European Commission

DG Health and Food Safety

Europhyt Interceptions

Annual Report 2017

Health and Food Safety

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Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2018

Print	ISBN 978-92-79-53335-8	doi:10.2772/64832	ND-BC-14-025-EN-C
PDF	ISBN 978-92-79-43530-0	doi:10.2772/60203	ND-BC-14-025-EN-N

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Health and food audits and analysis

DG(SANTE) 2018-6527

EUROPHYT-INTERCEPTIONS
EUROPEAN UNION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM
FOR PLANT HEALTH INTERCEPTIONS
ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Executive summary

EUROPHYT- Interceptions *is the plant health interception, notification and rapid alert system for EU Member States and Switzerland, managed by the European Commission. This report presents key statistics on non-EU country interceptions from 2017 and provides analysis of trends in interceptions based on annual figures for the period 2013-2017.*

In 2017, EUROPHYT- Interceptions *received a total of 8,072 notifications concerning consignments intercepted due to non-conformities with EU requirements, of which 7,719 were of non-EU country origin.*

Although the total number of notifications due to the presence of harmful organisms (HOs), where there is a clear risk, showed a clear reduction over the previous year, and a clear and consistent decrease year on year since 2013 (down 40%); the overall total for 2017, for all reasons, was only fractionally down on 2016. This was largely attributable to increased interceptions of passenger baggage and interceptions for non-compliant documentary issues.

Fruit and vegetables (particularly peppers, mango, basil, Solanum *other than potato and tomato, citrus and various gourds), wood packaging material (WPM), cut flowers and planting material remained the main non-EU country commodities intercepted with HOs. 14 non-EU countries were responsible for the majority of these notifications during 2017.*

Some non-EU country commodities (such as Corchorus *spp.,* Trichosanthes spp. *and* Luffa *spp.) showed a marked decrease in interceptions during 2017 largely due to the influence of Commission-led initiatives from the previous year, but also due to a self-ban on export of certain commodities by Bangladesh.*

There was a marked decrease this year in WPM interceptions with HOs, although increases were noted from both India, and even more so for Belarus (almost entirely nematodes). There was also a marked reduction for reasons other than the presence of HOs (non-compliance with ISPM 15 special requirements). This reduction marks an easing of the previous surge in interceptions of Russian consignments by Latvia, and to a lesser extent, Lithuania. The level of HO interceptions on Chinese WPM is the lowest since 2013.

As regards cut flowers, the most important intercepted commodities during 2017 were, in descending order of interception numbers, Rosa *spp.,* Gypsophila *spp.,* orchids, Eryngium *spp., Dianthus spp.,* Chrysanthemum spp. *and* Solidago *spp.*, *of which only* Rosa *spp.,* Solidago *spp. and* Chrysanthemum *spp. showed reduced interceptions. Leaf miners (*Liriomyza *spp.), white flies* (Bemisia spp.), Thrips *spp., and* Spodoptera *spp. continued to be the most prominent intercepted pests on cut flowers. With respect to planting material*, Bemisia tabaci *(non-European populations) continued to be the most intercepted HO (albeit with notifications halved in 2017).*

Eight HOs, considered not present or not previously recorded within the EU territory, were intercepted for the first time in 2017.

Species level designation of HOs in the notifications increased considerably over 2017 (up from 53% in 2016 to 62.7% in 2017) away from family level and above. This positive momentum should be further encouraged making EUROPHYT- Interceptions *more effective*

as a rapid alert system, and to support decisions on Commission measures with respect to risks from non-EU country imports.

*Despite on-going efforts by Member States and some improvements, EUROPHYT-*Interception *notifications are on average still not submitted within the two working days stipulated in EU legislation.*

Acronyms

CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EPPO	European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation
EU	European Union
EUROPHYT-*Interceptions*	The EU notification and rapid alert system dealing with interceptions for plant health reasons of consignments of plants and plant products imported into, or traded within, the EU
HOs	Harmful organisms
ISPM	International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures
MSs	EU Member States (are also, except United Kingdom, referred to individually in tables and figures of the report by their two-letter ISO code)
Non-EU countries	For statistics in this report, countries other than MSs and Switzerland (are also referred to individually in tables and figures of the report by their two-letter ISO code)
NPPO	National Plant Protection Organisation
PC	Phytosanitary Certificate
WPM	Wood packaging material

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1. Introduction

1.1 EUROPHYT- *Interceptions*

EUROPHYT- *Interceptions*[1] is an on-line web-based rapid alert system for plant health interceptions in the European Union (EU), originally established according to the provisions of Commission Directive 94/3/EC of 21 January 1994[2].

The basis for EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* is the obligation for EU Member States (MSs) (and Switzerland (CH)) to rapidly notify harmful organisms (HOs) and other plant health risks found during import controls. Notifications of such interceptions are in turn disseminated EU wide and to the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) of the country of export. Similarly, interceptions made in intra-EU trade of material that does not meet EU phytosanitary requirements, are also subject to notification and dissemination.

Since its inception, EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* has been hosted, managed and continuously developed by a dedicated team within the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety ensuring day-to-day monitoring and management of the system and database, as well as co-ordinating on-going system maintenance and upgrades. EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* personnel also perform a range of periodic reporting functions[3] and provide a dedicated helpdesk to provide on-going support to both MSs and non-EU National Plant Protection Organisation stakeholders.

1.2 Support to risk management decisions

In addition to its function as a rapid alert system, the EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* database has increasingly served as an effective risk assessment and risk management policy support tool. In this respect, the Non-EU trade Alert List, published each month on the DG Health and Food Safety website: Non-EU trade alert list - European Commission, acts as a platform to both capture interception trends with respect to plant health risks from non-EU country imports, but also as a basis to communicate these risks across the spectrum of stakeholders involved in trade and non-EU country imports, etc. It helps encourage relevant parties to deal with such risks at source.

The Alert List ranks non-EU country trades and HO interceptions based on a set of specific criteria. It is updated monthly, covering the preceding 12 months, and as such, gauges trends in plant health risks on an on-going rolling monthly basis, i.e. it effectively provides an indication, and on-going overview, of trends with regard to certain phytosanitary risks for the EU from imports. In addition, the Alert list is used as a risk management tool by the

[1] The rapid alert system for plant health interceptions formerly known as EUROPHYT has, since November 2015, been renamed EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* to distinguish it from other modules under the EUROPHYT IT portal.

[2] Commission Directive 94/3/EC of 21 January 1994 establishing a procedure for the notification of interception of a consignment or a harmful organism from third countries and presenting an imminent phytosanitary danger. OJ L 32, 5.2.1994, p. 37.

[3] Monthly and annual data extracts are published on-line, along with other EU plant health related information at http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosafety/index_en.htm.

Commission. The Alert List, published in January 2018 (i.e. covering the entire 12 month reference period for 2017) is given in Table 8.1, as well as a graphical representation of the month-on-month evolution of interception totals for the same period (based on data presented in Table 8.2), given in **Fig. 8.1** of the annex.

In addition to the individual import interception notifications, which are automatically generated and immediately sent to the competent authorities of the country of export, the Alert List provides a transparent overview that constitutes the main basis for EU interaction with the country of origin for achieving increased compliance with the EU's phytosanitary import requirements. Furthermore, the Alert List has established itself as a principal tool in the annual and multi-annual work planning for plant health audits conducted by Directorate F.

1.3 Objective/Aim

This report aims to provide an annual overview of the highlights and most pertinent interceptions notified during 2017[4,5]. Furthermore, it evaluates, where relevant, the overall and principal trends over the period 2013-2017 within the context of EU actions or measures taken. The data presented in the figures in this report is sourced from the EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* database. This information is also provided in tabular format in the Annex. In some instances, further analysis, based on EUROPHYT- *Interception* data, is used to reflect on trends and provide explanations. As the additional data used to review various additional points is very numerous, these have not been captured in the Annex.

Given that the principal plant health risk to the EU arises from non-EU countries (non-EU countries, other than CH) detailed analysis of intra-EU interceptions is excluded. Despite this, some overall statistics for interceptions within the EU over the reference period are given in section 2 (**Fig. 2.1** and Table 2.1 of the Annex).

2. Notifications

EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* received an overall total of 8,072 notifications during 2017, approximately 1% less than that recorded for 2016. Of this figure, 7,719 originated from non-EU country consignments, whilst the remaining 353 represented interceptions from intra-EU trade, representing an approximate 0.7% and a 7.4% decrease relative to the previous year, respectively. **Fig. 2.1** gives an overview of the number of interceptions for non-EU countries and MSs over the period 2013 to 2017.

[4] All public data of EUROPHYT - Interceptions, including those in this annual report, are prepared in line with Regulation EC (No) 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data.

[5] Data presented in this report has been extracted and presented based on notification date.

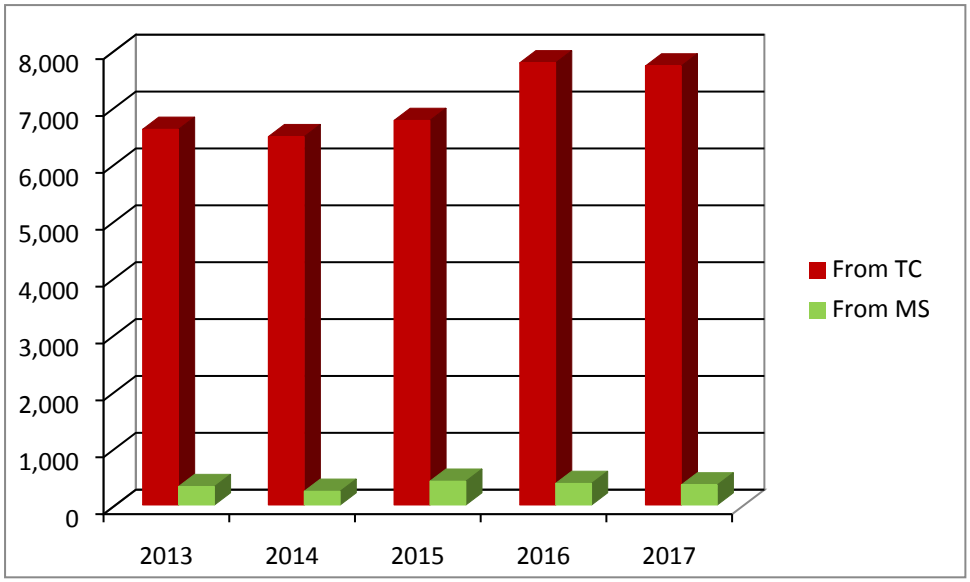


Fig. 2.1. Total number of notifications to EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* (2013-2017) recorded from non-EU countries and intra-EU trade for all reasons (see also Table 2.1 of the Annex).

