



Brussels,
SANCO G (2014) 4685881

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED**

Section Forest Reproductive Material

19 DECEMBER 2014

Chairperson: Ms Diana Charels

Most Member States were present except Spain which mandated Sweden, Lithuania which mandated Finland, Cyprus which mandated France, Romania which mandated Hungary and Slovenia which mandated Austria. Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Italy and Poland were also not present and did not mandate another Member State.

SECTION A Information and /or discussion

A.1. EU list of Approved Basic Material for the Production of Forest Reproductive Material (FRM): FRM database and its implementation in the Member States.

The Commission presented the progress of the work on the FRM database. In this semantic approach Member States will locally publish their data and a link will be established with DG SANTE's repository resulting in an update of DG SANTE's website with Member States' data. The new approach will significantly decrease DG SANTE's workload because the update of the EU list is currently done manually on the basis of excel files provided by the Member States. In the first quarter of 2015 the Commission intends to publish the new FRM database containing the EU list of approved basic material on the DG SANTE website. The EU list of approved basic material is based on the national lists of basic material of the various tree species approved on the territory of each Member State. Moreover, it will be possible for Member States to publish their national lists via login.

A.2. Council Decision 2008/971/EC on the equivalence of forest reproductive material produced in third countries.

The Commission explained the procedure for amending Council Decision 2008/971/EC. A Member State delegate inquired about the envisaged timing to amend the aforementioned Council Decision. Commission replied that it first intends to modify Council Directive 1999/105/EC to bring the Directive in line with the provisions of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and to subsequently amend the equivalence Decision. Since the Commission estimates about three years to adopt the amended Decision 2008/971/EC, it has been decided to temporarily include the tested category of the third countries listed in the Annex to that Decision in the amended Commission Decision 2008/989/EC in order to avoid any disruption in trade.

A.3. Miscellaneous.

- The Commission informed Member States about the ongoing activities of the so-called IIAII Working Group. The aim of this Working Group is to re-assess all harmful organisms currently listed in Annex II Part A Section II of Council Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community. This re-assessment is done on the basis of a pest categorisation performed by the European Food Safety Authority. For each harmful organism of Annex II Part A Section II the Working Group formulates a recommendation which is subsequently presented to the PAFF Committee on Plant Health. The latter Committee decides on the classification of the harmful organisms. A Member State delegate asked about EFSA's work schedule related to the IIAII Working Group. Commission replied that EFSA's work is well on track. On EFSA's request the Working Group is prioritising those harmful organisms to be maintained as quarantine pests because in that case EFSA needs to conduct a full Pest Risk Analysis. That Member State delegate also inquired about the classification of a IIAII harmful organism in case of insufficient information. Commission replied that in first instance EFSA will be asked to collect further information. If no further information is available the organism will remain listed as a quarantine pest.
- The Commission informed Member States about its intention to review the EU regulated quality pests and collaborate with the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) in the so-called "EU quality pest project". EPPO shall assess all quality pests currently listed in the 12 Directives on the marketing of seed and propagating material. In addition, the harmful organisms currently listed in Annex II Part A Section II of Council Directive 2000/29/EC and accepted to be re-classified as Union Quality Pests (UQLPs) will be studied. A group of 25 supplementary pests, which are currently not listed in EU legislation but which are supposed to qualify for listing as UQLPs, will also be identified and assessed by EPPO in coordination with the Commission. Moreover EPPO will be requested to assess the effectiveness of current risk management measures as regards the existing thresholds in place under the relevant legislation.

- The Commission informed Member States about the new name of the Standing Committee, which will be from now on Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF). The new sections of the Standing Committee will be: Seeds and Propagating Material of Agriculture and Horticulture, Forest Reproductive Material, Propagating Material and Plants of Fruit Genera and Species, Vine Propagating Material and Propagating Material of Ornamental Plants. Member States were also informed about the new voting rules that are in force as of 1 November 2014. They will be based on a system of double majority: qualified majority requiring 55 % of Member States voting in favour and representing 65 % of the population. A Member State delegate asked how citizens with a double nationality are taken into account in Member States' populations. Commission will look into this matter.
- The French delegate asked about the timing to amend Council Directive 1999/105/EC on the marketing of forest reproductive material. Commission replied that the procedure to bring the Directive in line with the provisions of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union will probably take more than one year because of the involvement of both the Council and European Parliament in decision-making.
- The French delegate inquired about the future classification of *Gibberella circinata* (currently regulated in Commission Decision 2007/433/EC on provisional emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Community of *Gibberella circinata* Nirenberg & O'Donnell) and *Melampsora medusae* (currently regulated in Council Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community). The Commission will look into this matter.

SECTION B Drafts presented for an opinion

B.1. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2008/989/EC authorising Member States, in accordance with Council Directive 1999/105/EC, to take decisions on the equivalence of the guarantees afforded by forest reproductive material to be imported from certain third countries (Doc. SANCO/12555/2014) (Legal base: Article 19(3) of Council Directive 1999/105/EC on the marketing of forest reproductive material) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure).

The Commission presented the text. A discussion took place on the potential extension of categories of forest reproductive material to be imported from New Zealand and on the inclusion of Chile as a third country. Since the Competent Authorities of those third countries do not issue master certificates and official certificates, it was decided to remove both third countries from the Annex of the amended legal text. Member States may submit a formal request to the Commission to import seed of the species *Pinus radiata* which does not satisfy the requirements of Council Directive 1999/105/EC from New Zealand.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion