



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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 26 JANUARY 2017 - 27 JANUARY 2017
(Section Plant Health)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/8907baec-8d94-4af6-8395-d4de2095fd3b>

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

A brief overview was given of the interceptions with harmful organisms reported from 12 December 2016 to 18 January 2017. In relation to commodities originating in non-EU countries, the interception of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* on dunnage from USA was analysed in detail. Other notifications highlighted were the planting material found infested with *Bemisia tabaci* and the interceptions of *Spodoptera eridania* on commodities from Suriname and *Spodoptera litura* on cut roses from India.

A question was raised concerning the need for the import of dried plums to be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate. It was clarified that, if the plums – or other fruits of *Prunus* – are sufficiently dried in a way that they do not present a phytosanitary risk, a phytosanitary certificate should not be requested anymore because the relevant regulated harmful organism has been deregulated.

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

The main outbreaks were addressed. France clarified that the outbreak of *Contarinia pseudotsugae*, a non-regulated organism, in its territory was not causing important problems to the local forestry and is limiting the measures to an increased surveillance.

Denmark explained its strict approach to control a recent outbreak of *Synchytrium endobioticum*. The Commission explained that the control Directive against this organism will be reviewed once the most priority implementing acts for the new Plant Health Law are in place.

Outbreaks of the non-regulated *Thekospora minima* on *Vaccinium* plants have occurred in several Member States (Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, Germany).

Vaccinium has recently become an important commodity for trade. A risk assessment of this fungus is being developed by EPPO and will be considered as soon as it is available.

In Spain, the first case of *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* on potatoes has been detected. Several Member States expressed their concern and requested that the forthcoming Commission audit to Spain would also address this case. First findings of *Scirtothrips dorsalis* on citrus and pomegranate in Spain were notified. These seem to be recent outbreaks and strict measures with 2 demarcated areas, including 500m buffer zones have been established.

A.03 Update on the state of play of *Xylella fastidiosa* in the EU and the action taken and planned.

Italy updated the Committee on the progress made on *Xylella* surveys and reported on 5 isolated findings of *Xylella* infected plants within the 20 km strip of the containment zone, adjacent to the buffer zone. France informed the Committee that, since the first finding in 2015, in total 329 outbreak sites have been registered. The most recent findings were situated in known infected areas. Some new plant species had been found infected and will be added to the list of host plants. About 7000 insects have been collected for investigation about their potential for acting as vector of the *Xylella* bacterium. First results indicate that no survival of infected insects is expected during winter. In the outbreak area in Germany, rosemary plants have now been found infected and *Streptocarpus* is under investigation. The spreading mechanism remains unclear. Spain reported on new findings of *Xylella* in the Balearic Islands. While awaiting final confirmation from the national reference laboratory, a Ministerial Decree has already been taken to prohibit all movements of specified plants out of the Balearic Islands. As soon as the data have been confirmed by national reference laboratories, the findings will be notified formally. The Commission requested that information about tracing forward of plants from the same origin and traded to other regions or Member States should be made available to all competent authorities.

A.04 Follow-up discussion of outbreak evaluation on actions regarding *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *poinsettiae*, *Puccinia hemerocallidis*, *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 1, and *Scrobipalopsis solanivora*.

For *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *poinsettiae* it was concluded that the organism is related to the pathway of *Poinsettia* propagating material and relatively easy to control. A quarantine status was not judged necessary, but regulated non quarantine pest status could be considered. *Puccinia hemerocallidis* was considered not economically significant. For *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 1 and *Scrobipalopsis solanivora* it was decided that conclusions will be drawn on the basis of the reports of the forthcoming Commission's audits.

A.05 Exchange of views on the follow-up to the Scientific Opinion of the EFSA Panel on Plant Health regarding the susceptibility of *Vitis* sp. to *Xylella fastidiosa* - strain CoDiRo.

In follow-up to the EFSA opinion from where it was deduced that the risks that 3 tested *Vitis vinifera* varieties, namely Cabernet Sauvignon, Negroamaro and Primitivo, would be infected with *Xylella fastidiosa* – CoDiRo strain are very limited, many Member States supported the delisting of those 3 varieties, at least as long as this would not involve rootstocks. Other Member States requested more scientific evidence before considering any delisting. The Commission concluded that a position will be needed in the framework of the preparation of the forthcoming revision of the *Xylella* emergency measures.

A.06 Overview of the dossiers received for the years 2014 and 2015 regarding emergency measures - Union contribution to eradicate, contain and protect against the spread of pests.

Postponed.

A.07 Outcome of the evaluation procedure of survey programmes submitted by Member States for Union financial contribution for 2017: list of the programmes technically approved and final amount allocated to each programme.

The Commission presented the final list of the technically approved programmes and the final amount allocated per programme for the Member States for 2017. The Member States welcomed the document and no specific issues were raised. The document will be published on the SANTE webpage.