2.1 Reasons for interceptions

Fig. 2.2 gives a breakdown by non-conformity for all non-EU country interceptions in 2017, showing also the evolution over the reference period 2013-2017. The basic data are provided in the Annex (Table 2.2)[6]

The three principal reasons for interceptions in 2017 were (in descending order of incidence): Non-compliant WPM, absence of, or non-conforming, phytosanitary certificates (PCs), and HOs.

Interceptions of WPM, non-compliant with ISPM 15, decreased considerably in 2017 (down 12.8% compared to 2016), the first reduction since 2014. This decrease is mirrored in the number of interceptions for HO, down approximately 22.9% on the previous year, continuing a consistent year on year downward trend since 2013 (with an overall decrease of approximately 39.7% since 2013) (see **Fig. 2.2** and Table 2.2 of the Annex).

The figure for the absence of PCs increased by approximately 37.3% over the previous year, representing an approximate 20.8% portion of the total number of all non-EU country interceptions in 2017. This increase is partly due to increased interceptions made on passenger baggage by AT in 2017, but more specifically DE (see also section 2.2).

Notifications due to incomplete, illegible, fake and expired PCs showed a slight increase (by 2.8% from the previous year, although 23.2% down since 2013). On the other hand, issues

[6] In this report the totals always refer to the number of intercepted consignments in that particular category. If there was more than one reason of interception in the case of a consignment (e.g. presence of a harmful organism and absence of phytosanitary certificate) or more than one HO was intercepted, the interception is counted separately in each of the relevant categories, however only once concerning the overall number of interceptions. Consequently the totals may be lower than the sum of subcategories. Furthermore, some sub-categories include more than one reason for interception, depending on the comparison of the data table, and therefore, there could be slight differences in numbers reflected in different data tables and/or figures.

related to additional declarations showed a 14.5% reduction over the previous year (at 561 notifications, this was the lowest recorded set of figures for issues related to additional declarations over the five year reference period).

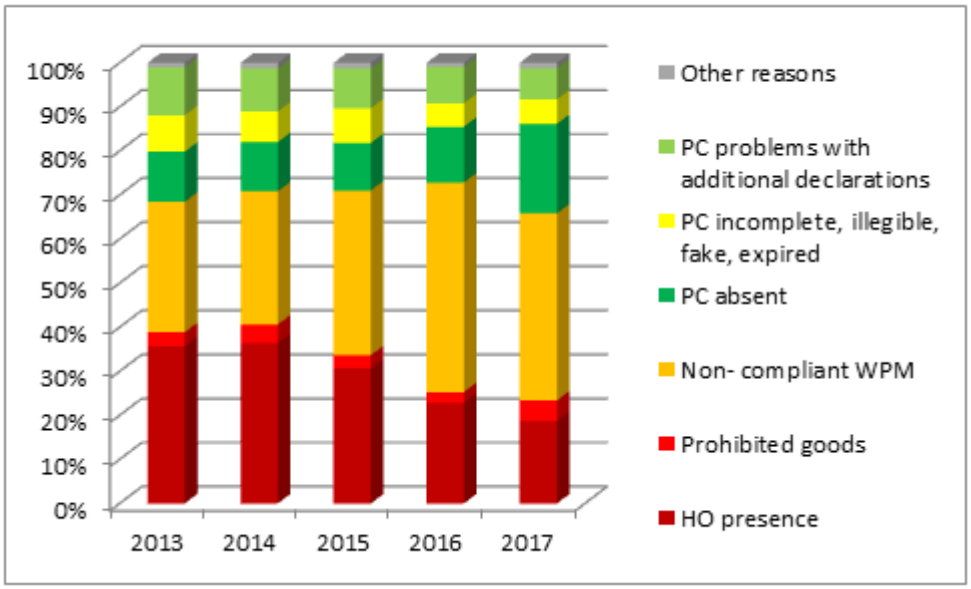


Fig. 2.2. Reasons and evolution of interceptions of consignments from non-EU countries over the reference period 2013-2017.

2.2 Member States and non-EU country Notifications

In the reference period 2013 to 2017, thirteen countries (twelve MSs and CH) referred to in **Fig. 2.3** were responsible for over 90% of all notifications reported to EUROPHYT-*Interceptions*. Of these thirteen, Germany (DE), Latvia (LV), United Kingdom (UK), and the Netherlands (NL) reported 1,536, 1,433, 1,052 and 722 interceptions, respectively, in 2017 (together accounting for approximately 61.5% of the total number of all interceptions, a proportion similar to that reported for the same four MSs in 2016).

DE emerged as the MS with the highest number of interceptions (for all reasons) in 2017, surpassing the WPM related interception surge of LV in 2016 (a trend which started in 2015). This DE increase is largely attributable to passenger baggage interceptions (made almost exclusively on the basis of absent PCs (approximately 600), with only seven attributable to HOs). Although DE maintained passenger checks over previous years, a concerted programme of targeted passenger baggage checks, coupled with notification of all findings to EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* (centred mainly at Frankfurt International airport) was recently introduced. In 2017, these checks now accounted for approximately 40% of all DE notifications. The UK, having until 2015 maintained a dominant interception profile relative to other MSs over many years, recorded a further drop in interceptions in 2017, as did NL, LT, FR, BE, CH, SK and IT.

With regard to the number of interceptions relative to the estimated volume of imports of regulated articles[7], the interception profiles for NL, FR, BE, CH and IT over the period under

analysis (2013-2017) represent relatively low numbers of interceptions (Table 2.3 of the Annex). Similarly, although ES recorded an increase in interceptions in 2017, this can be considered low relative to estimated volumes of imports of regulated articles, whereas AT continues to intercept consignments in relatively high numbers relative to its lower volume of imports. Both LT and SK are considered as MSs with relatively low volumes of imports. The remaining MSs not highlighted in **Fig. 2.3**, each with varying low levels of reported interceptions (1 to 89), each represent, like LT and SK, countries with relatively low volumes of imports. Details of the numbers of interceptions notified by these MSs are given in Table 2.3 of the Annex.

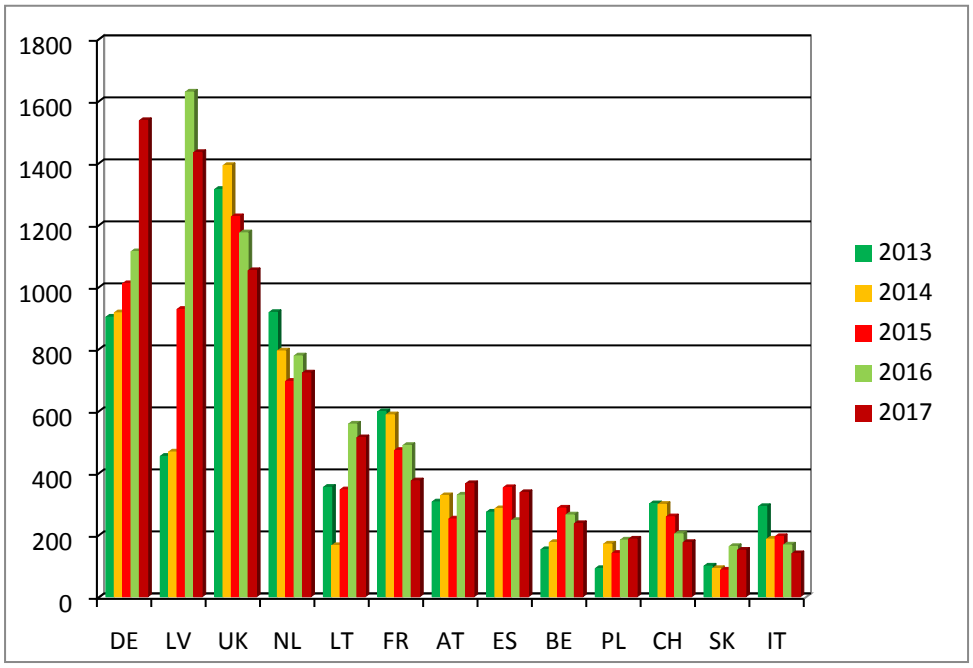


Fig. 2.3. MSs with the overall largest number of all notified interceptions in the period 2013-2017.

[7] Regulated articles as described by Council Directive 2000/29/EC, subject to specific requirements, such as phytosanitary certificates and mandatory import control. Currently no exact information is available at EU level on the volume of imports, subject to phytosanitary controls. EUROSTAT data provides only indicative information, as the customs codes (TARIC) only to a limited extent correspond to the regulated articles, defined by the EU plant health legislation as subject to phytosanitary controls.

3. Interceptions of consignments imported from non-EU countries

Key points

There was a total of 7,719 interceptions from non-EU countries. These may be broken down as follows:

- WPM (treatment) and other objects: 3,341 (43.3%)
- Presence of Harmful Organisms: 1,477 (19.1%)
- Absence of, or non-conforming, phytosanitary certificates: 2,597 (33.6%)
- Other reasons: 457 (5.9%)

For interceptions due to the presence of HOs, the main commodities intercepted were fruit and vegetables (69.3%), Wood packaging material (13.9%), cut flowers (10.2%) and planting material (3.9%).

- Based on recent trends, the main countries of origin of intercepted fruit and vegetables with HOs were Nigeria (NG), Cote d'Ivoire (CI), Dominican Republic (DO), Suriname (SU), Malaysia (MY), South Africa (ZA) and Israel (IL). (see **Fig. 4.4** and Table 4.4 of the annex).
- Based on recent trends, the main countries of origin of intercepted wood packaging material with HOs were China (CN), India (IN), Belarus (BY), Malaysia (MY) and Uganda (UG). (see **Fig 4.7** and Table 4.7 of the annex).
- Based on recent trends, the main countries of origin of intercepted cut flowers with HOs were Israel (IL), Ecuador (EC), Nigeria (NG), Thailand (TH) Kenya (KE) and Malaysia (MY) (see Section 4.3).
- Based on recent trends, the main countries of origin of intercepted planting material with HOs were the United States of America (US), China (CN), Costa Rica (CR) and Kenya (KE) (see Section 4.1).

3.1 Type and origin of the consignments (all reasons)

Of the 7,719 non-EU country interceptions reported in 2017 for all reasons, 4,892 concerned plants and plant products (including fruits and vegetables, wood/bark, seeds, planting material, cut flowers, and other plant products), and 2,974 concerned objects (WPM and other objects)[8]. Although the overall pattern, in terms of general proportions between intercepted product class, has remained largely similar over the previous five years, 2017 saw marked increases in the numbers of interceptions of planting material (up 21.6%) and fruit and vegetables (up 10%), and more modest increase for seeds (up 5.7%) and cut flowers (up

[8] Plants, plant products and objects as defined by Article 2 of Council Directive 2000/29/EC.

