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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed

Section *Plant Health*

18 - 19 November 2020

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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Evaluation of recent import interceptions with pests by Member States and the actions taken (including the situation of ToBRFV in the Union and actions taken).

The Commission and the Member States discussed the interceptions for the period between 18 October and 15 November 2020.

As regards non-EU trade, the Commission informed about follow-up actions in relation with interceptions of ToBRFV. Dedicated meetings are going to be organized with third countries whose number of interceptions give rise to concerns.

The Commission also highlighted the interceptions of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on oranges from Brazil and informed about the follow-up actions already taken. The interceptions of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Capsicum* species from Rwanda, Burkina Faso and Kenya and on *Rosa* from Kenya and Uganda, the interceptions of *Spodoptera frugiperda* on *Capsicum annum* from Gambia, on *Xanthosoma sagittifolium* from Suriname, and on *Eryngium* from Ethiopia, and the interception of *Bactrocera dorsalis* on *Psidium guava* from Bangladesh were also discussed.

Member States also expressed concern about the recurrent interceptions of *Thrips palmi* on *Dendrobium* from Malaysia and it was agreed to request clarifications from Malaysia on the export certification system. The interception of *Murraya* leaves from India was also highlighted and it was agreed that India would be notified as to the conditions of import prohibition of *Murraya* leaves.

As regards internal EU trade, there was a discussion about an interception of ToBRFV. An infected consignment originating in a third country was released before the results of laboratory tests. The seed lot was then found infected in the MS of destination. It was agreed that imported seed which are pending laboratory results should not be released until the results are received.

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

Some Member States informed about the situation of recent outbreaks of ToBRFV in their territory. A finding on *Solanum melongena* is of particular relevance and may need further verification.

France gave an overview on the first findings in its territory of Tomato leaf curl New Delhi on plants of *Cucurbita pepo*. Eradication measures are in place.

Germany gave information on the first finding of *Eotetranychus lewisi* in its territory on plants of *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, the outbreak is under eradication. Additionally information on the successful eradication efforts of a number of outbreaks of *Anoplophora glabripennis* has been shared.

A.03 Exchange of views on the EU approach to recurrent interceptions from a non-EU country.

The Commission launched a discussion as regards the EU approach to recurrent interceptions from a non-EU country. The discussion focused on four procedural steps that are usually taking place in case of recurrent interceptions: 1. written communication, 2. Export ban imposed by non-EU country, 3. EU import ban, 4. lifting of the EU ban. Member States proposed tools and criteria to be taken into account in order to launch steps 1, 3 and 4. They asked for clarity in the description of the ban imposed by the Third country and the possibility for that ban to have legal status at EU level. The Commission took note of the proposals and requests, and it was agreed to hold further discussions on the topic.

A.04 EFSA newsletters on horizon scanning of media and literature for new and emerging plant health risks; EPPO monthly reporting service on pests.

The EFSA media newsletter and the EFSA scientific literature newsletter of November 2020 and the EPPO Reporting Service No. 10 of 2020 were highlighted to Member States.

A.05 Exchange of views on the report of the Commission audit DG(SANTE) 2019-6741 from 5 to 13 November 2019 in Montenegro to evaluate the Plant Health controls applied in the potato sector.

The Commission presented the findings of the abovementioned audit, as well as the positive assessment of the action plan submitted by Montenegro. In November 2020, the Commission wrote a letter to Montenegro concerning the follow-up of this action plan. In case of a satisfactory answer, a draft text for derogation to the prohibition on introducing ware potatoes from Montenegro will be presented for discussion in a forthcoming Standing Committee meeting.

A.06 Exchange of views on the need to review the emergency measures Decision 2012/535/EU for *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*.

It was agreed to proceed with the review of Decision 2012/535/EC, taking into account recent scientific information (e.g. EPPO standards) and technical experience in the different outbreak areas. The Commission thanked for the written comments received and invited to get as soon as possible further inputs as needed. It informed that a draft text will be presented for exchange of views at a forthcoming Standing Committee meeting.

A.07 Exchange of views on on a derogation from Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 concerning the introduction into the Union of plants of strawberry (*Fragaria L.*) from Chile.

The Commission presented a first draft on import of strawberry plants from Chile into the EU. An exchange of views took place. The Commission informed that the notification obligation concerning the import of strawberry plants from Chile pursuant to Commission Decision 2003/248/EC should still be respected. Member States are asked to send written comments by 3 December following which the draft will be amended.

A.08 Exchange of view on a possible Commission Regulation laying down the methodology for the Plant Health unit costs.

Postponed.

A.09 Overview of the intermediate reports submitted by Member States for the 2020 plant health survey programmes.

