programme for Union co-financing.

The Commission presented the final list of the survey programmes technically approved and the final amount allocated per programme, to be implemented by Member States in 2018.

The Member States welcomed the document and no specific issues were raised. The document will be published on web SANTE.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision repealing Decision 2007/365/EC on emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Community of *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Olivier).

The draft Commission Implementing Decision repeals the existing emergency measures for *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* due to the spread of this harmful organism in the EU territory. The Decision applies from 1 October 2018, the same date of application as the new requirements for propagating material against *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* included in the ornamental legislation.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.