4.3%) mainly attributable to documentary issues and non-compliance with special requirements. Reversing an upward trend since 2013, both WPM and wood and bark showed a decrease in 2017 (-8.3% and -21.6% respectively) also reflecting a reduction in notifications due to documentary issues and non-compliance with special requirements. These trends can be seen in **Fig. 3.1.** and Table 3.1 of the Annex.

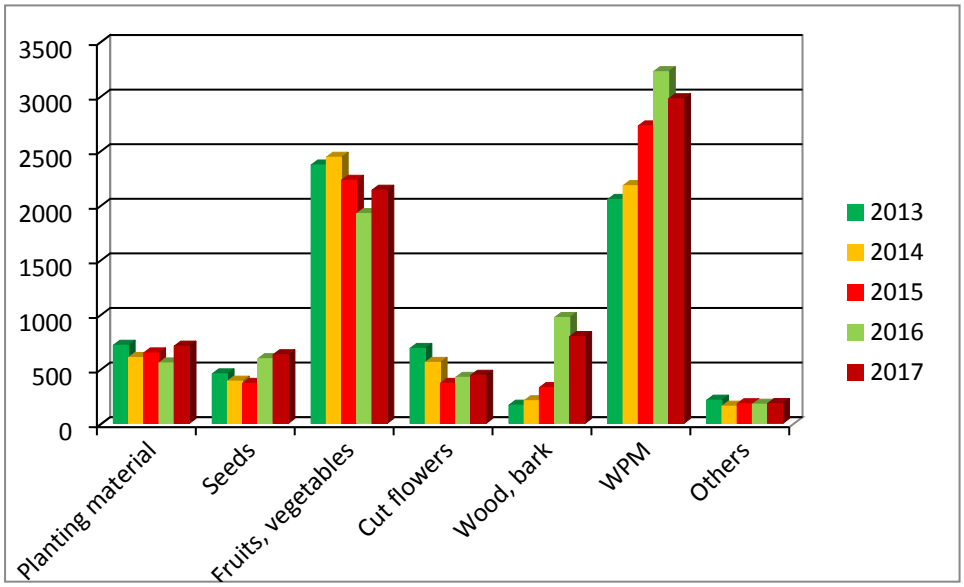


Fig. 3.1. Type of intercepted commodities from non-EU countries (2013-2017).

EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* recorded interceptions from 131 different exporting non-EU countries in 2017 (slightly up from a total of 124 in 2016).

In 2017, two non-EU countries were responsible for almost one third of the total number of interceptions for all reasons. The largest number of interceptions originated from the Russian Federation (RU) – responsible for approximately 21.8% of the total of all interceptions from non-EU countries in 2017, but representing a decrease of 19.5% over the previous year. This large decrease is mainly due to a reduced number of interceptions of non-compliant WPM by LV and, to a lesser extent, LT from that country. The second highest number of interceptions was from the US, representing approximately 9.8% (down 9% over 2016).

The remaining non-EU countries, of particular concern, in descending order for 2017, include China (CN), India (IN), Turkey (TR), Vietnam (VN), Thailand (TH), Belarus (BY), Ukraine (UA), Egypt (EG) and Nigeria (NG), each of which, with the exception of CN (down 28.4% over 2016)), recorded an upward trend over the previous year (see **Fig. 3.2** and Table 3.2 of the Annex). In the case of Belarus and Ukraine, increases were predominantly attributable to increased interceptions of nematodes on WPM. Taken together, these eleven countries accounted for approximately 65.1% of all non-EU country interceptions in 2017 (a similar share as in the previous year).

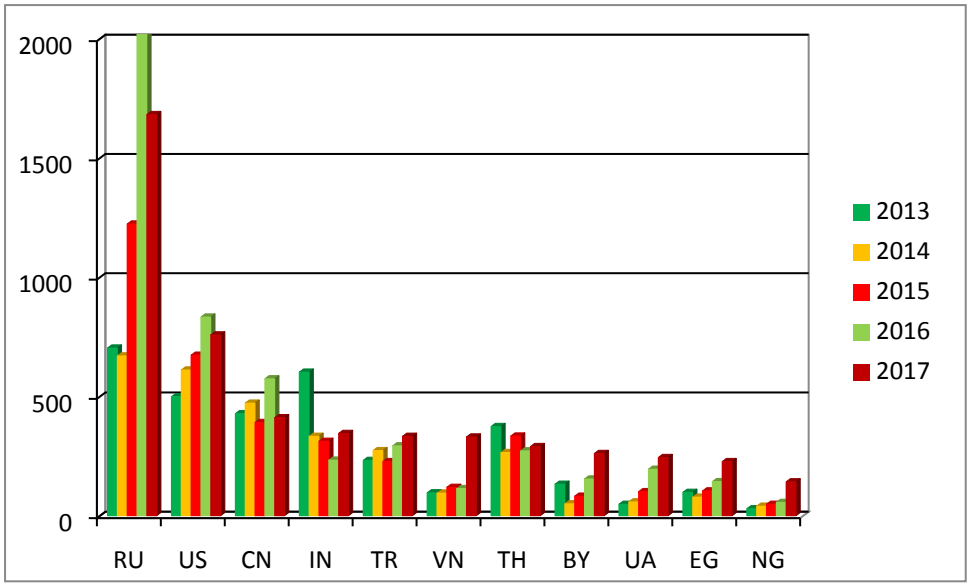


Fig. 3.2. Non-EU countries with the highest number of interceptions (all reasons) (2013-2017).

3.2 Intercepting MS

Of the MSs responsible for the greatest number of interceptions of consignments from non-EU countries in 2017, DE was responsible for approximately 19.9%. This was an increase of 27.5% over the previous year, largely attributable to increased interceptions of absent and incomplete PCs, as well as prohibited plants. This increase was almost exclusively (99.2%) due to passenger baggage interceptions over 2016, where DE started a concerted programme of notification reporting. Despite this increase, there was a reduction in HO interceptions (see also section 2.2). LV was responsible for 18.6% (a decrease of 12% (largely attributable to decreased interceptions of non-compliant WPM from the Russian Federation (see also sections 2.1 and 3.3). The UK was responsible for 13.6% of interceptions, continuing an overall downward trend since 2013 (with the exception of 2014). This was followed by NL (9.4%), LT (6.7%), FR (4.9%), BE (3.1%), CH (2.3%), SK (1.9%) and IT (1.8%), which recorded a year on year decrease of 7.1%, 8.5%, 23.4%, 10.6%, 13.8%, 7.4% and 16.8%, respectively. AT, ES and PL responsible for 4.7%, 4.4% and 2.4%, respectively, recorded an overall increase in interceptions of 10.1%, 26.8% and 1.6%, respectively. These trends and figures for the total number of interceptions by MSs (and CH) can be seen from **Fig. 2.3**, and Table 2.3 of the Annex.

The ten MS, and CH, highlighted in **Fig. 3.3** were responsible for over 96% of all non-EU country HO interceptions in 2017. The MS with the greatest number of HO interceptions was the UK with 461 interceptions or 31.2% (down 26.1% over the previous year, and continuing a downward trend since 2013), followed, in descending order, by NL with 357 or 24.2% (up 8.1% over 2016), FR with 163 or 11% (down 26.2% over the previous year), BE with 93 or 6.3% (down 8.8% over 2016) and DE with 77, or 5.2% (down 44.2% over the previous year). Of the remaining six countries, five recorded a reduction in the number of HO interceptions over the previous year; ES (44.8%), CH (10.7%), IT (12.3), AT (48.6%) and SE (54.2%),

whilst only LT recorded an increase (75.4%), attributable to nematode interceptions on WPM from Belarus and Ukraine. Irrespective of the observed trend, the number of HO interceptions by BE, DE, ES and CH appear relatively low in relation to their geographical and international trade positions (**Fig. 3.3**; and Table 3.3 of the Annex). With regard to LT, representing 57 interceptions for 2017, this figure contrasts markedly with that for interceptions for all reasons (513) which are attributable, almost exclusively, to non-compliant WPM (see section 2.2, and **Fig. 2.4**).

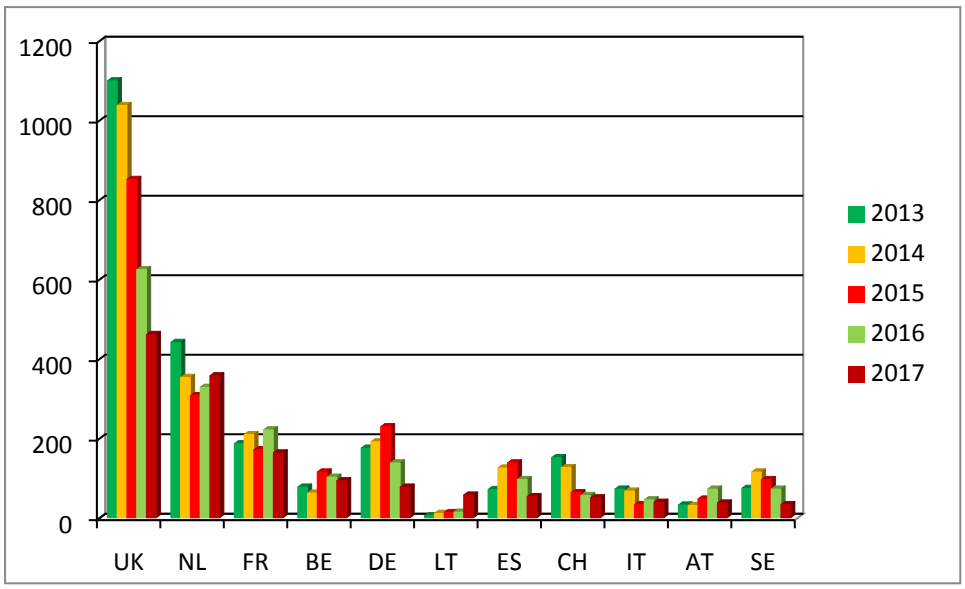


Fig. 3.3. Member States intercepting the highest number of consignments with harmful organisms (2013-2017).

3.3 Interceptions with harmful organisms

1,477 of the non-EU country notifications in 2017 concerned HOs (22.9% lower than in 2016), continuing a consistent downward trend over the reference period (with an overall fall of 39.5% since 2013). Of these 1,477 notifications, 1,267 were of consignments of plants and/or plant products (18.5% lower than in 2016), following a clear and consistent downward trend since 2013 (42.5% down since then) and 217 attributable to objects[9] (16.9% lower than in the previous year) (see **Fig. 3.4** and Table 3.4 of the Annex).

[9] Defined as any other material or object, other than plants or plant products, capable of harbouring or spreading pests, e.g. WPM.