The Commission presented the outcome of the reallocation exercise in relation to the 2020 survey programmes: the exercise is based on the data provided by MSs by 31st August 2020 (intermediate report as by Regulation EU 652/2014). The overview presented to the MS indicated that a number of Member States (08) inserted additional measures and activities in the intermediate rapport and other MS reduced their activities. Therefore a redistribution of funds amongst MSs is needed for the year 2020. This redistribution will reduce the total awarded amount for 2020 survey programmes from 13.759.000 € to 12.644.000 €.

A.10 Phytosanitary aspects of the preparedness for the EU-UK trade from 1 January 2021 onwards.

The Committee was informed that the discussions were still on-going and that the draft UK import regulations are available on the UK website. These regulations are largely a copy of the EU regulations, essentially adapted for the UK situation. However, some important differences were noted, e.g. the introduction of a series of new (provisional) quarantine pests. The impact on EU plant exports to the UK is therefore unclear. Member States were asked to check on their side and highlight further differences to the Commission.

A.11 Exchange of views on possible emergency measures for *Meloidogyne graminicola*.

The Commission presented the amended draft on *Meloidogyne graminicola*. The Commission asked to send written comments by 27 November. The Commission will subsequently proceed with a view of submitting a formal proposal at one of the forthcoming meetings of the Committee.

A.12 Exchange of views on the update of the technical Annexes of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.

The Commission continued the discussion with the Member States on the first amendment of the Annexes of Implementing Regulation 2019/2072. The amendment is anticipated to be a comprehensive draft act, comprising the inclusion of new pests as Union quarantine pests and Union regulated non-quarantine pests, further refinements in the list of Union quarantine pests, new import and internal movement

requirements and a further refinement of the CN codes of regulated commodities. Member States were asked to send written comments by 3 December.

A.13 Exchange of views on containment measures for *Aleurocanthus spiniferus* under Article 28.2 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

Postponed.

A.14 Exchange of views on containment measures for *Ceratocystis platani* under Article 28.2 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

Postponed.

A.15 Exchange of views on containment measures for *Flavescence dorée* under Article 28.2 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

Postponed.

A.16 Exchange of views on containment measures for *Popillia japonica* under Article 28.2 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The Commission presented the amended draft of *Popillia japonica* and discussed the changes with Member States. Member States were invited to submit written comments within one week and then the Commission will subsequently with a view of submitting a formal proposal at one of the forthcoming meetings of the Committee.

A.17 Exchange of views on containment measures for *Toxoptera citricida* under Article 28.2 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

Postponed.

A.18 Exchange of views on use of cold treatment on citrus fruits infested with *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* as ‘special treatment’ in accordance with Articles 66 and 71 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

A Member State raised the issue of harmonising the approach at EU level as to not accept the application of cold treatment against *Thaumatotibia* on citrus fruit as a special treatment according to Articles 66 and 71 of the Regulation (EU) 2017/625, with the argument that there is no international standard available for the specific method. It was concluded that there is no legal basis that requires that ‘special treatment’ should be a method based on an international standard and that, since no rules have been adopted by a delegated act, such ‘special treatment’ is to be decided at national level.

A.19 Exchange of views on ISPM 15 related issues.

The Commission informed about recent requests and position papers received by stakeholders of the wooden pallet sector. A letter will be sent shortly to the Closed Pallet Pooling Coalition, in response to their request for a meeting on possible harmonization measures for ISPM 15 related practises. As requested, the Commission informed the Committee that detailed harmonised rules for the application of ISPM 15 by the industry will not be initiated shortly, but may be rediscussed at later stage if broadly supported by the Committee.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible technical 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 technical opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1191 on measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV).

The Commission presented a draft to amend Regulation (EU) 2020/1191 with regard to import requirements and a possible exemption of certain controls for tomato seeds already harvested prior to the date of application of the said Regulation. Member States requested some amendments to be done with regard to internal movement of seeds too.

A new version of the draft will be circulated ahead of a written procedure for vote.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible technical opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on import requirements and plant health checks on wood packaging material for the transport of commodities originating in certain third countries, and repealing Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1137.

The Commission presented a draft measure to regulate certain commodities accompanied by wood packaging material originating in China, Belarus and India, based on the high number of interception of pests detected in the packaging of such imported commodities. Following the comments made by Member States and also requested to be submitted in written form, the Commission will circulate an updated text ahead of the written procedure for vote.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715 as regards procedures for the establishment and use of ADIS and EUROPHYT, the issuance of electronic official certificates and the use of electronic signatures, and the proper functioning of TRACES.

Postponed.

M.01 Procedure for derogations from import prohibitions.

The Commission informed the Committee that, with the strengthened risk based approach of the new plant health policy, the normal procedure for handling derogation requests from import prohibitions includes a risk assessment by EFSA of the submitted technical dossier. It will also be applied for the derogation request for import of *Petunia* and *Calibrachoa*.