A.08 Principles and criteria on which is based the reaction of the Commission in cases of unsatisfactory implementation of survey programmes co-financed under Article 19 of Regulation (EU) 652/2014 (working document SANTE/11991/2016).

The Commission presented the final draft of the document where the principles and criteria are listed and clarified on which the Commission bases its evaluation of the results of implementation of EU co-funded survey programmes and the consequence in cases of unsatisfactory implementation of survey programmes. A number of comments sent by the Member States after the presentation of the document in December 2016 were taken into account in finalising the current document. In addition, the Commission further clarified some minor issues. Member States welcomed the final version of the document that will be published on the SANTE webpage.

A.09 Follow-up given to the conclusions of the Commission Working Group on response to emerging risks from imports held in Brussels, 29-30 November 2016.

Postponed.

A.10 Presentation by the Commission of an overview report of the Member States plant health checks carried out on imported citrus fruit from 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 2016 and the follow up carried out by the Commission and the relevant third countries. Under the option included in the Decision (EU) 2016/715 for the import of citrus fruits destined exclusively for industrial processing, citrus fruits were imported from the three countries and details provided by the concerned Member States. The Decision (EU) 2016/715 remains in place for the 2017 import season. However, due to the interceptions in 2016 of citrus black spot (CBS) on citrus fruit originating in Argentina, the Committee took the view to include Argentina in the Decision (EU) 2016/715.

A.11 Presentation by the Commission of the conclusions of audits carried out in Bangladesh (8-17 November 2016) and in Lao (29 November – 9 December 2016) in order to evaluate the system of official controls and the certification of plants for export to the European Union.

The audit carried out in Bangladesh revealed important shortcomings in the phytosanitary export certification system of this country. In the light of the outcome of the audits carried out in Bangladesh in 2010, 2012 and 2016 and the number of interceptions during the last years, the Committee took the view to temporarily ban the import into the EU of the most intercepted commodities.

The first audit carried out in Lao revealed important shortcoming in the phytosanitary export certification system of this country. A high number of interceptions have been notified since 2015. However, the number of interceptions has significantly decreased since August 2016 due to the self-ban put in place by the competent authorities of Lao for a number of commodities. The Committee agreed to carry out a close monitoring of the development of the situation.

A.12 Presentation by the European Food Safety Authority of the Scientific Opinions of the Panel on Plant Health regarding *Ceratocystis platani*, *Cryphonectria parasitica*, *Ditylenchus destructor* and Grapevine flavescence dorée, followed by an exchange of views.

EFSA presented the new quantitative risk assessment procedure that it started to apply in the plant health sector. The scientific opinions of the first 4 organisms evaluated with this procedure were presented and some technical discussions took place. Risk management conclusions will be drawn during a forthcoming Committee meeting.

A.13 Exchange of views on a revision of the EU special requirements against Plum pox virus in Annex IVA I, point 23.1 and IVA II, point 16 of Directive 2000/29/EC.

The situation of Plum pox virus within the EU is not uniform and the regulatory status is due for review. It was concluded that this should be handled as a priority in order to make progress with the revision of the requirements for quarantine organisms in the framework of the new fruit plant certification schemes. Apple proliferation and *Erwinia amylovora* also need revision in the same context.

A.14 Exchange of views on the revision of 2013/92/EC in relation to introduction of wood packaging material from China.

The details of the planned prolongation of the existing Decision with the levels of import control, measures to be taken in case of non-compliances and duration were discussed. The Commission will present a draft text at a forthcoming meeting.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2012/535/EU as regards measures to prevent the spread within the Union of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (Steiner et Buhner) Nickle et al. (the pine wood nematode).

The Commission presented some technical changes to the pine wood nematode emergency measures. This relates to the flexibility for felling trees affected by fire or storm until before the start of the next vector insect flying season, more detailed rules for contingency plans, the submission of road check results on an annual instead of monthly basis, the reduction of the survey activities in healthy-looking trees, the increased survey focus in the infested zone adjacent to the buffer zone and a reduction of the clear-cut radius to 100m around infested trees in areas where the vector insect is known to be absent.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Directive amending Annexes I, II, III, IV and V of Council Directive 2000/29/EC.

The Committee agreed with the draft text presented by the Commission for the inclusion of 4 new harmful organisms, several newly regulated commodities at import, the revision of a many specific requirements for the import of certain commodities and a broad update of protected zones. For the control of the false codling moth, the Committee agreed that cold treatment as well as effective alternatives are acceptable, provided that these alternatives are notified in advance of the trade to the Commission services. Against citrus canker, it was agreed that alternatives to a surface treatment with sodium orthophenylphenate are acceptable, provided that these alternatives are notified in advance of the trade to the Commission services. Against citrus black spot, the Committee accepted that a specific option for the mitigation of the phytosanitary risks of citrus fruits destined for processing within the EU is included. The Commission indicated that the draft Directive will be notified to WTO-SPS for a 60-day commenting period. Vote will take place after this notification period.

Technical vote: qualified majority with support of 25 Member States, 2 Member States against, 1 Member State abstention.