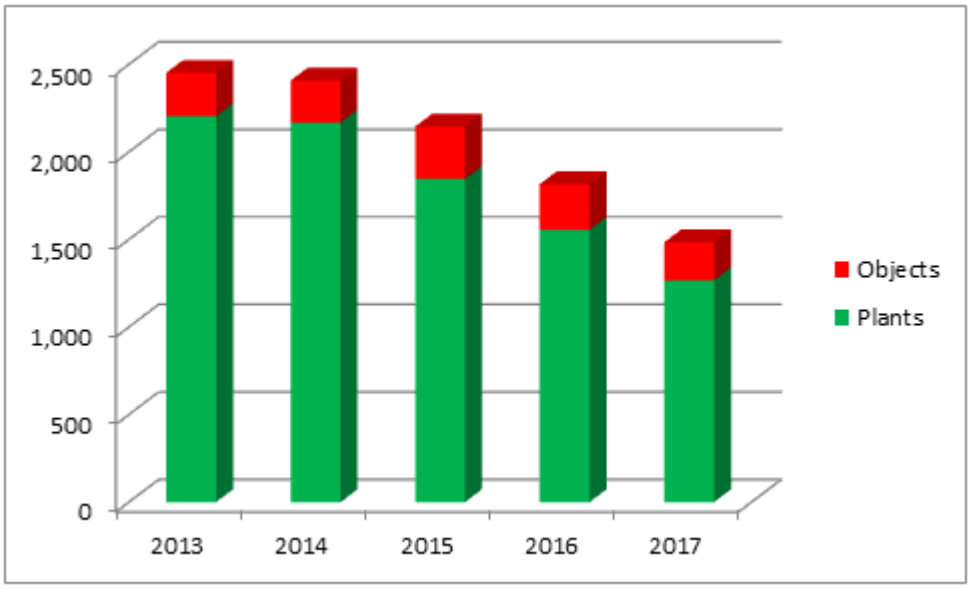


Fig. 3.4. Consignments from non-EU countries intercepted with harmful organisms (2013-2017).

Of the HO interceptions in 2017, 69.3% involved fruit and vegetables, by far, the dominant commodity class for HO interceptions. Despite this dominance, HO interceptions on fruit and vegetables have showed an overall downward trend over the reference period, with a drop of 42.6% since 2013.

This is followed by WPM (14%), down 16.9% since 2016, cut flowers (10.7%) and planting material (3.9%), down 48.2% from the previous year.

Both seeds and wood/bark, which represent a very small share of the total number of annual HO notifications (19 each), registered a very slight increase (10.2%) and decrease (13.6%), respectively, compared to the previous year (see **Fig. 3.5**. and Table 3.5 of the Annex).

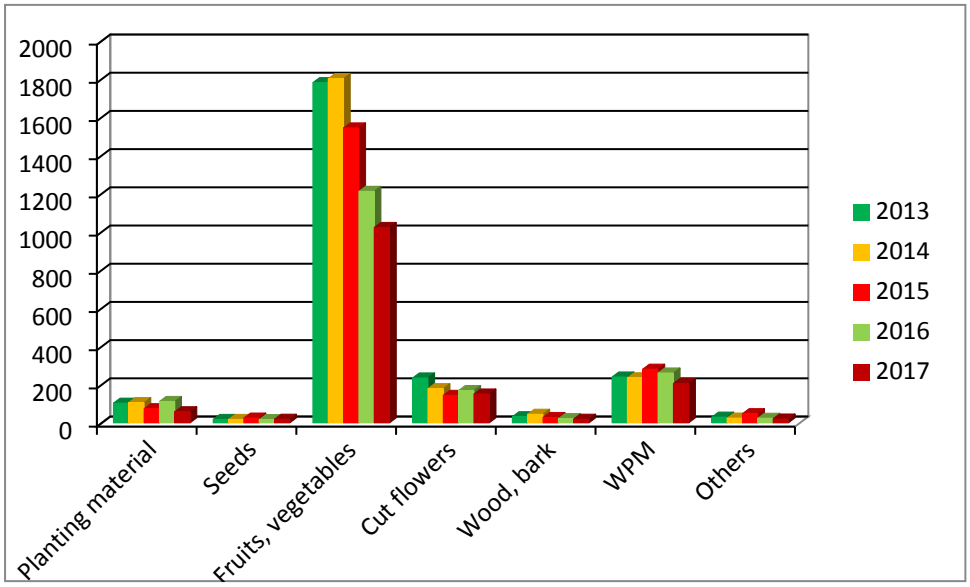


Fig. 3.5. Type of consignments from non-EU countries, intercepted with harmful organisms (2013-2017).

The fourteen non-EU countries with the highest number of interceptions of HOs in 2017, accounting for approximately 60% of all HO interceptions made in 2017, are given in **Fig. 3.6** (see also Table 3.6 of the Annex).

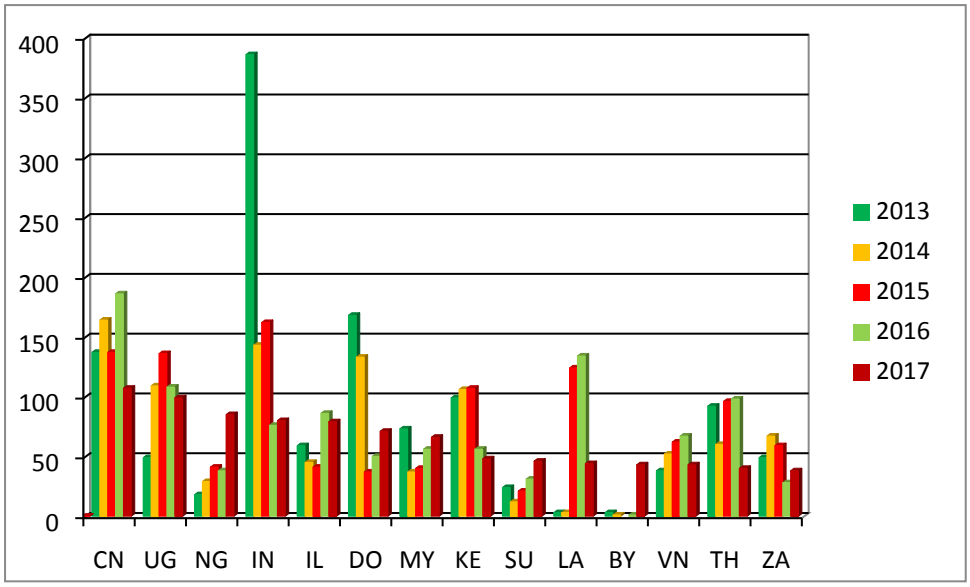


Fig. 3.6. Non-EU countries with the highest number of interceptions with harmful organisms (2013-2017).

NG, IN, DO (Dominican Republic), MY, SU (Suriname), BY and SA (South Africa) each record an increase over the previous year, of which NG, DO, MY and SU exhibit a clear and consistent upward multi-year trend. CN, UG (Uganda), IL (Israel), KE (Kenya), LA (Laos), VN and TH (Thailand) (see also section 4.2), although cause for concern with respect to their interception profiles in previous years, each recorded a drop in HO interceptions for 2017.

The high incidence of interceptions from NG reflects an on-going trend with whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci*) on a range of leafy vegetable crops from that country. Given the security situation, and following an intensive dialogue (resulting in unilateral NG measures being put in place), a planned European Commission plant health audit for 2018 has been, for the time being, postponed. Interceptions of thrips and fruit flies on a range of crops from DO, similarly from MY (including orchids), have caused HO interception levels from both countries climb to their highest in three and four years, respectively. The Commission is in dialogue with both countries on the interceptions and the implementation of recommendations from Commission plant health audits there in 2015 and 2013, respectively, with the aim of securing corrective measures.

Similarly, SU recorded a surge in the number of *Spodoptera frugiperda* (fall armyworm) interceptions during 2017, resulting in the introduction of emergency measures on 1 June 2018 (Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/638) to prevent the introduction and

spread of this pest within the EU (in particular peppers, *Momordica* spp., various *Solanum* spp. and maize from South America and Africa). Belarus recorded a pronounced surge in nematode interceptions, almost entirely exclusively, on WPM. European Commission plant health audits are scheduled for both countries during 2019.

Despite the introduction of revised emergency measures for citrus black spot (CBS) (*Phyllosticta citricarpa*) with Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/715, which, on the whole has seen a marked reduction in CBS interceptions from all citrus exporting countries combined, the number of interceptions from ZA increased during 2017. The Commission has requested ZA to investigate the cause of these increased interceptions during 2017 and to take corrective actions to prevent a recurrence. The Commission together with the MS will continue to monitor the situation as the next export season gets under way from mid-2018.

CN recorded a marked reduction in HO interceptions during 2017, mainly attributable to on-going correspondence and high level bilateral communication between the Commission and the Chinese competent authority. With respect to UG, despite a plant health audit during September 2016, the total number of interceptions for 2017 remained high (99), mainly because of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (false codling moth) on *Capsicum* spp. As this pest has recently become regulated (since 1 January 2018), and as interceptions have continued into 2018, a follow-up plant health audit is scheduled in 2019. Similarly, for IL, although showing an 8.1% decrease over the previous year, the interception figures, again in 2017 remained high primarily due to leafminers on cut flowers of *Gypsophila* spp., and to a lesser extent *Bemisia tabaci* on *Ocimum* spp.. A plant health audit is planned to Israel in 2018 (see **Fig. 3.6** and Table 3.6 of the Annex).

The 14.3% fall in interceptions from Kenya reflects, as in 2016, fewer interceptions of a range of HOs on *Ocimum* spp., various planting material species (including leaf miners) as well as false codling moth on *Capsicum* spp. and cut flowers. A plant health audit took place in Kenya in November 2017.

Thailand reversed an increasing trend in HO interceptions during 2017 (down 59.2%). In addition to the on-going exchange of information between Thailand and the Commission, including monthly EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* data submission to the Thai NPPO, this decrease was largely a result of a plant health audit to Thailand in February 2017. Despite this, the total number of interceptions of HOs on Thai commodities remains high.

Although the EU emergency measures (Commission Decision (EU) 2014/237) regarding India, requiring a fruit fly treatment for *Mangifera* spp., as well as banning the import of *Colocasia* spp., *Momordica* spp., *Solanum melangena* and *Trichosanthes* spp. were lifted on 31 December 2016, the focus and attention of these measures appear to have maintained a downward pressure on interceptions from India during 2017. Overall, interceptions remain down from the high level recorded in 2013. Fruit fly interceptions have remained low over the period 2016-2017 (14 in each year), as have the interceptions of the other main HOs experienced with Indian imports, in particular thrips (Thripidae) and white flies (*Bemisia tabaci*). However, the total of 80 interceptions recorded from India in 2017, including the 44,

which were on WPM (mainly *Sinoxylon* spp.), is slightly higher than recorded in the previous year. The Commission will continue to monitor the situation during 2018 and take appropriate action as necessary.

The large decrease in notifications recorded from Laos in 2017 as a whole, a drop of 67.2%, reflects the impact of Commission intervention and a plant health audit there in November 2016. However, interception numbers started to increase again towards the end of 2017 and the Commission will continue to monitor the situation.

Although the data is not shown in this report, the situation with respect to Bangladesh dramatically improved since 2017 (with a 91% fall in HO interceptions). This was largely the result of a self-ban on a range of commodities, including *Capsicum* spp, *Trichosanthes* and *Momordica* spp, introduced by Bangladesh in response to EU concerns. The Commission will monitor against any possible reoccurrence of the high levels of HO interceptions recorded from previous years.

It should be emphasised that as standard, all non-EU countries that continued to exhibit high numbers of interceptions during 2017, as well as any that show an increasing trend, will be subject to on-going evaluation with possible further action(s) and/or measures as deemed appropriate.

3.4 Interceptions for reasons other than presence of harmful organisms

There were a total of 6,289 non-EU country interceptions in 2017 for reasons other than HO presence, representing a slight overall increase from 2016 of 5.2%. This increase is largely attributable to plants and plant product interceptions, of which the total of 2,687 represents an increase of 25.5% over the previous year. This is in contrast to 2016, when WPM, as well as wood and bark were increasing. This year, WPM and wood and bark interceptions have fallen, with decreases of 7.7% and 17.9% over 2016, respectively.

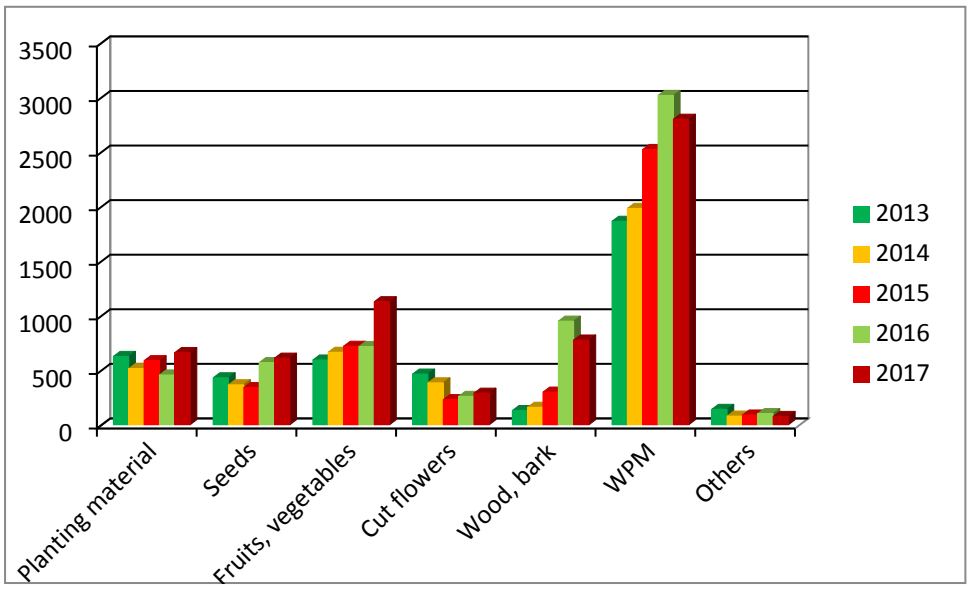


Fig. 3.7. Share of the major commodity groups in interceptions due to reasons other than the presence of HOs (2013-2017).

Of the plants and plant products, fruit and vegetables accounted for the largest number of interceptions (1,127), representing a considerable increase over 2016 (up 36.4%), in part attributable to increased passenger baggage interceptions by AT and DE, and continuing an upward trend since 2013 (up 47.54%) (see **Fig 3.7**). Planting material interceptions (661) exhibited a 31% increase from the previous year. Similarly, seeds (610) and cut flowers (289) each recorded an increase in notifications due to reasons other than the presence of HOs of 6.7% and 10% over 2016, respectively (see also Table 3.7 of the Annex). The marked decrease in interceptions of WPM, due to reasons other than the presence of HOs, is almost entirely attributable to a decrease from the recent in surge in interceptions during 2015 and 2016 of WPM by LV and LT where inspections are made at all entry points (the majority of which are from CIS states). Consignments, other than WPM, are typically intercepted due to the absence, or various inappropriateness, of phytosanitary certificates, including inadequate or missing additional declarations.

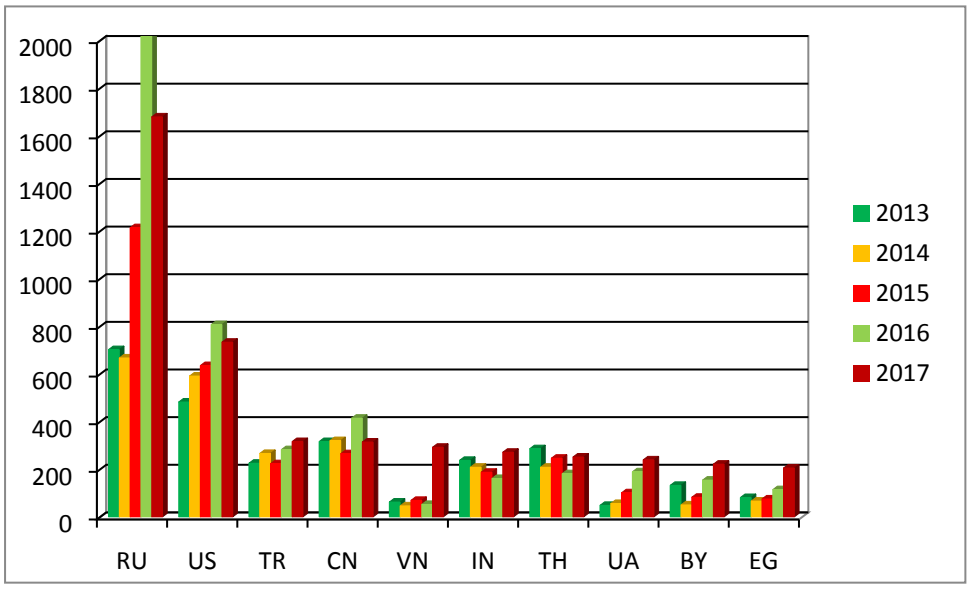


Fig. 3.8. Non-EU countries with the highest number of interceptions for reasons other than presence of harmful organisms (2013-2017) (and see Table 3.8 of the Annex).

As regards the non-EU countries involved, the ten countries, referred to in **Fig. 3.8**, were responsible for approximately 71.8% of interceptions not attributable to the presence of HOs (each having 200 or more such interceptions) during 2017. RU was responsible for 26.7% of all consignments intercepted due to reasons other than the presence of HOs, down 19.6% on the previous year. This decrease is mainly caused by the comparable decrease in interceptions by LV and LT together for WPM (see above and also section 2.2, and **Fig. 2.4**).

Next, the US is responsible for 11.7% (down 9.2% on the previous year, reversing an upward trend from 2014), Turkey (TR) (5%, up 10.8% on the previous year, and, with the exception of 2015, following a general upward trend), CN (5%, down approximately 24.2% on the

previous year, but largely steady with the exception of 2016). Each of the following six non-EU countries each recorded an increase in interceptions in 2017 over the previous year; Vietnam (VN) (up 82.2%), IN (up 40.6%, and reversing the downward trend observed since 2014), TH (up 27.9%), UA (up 20.9%), BY (up 30.3%) and EG (up 44.4%), of which VN, UA, BY and EG each exhibited a consistent upward trend over the reference period. Further analysis of the WPM interceptions is given in section 4.4.

4. Key Commodities – further analysis and considerations

4.1 Planting material

Planting material remains the most critical and high risk pathway for the introduction of HOs into the EU. Consequently, all vegetative material for planting as well as seeds of certain plant species from non-EU countries are regulated. In 2017, EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* received notifications of 1,337 interceptions of planting material (including seeds) from non-EU countries (up 21.8% over the previous year) (see Table 3.1 of the Annex).

Similar to previous years, HOs were detected in 5.9% (76) of the consignments, representing predominantly cuttings, other material not yet planted, as well as seeds. Also as in previous years, the absence of a PC remained the main reason for interceptions (769); followed by cases where the PC did not contain the required additional declaration (208) or was inadequate, illegible, fake or expired (76). Only three interceptions were of prohibited goods. (see **Fig. 4.1** and Table 4.1 of the Annex).

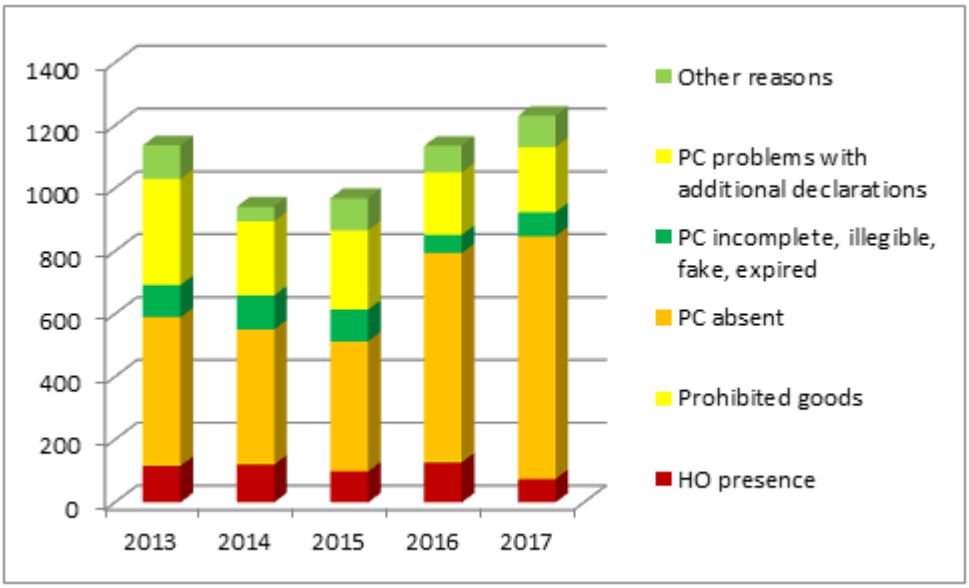


Fig. 4.1 Reasons and evolution of interceptions of consignments of planting material from non-EU countries over the reference period 2013-2017.

Taken together, the number of interceptions due to a missing, or inappropriate additional declaration, has increased over the previous year (together up approximately 13%). The

majority of the intercepted plants for planting continue to be cuttings, not planted plant parts and seeds. As noted during 2017, and in previous years, a wide range of taxonomically diverse plant species were intercepted, but generally with only a few interceptions of each (for most, less than ten interceptions per species).

Of the HO recorded from planting material, as a group, there was a marked decrease in white flies (*Bemisia tabaci*) and nematodes from 2016, reflecting an overall decrease in planting material interceptions with HOs during 2017 of 48.2% (see Table 3.5 of the Annex).

US (8), CN (7), CR (7), KE (6) and MY (5) were the non-EU countries exporting the highest number of consignments of planting material intercepted with HOs. In the case of the US, this was due to a range of HOs from several commodities, but mainly *Prunus dulcis* (4).

4.2 Fruit and vegetables

In 2017, EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* received 2,136 notifications of fruit/vegetable interceptions for all reasons from non-EU countries (up 10% over 2016, and reversing a downward trend since 2015), representing the second most important commodity group after WPM (see **Fig. 3.1** and Table 3.1 of the Annex). The principal reason for this increase is due to both absence of (697, in large part a surge in passenger baggage checks, particularly by DE (see also sections 2.2 and 3.4) and incomplete (115) PCs, up 75.3% and 43.5%, respectively. On the other hand, there were decreases for inadequate (21) or missing additional declarations (78) (together down 57.8%), incorrect identity (32) or non-compliance with special requirements (27) (together down 32.2%). With respect to HO, fruit/vegetables have consistently been the commodity group where the majority of interceptions occur (69.3% in 2017), although in 2017, the total number of fruit/vegetable interceptions due to HO decreased by 15.6% (see **Fig. 3.5** and Table 3.5 of the Annex).

In 2017, 76.4% of the fruit/vegetable interceptions with HOs from non-EU countries related to eight plant species or group of species. Most of the interceptions were of peppers (*Capsicum* spp.) (204), mango (*Mangifera* spp.) (178), basil (*Ocimum* spp.) (93), *Solanum* spp. (89), *Citrus* spp. (85), bitter gourds (*Momordica* spp.) (81), *Corchorus* spp. (50) and serpent gourds (*Luffa* spp.) (5) (**Fig. 4.2** and Table 4.2 of the Annex).

Solanum spp. and *Momordica* spp. both recorded an increase in the number of interceptions during 2017. For *Solanum* spp. this was largely attributable to the increased number of *Spodopera* spp. from Suriname. For *Momordica* spp., this was mainly due to on-going issues with thrips interceptions.

The other six species all recorded modest reductions in their respective numbers of interceptions. In the case of *Capsicum* spp., this may have been partially attributable to on-going communications from the Commission, primarily to a range of African countries, about Commission Implementing Directive (EU) 2017/1279 regulating false coding moth from 1 January 2018. In addition, the emergency measures against Ghana (GH), a source of many *Capsicum* spp. interceptions in recent years was extended to 31 December 2017 (and

subsequently lifted). Overall interceptions for citrus black spot (*Phyllosticta citricarpa*) remained the same in 2017 (36) as in 2016. Despite an increase in citrus black spot (cbs) interceptions from ZA during 2017, interceptions from a range of other citrus exporting countries, in particular Argentina (AR) fell (in the case of AR, interceptions fell from 14 in 2016 to five in 2017) (see **Fig. 4.3** and Table 4.3 in the Annex).

The four other commodities, namely, mango, *Ocimum* spp., *Corchorus* spp. and *Luffa* spp. each recorded a decrease in interceptions during 2017, with only *Luffa* spp. showing a year on year downward trend over the reference period. With respect to *Corchorus* spp. and *Luffa* spp. interceptions this may reflect on-going influence of Commission Decision 2014/237/EU against IN (with lateral influence on neighbouring Pakistan). For mango, recent falls in the interceptions of fruit flies are correlated with plant health audits to both Mali (ML) and Cameroon (CM) during the first half of 2017. The reduction in *Ocimum* spp. interceptions is also attributable to Commission interaction with Laos, where a plant health audit was conducted in December 2016.

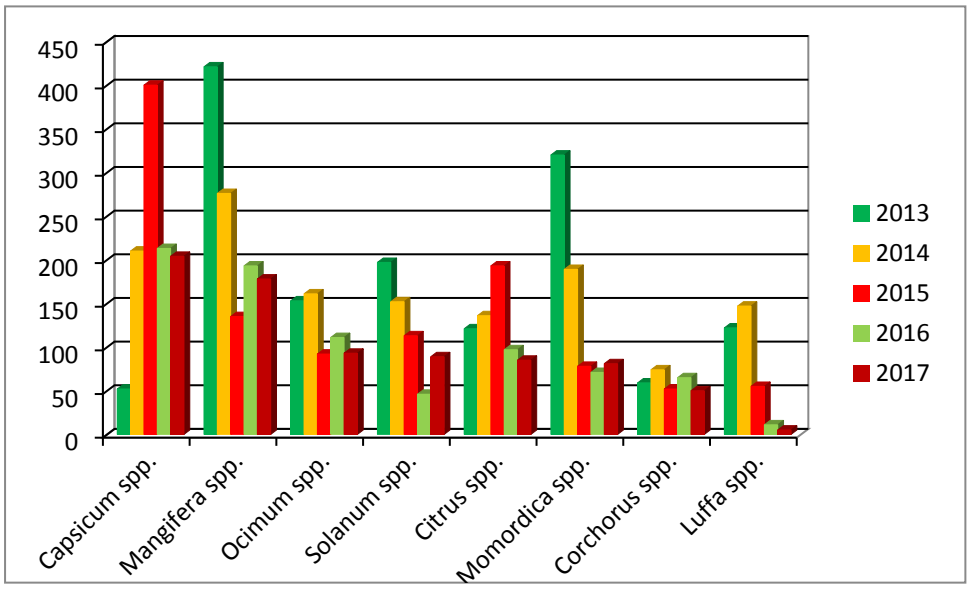


Fig. 4.2. Fruit and vegetable species with the highest number of harmful organism interceptions from non-EU countries (2013-2017).

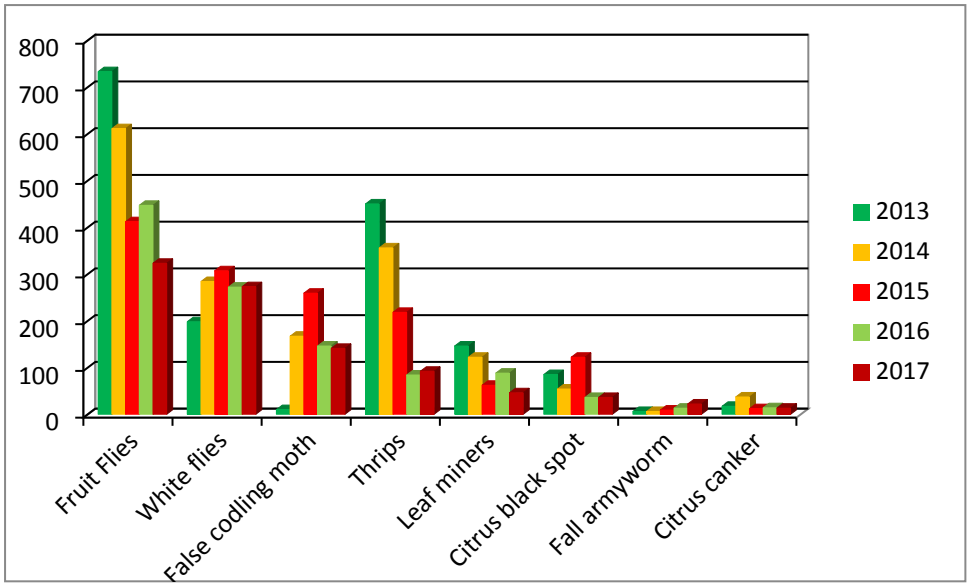


Fig. 4.3. Harmful organism groups intercepted with fruit and vegetables from non-EU countries (2013-2017).

As in previous years, the principal HO groups intercepted in fruit/vegetable consignments in 2017 were insects (fruit flies, white flies, false codling moth, thrips, leaf miners, and new this year, *Spodoptera frugiperda* (fall armyworm)), citrus black spot and, to a lesser extent, citrus canker (*Xanthomonas citri,* subsp. c*itri*) as highlighted in **Fig. 4.3** (and see Table 4.3 of the Annex).

Non-European fruit flies (Tephritidae), remained the main HO group again in 2017 (with 323 interceptions), although the previously observed downward trend which was interrupted in 2016, appears to have resumed in 2017 (partly due to decreased interceptions on mango), down 27.7% over 2016 figures. White flies (*Bemisia* spp.), primarily associated with basil, largely remained unchanged from 2016 (273). Similarly, *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (false codling moth) (141), mainly associated with pepper from across Africa, decreased only slightly over 2016 (down only 3.6%). Thrips, reversing a continuous downward trend since 2014, recorded a slight increase of 8.7%. Leaf miners (*Liriomyza* spp.), continued an overall downward trend over the reference period, despite an increase in 2016. Compared to 2016, leafminer interceptions dropped by 47.7% in 2017.

The total number of citrus black spot interceptions in 2017 (36) was the same as that recorded in 2016. Of this figure, 24 were attributable to South Africa, an increase of 20 over 2016. The remaining 12 were attributable to all other citrus exporting countries combined (for example CN, Swaziland and Zimbabwe). This low figure is largely due to the on-going implementation of the revised EU emergency measures for citrus black spot (Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/715) and on-going Commission communication with the main countries that have had interceptions in the past. In addition, AR UY (Uruguay) and ZA were the subject of citrus specific plant health audits in 2016. Citrus canker notifications also remained largely static during 2017, although China's share of interceptions increased from one in 2016 to eight in 2017.

Seven non-European exporting countries recorded reduced numbers of HO interceptions. These were UG, LA, VN, KE and IN (see **Fig. 4.4** and Table 4.4 of the Annex). With respect to UG, this decrease was largely a result of Commission communication and an audit during 2016. Similarly, a plant health audit to LA in December 2016, resulted in measures to address issues across a wide range of commodities, with a drop of 65.6% in HO interceptions in 2017 over 2016. VN, KE and IN each recorded appreciable fall in interceptions during 2017. With respect to KE this was largely due to drops in interceptions of false codling moth and whiteflies, but also of a wider spectrum of HOs, in a wide range of commodities.

The on-going downward trend in interceptions from IN, which continued in 2017 (down 18.5% over the previous year, and 90.6% down from the height of interceptions in 2013), is attributable to the on-going effects of the emergency measures mentioned in chapter 3.3 above, even if they were lifted on 31 December 2016.

The remaining eight non-EU countries featured in **Fig. 4.4**, NG, DO, SU, MY, IL, ZA, Cote d'Ivoire (CI) and Cambodia (KH), all recorded an increase in interceptions during 2017, in particular NG, DO, SU and MY. NG exhibited an increase of 54.8%, all mainly *Bemisia* whitefly on a range of leafy vegetable commodities. Similarly, the DO has recorded a continuous increase in HO interceptions since 2015, mainly fruit flies. SU has recorded a steady and consistent year on year increase in HO interceptions, largely *Spodoptera* spp. on eggplant, peppers and *Cestrum* spp., since 2014, whilst MY recorded on-going increases in thrips (orchids), fruit flies (*Averrohoa* spp.) and white flies (*Ocimum* spp. and *Eryngium* spp.).

IL has continued with an upward trend with increased interceptions of white flies and leaf miners on various herbs, as well as leaf miners on *Gypsophila* spp. Increased ZA interceptions noted in 2017 were attributable to a combination of cbs interceptions and a number of other pests, in particular *Blissus diplopterus* on *Prunus* and *Pyrus* spp. (whilst FCM interceptions, as compared to the previous year, remained largely static). The increase noted from CI in 2017 is exclusively fruit fly on mango, whilst KH, although problematic during 2013 to 2015, recorded only 12 interceptions in 2017 (mainly fruit flies on *Capsicum* spp.) (slightly up on the eight interceptions recorded for 2016) (see **Fig. 4.4** and Table 4.4 of the Annex).

Although the data is not shown in this report, interception records for Bangladesh have reduced considerably in 2017 to just nine (down from 96 in 2016). This is due to the self-ban mentioned in chapter 3.3 above Similarly, following concerns raised by the Commission regarding increased HO interceptions from Thailand in 2015 (and a slight upward trend in 2016 (see also section 3.3 and **Fig. 3.6** and Table 3.6 of the Annex)), measures introduced by Thailand to address these issues (mainly associated with thrips and fruit fly interceptions) across a wide range of commodities has resulted in marked decrease in interceptions during 2017 (40 interceptions, as compared to 98 in 2016).

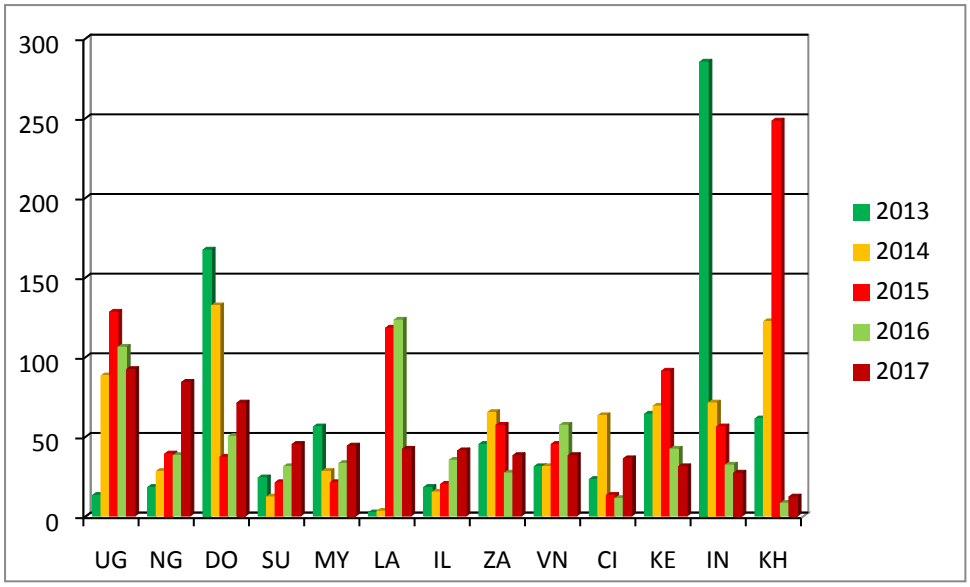


Fig. 4.4. Interceptions of fruit and vegetables from non-EU countries due to HOs (2013-2017).

4.3 Cut flowers

In 2017, EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* received notifications of 441 interceptions of cut flowers from non-EU countries (for all reasons), an increase of 4.3% over 2016. HOs were intercepted in 151 cases (34.2%), representing a slight decrease of 10.7% over 2016 (and an overall down fall of 55.6% since 2013). Other reasons related to documentary issues, chief amongst these included absent or incomplete PCs (78), down 32.2% over 2016 and missing or inadequate additional declarations (39), down 8.8% over the previous year. However, reversing a general downward trend since 2014, prohibited plants registered an increase of 47.1% over 2016 (136 interceptions in 2017 as compared to 72 in 2016), raising an obvious cause for concern with respect to plant health risks associated with this commodity class, at least part of which can be attributable to DE notifications of passenger luggage during 2017.

Cut flowers were responsible for approximately 10.2% of all interceptions with HOs from non-EU countries in 2017. In the period 2013-2017, seven types of cut flowers – *Rosa* spp., *Gypsophila* spp., orchids, *Eryngium* spp., *Dianthus* spp., *Chrysanthemum* spp. and *Solidago* spp. together accounted for 69.5% of all HO interceptions on cut flowers. *Rosa spp.*, *Eryngium* spp. and *Dianthus* spp. all recorded an increase in HO interceptions over the previous year (51.6%, 10% and 28.5%, respectively), of which *Rosa* spp. was the most prominent (reflecting increasing interceptions of white fly and false codling moth, particularly from East Africa, and reversing a downward trend since 2014). Despite registering increases in 2016, *Gypsophila* spp., orchids, *Chrysanthemum* spp. and *Solidago* spp. each recorded decreases in 2017, most notably for orchids (down 51.4%), reflecting, in particular, improved Thai control measures. *Gypsophila* spp. fell 26.3%. For both *Chrysanthemum* spp. and *Solidago* spp., the numbers are very small (9 and 11 in 2016, and 6 and 6 in 2107, respectively). (**Fig. 4.5** and Table 4.5 of the Annex).

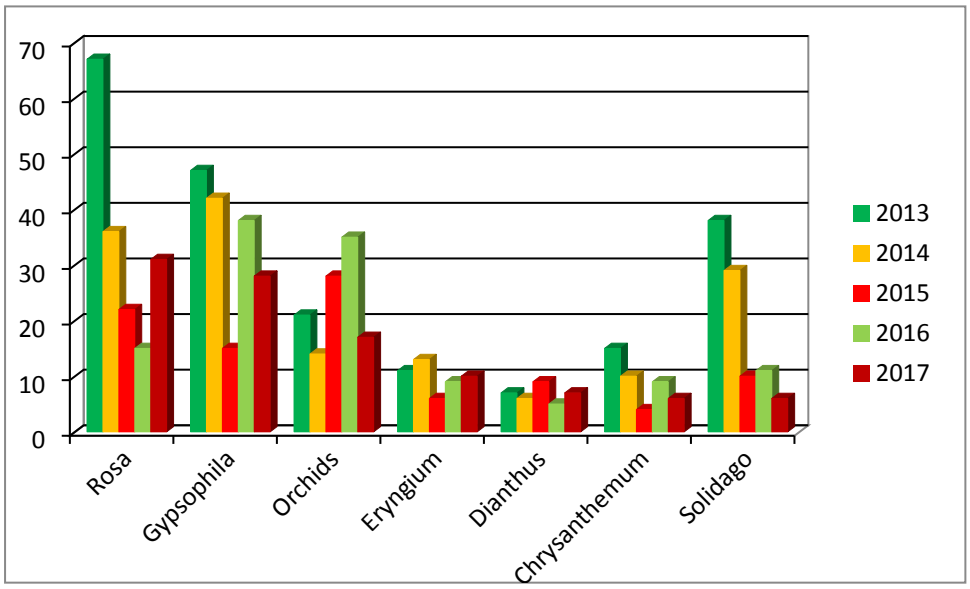


Fig. 4.5. Cut flowers with the highest number of harmful organism interceptions from non-EU countries (2013-2017).

Most cut flower consignments, intercepted in 2017 with HOs, were exported from IL (27 – mainly *Gypsophila* spp., but down 11.1% over 2016), Ecuador (EC) (21, up 23% over 2016), NG (13, new for 2017, and predominantly white fly), TH (12 – mainly orchids, down 53.8%), KE (11) and MY (11). Again, as in each year of the reference reporting period (2013-2107), NL was the MS with the highest number of interceptions of HOs on cut flowers in 2017.

The main HOs intercepted in 2017 for cut flowers were leaf miners (*Liriomyza* spp.) (53), white flies (*Bemisia* spp.) (36), *Spodoptera* spp. (27) and *Thrips* spp. (21). Both leaf miner and thrips interceptions decreased during 2017, whereas white flies and *Spodoptera* spp. both recorded increased interceptions over the previous year. Increased *Spodoptera* spp. interceptions were attributable, mainly, to *S. littoralis* (African cotton leafworm) on roses from East African countries.

4.4 Wood packaging material

With regard to WPM exported from non-EU countries[10] the EU legislation in force requires the treatment and marking according to the provisions of international standard ISPM 15. Given the very large number of consignments where WPM may be present, it is only feasible to check a proportion of the WPM in trade. Based on this consideration, MS are not obliged to systematically inspect WPM used for the transport of goods. The only exception is WPM with certain types of products from CN, where since 2013, harmonised control rates are applied[11]. Overall, as the total number of checks performed in any given year relate to only a

[10] As well as from the areas of PT and ES demarcated for *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (but not dealt with here).

[11] Commission Implementing Decision 2013/92/EU on the supervision, plant health checks and measures to be taken on wood packaging material actually in use in the transport of specified commodities originating in China. OJ L 47, 20.2.2013, p. 74

very small part of the entire imported WPM, the real risk presented by non-compliant WPM, and especially WPM infested with HOs is likely to be much larger than indicated by interception figures captured by EUROPHYT- *Interceptions*.

In 2017, EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* received 3,005 notifications of intercepted WPM in imported goods from non-EU countries (for all reasons), a decrease over 2016 (reversing a consistent year on year upward trend over the reference period). For reasons, other than the presence of HOs, 2,799 interceptions are recorded, representing a downward trend of 7.2% over 2016[12] (see **Fig. 4.6**, and Table 4.6 of the annex).

Again, as in previous years, the principal reason for interceptions of WPM was the absence of, or an inappropriate, ISPM 15 mark. As already mentioned in section 2.2, the decrease is to a large extent caused by fewer WPM interceptions from CIS countries by LV and LT (see also section 2.2).

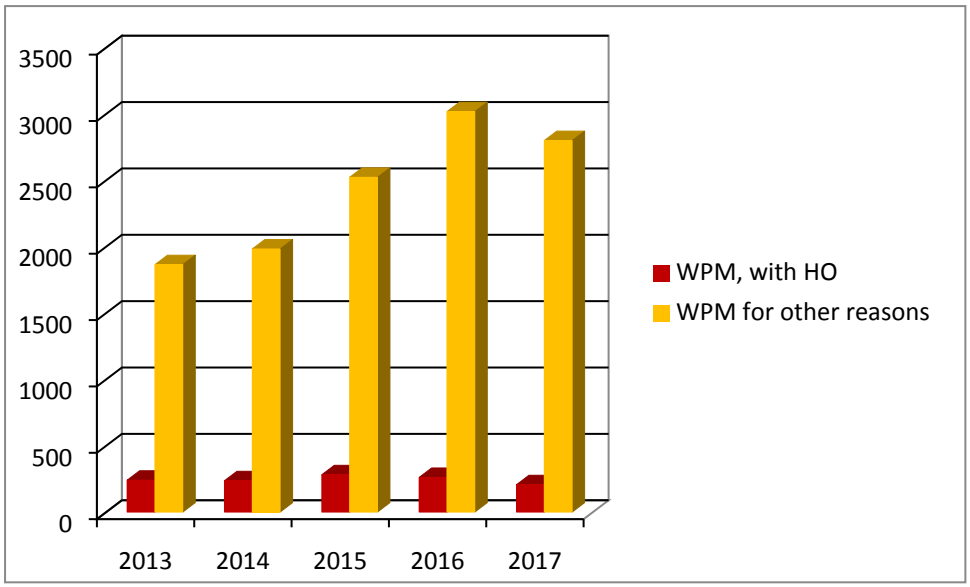


Fig. 4.6. Wood packaging material interceptions from non-EU countries (2013-2017).

Interceptions of HOs in WPM continued to decrease in 2017, down 21.1% over the previous year, with the total figure of 206 being the lowest over the reference period 2013-2017. Three countries (CN, IN and BY) were responsible for 84.5% of all WPM HO interceptions recorded in 2017. The overall decrease in the annual figure can be explained by the marked reduction in interceptions from China of 46% over 2016, primarily due to decreased interceptions of ambrosia beetles (*Xylosandrus* spp. and *Xyleborus* spp.), and, to a lesser extent, velvet longhorned (*Trichoferus campestris*) and Asian longhorn beetles (*Anoplophora glabripennis*). Despite this fall, China maintained its position as the country with the largest number of HO notifications on WPM.

IN, with 44 interceptions, down 15.9% from 2016, recorded its second lowest interception figure over the five year reference period, with the fall largely attributable to a drop in

[12] Based on EUROPHYT-*Interceptions* data, this decrease was predominantly due to falls in notifications in dunnage (down 16.2%), wooden crates (23%) and WPM (9.6%). Wood pallets remained largely steady at 1,379 notifications (compared to 1,364 in 2016).

Sinoxylon spp. interceptions. On the other hand, BY, which until 2017 was almost negligible with respect to WPM interceptions with HOs, registered 43 in 2017, compared to 1 in 2016, and 0 in 2015 (see **Fig 4.7** and Table 4.7 of the Annex). The sudden and abrupt increase is due mainly to interceptions, particularly by LT, of non-regulated nematodes including *Bursaphelenchus mucronatus, Aphelechoides* spp., and *Rhabditis* spp. Similarly, MY recorded 6 in 2017, and 0 in 2016, with the increase due predominantly to *Sinoxylon* spp. interceptions (see **Fig 4.7** and Table 4.7 of the Annex).

Irrespective of the marked reduction, these figures still represent a high incidence of intercepted HOs on ISPM 15 marked WPM, and as such raises on-going concerns regarding the reliability of this mark from certain origins, not least CN, BY and IN.

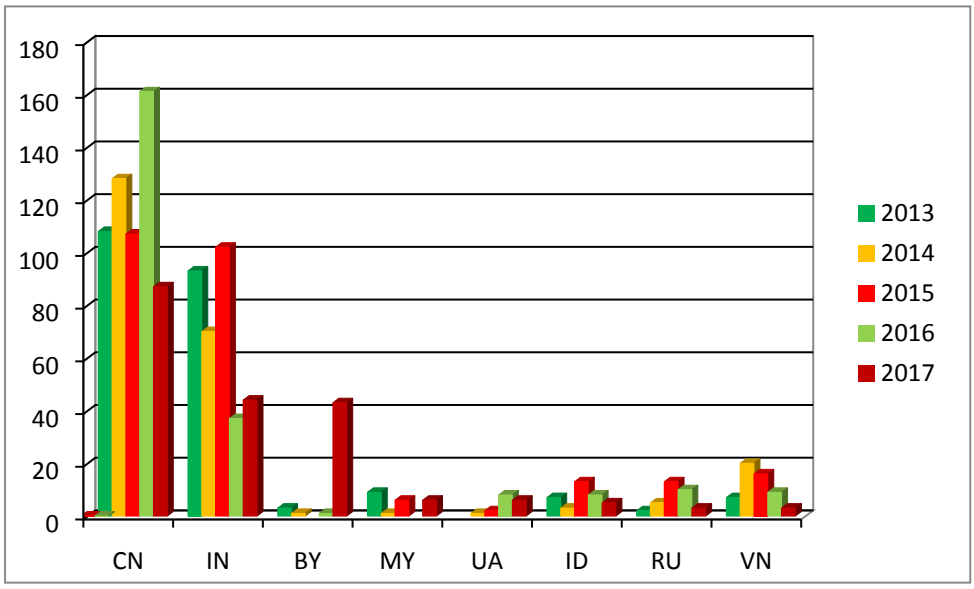


Fig 4.7. The principal non-EU countries responsible for interceptions of HOs from WPM (2013-2017).

With respect to WPM interceptions by each MS (plus CH), Tables 4.8 and 4.9 of the Annex record the statistics over the reference period for those made on the basis of HOs, and for other reasons, respectively. DE, AT, LT and CH are the most prominent countries for interceptions of HOs. With regard to interceptions for all other reasons, LV, DE, LT, ES, PL and the UK are most prominent. LV, which consistently recorded the largest number of interceptions for other reasons during the reference period (approximately 1,000 for 2016 and 2017, was amongst the MSs that reported the least number of HO interceptions (only four in 2017), whereas LT, with an approximate interception rate of 300-400 per year (except for 2014) recorded considerably more HO interceptions over the same period (with a maximum of 57 in 2017).

The profile for DE, a larger importer, shows a relatively high number of HO interceptions over the reference period, but trending downwards since 2016. AT reported more HO interceptions than for other reasons, whilst the UK, ES and PL, each with considerably higher numbers of interceptions for all reasons (although low considering their respective volume of

trade) reported disproportionately low levels of HO interceptions over the same period (see Tables 4.8 and 4.9).

5. Harmful organisms notified in EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* for the first time in 2017

Each year some interceptions of previously unrecorded HOs are notified in EUROPHYT- *Interceptions*. Although new to the EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* database, such novel entries do not necessarily represent a new incidence or unknown risk of a particular biological entity to the EU territory.

In 2017, 34 new database entities were recorded in EUROPHYT- *Interceptions,* reported at varying taxonomic levels (20 to species, ten to genus, and four to family level, or above) of which the following eight, all insects, can be considered as not present in the EU and not intercepted in the EU before:

Spodoptera cosmioides
Chrysobothris femorata
Pterolophia multinotata
Piezodorus guildinii
Xylotrechus chinensis
Zeugodacus sp.
Bactericera cockerelli
Tetropium sp.

As in previous years, interceptions with hitherto un-encountered species could represent unidentified, or overlooked, plant health risks to the EU. Therefore, such interceptions require attention.

6. Species level identification – needs and challenges

Accurate and reliable species identification is a fundamental requirement for effective and appropriate phytosanitary risk management in line with international fora and agreements. Failure to diagnose EU regulated HOs as such can undermine, or weaken, official EU responses to on-going threats. Despite EU wide diagnostic capacity, identification at species level is often not reported.

In 2017, the percentage of HO notifications reported at species level increased considerably over 2016 (up from 53% in 2016 to 62.7% in 2017), continuing an upward trend since 2014 (see **Fig 6.1**, and Table 6.1 of the Annex). This trend is a reflection of an on-going encouragement from the Commission to MSs for improved diagnosis over the same period, as well as the introduction of a technical modification to EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* so that a justification is required from MSs when a notification is not made at species level. The Commission will continue to encourage MSs to improve in this area.

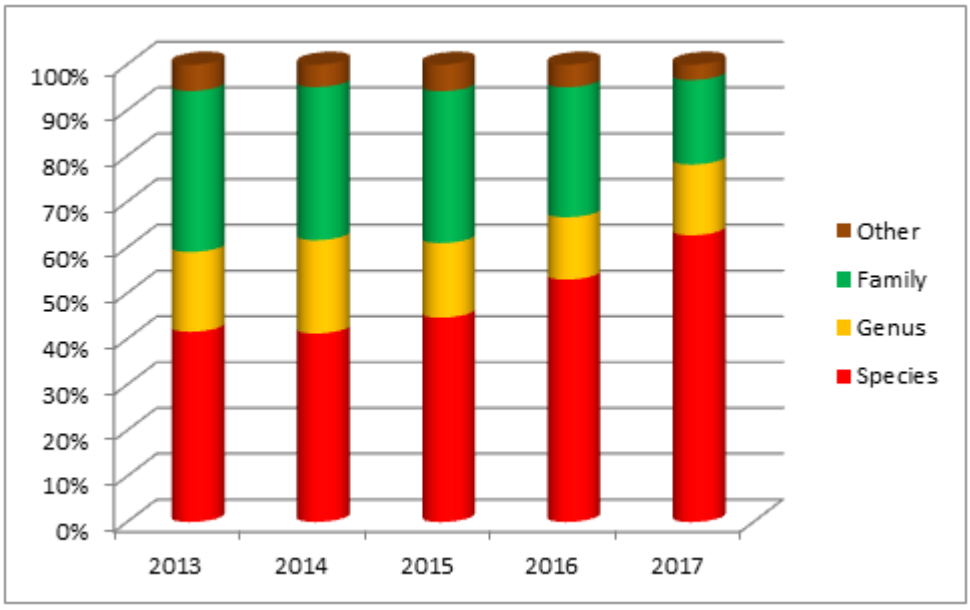


Fig. 6.1. Level of harmful organism identification (2013-2017).

In 2017, 382 different species or other categories of HOs were reported. These can be grouped as follows (in descending order); insects (88.7%), nematodes (6.3%), fungi (2.6%), bacteria (1.4%) and virus and virus like organisms (0.9%), see **Fig 6.2** (and Table 6.2 in the Annex). Insects continue to dominate the total share of intercepted HOs from non-EU countries.

The decrease in the insect share of the total number of HO interceptions for 2017 is caused by a fall in interceptions for all the main insect pest categories (fruit flies, white flies, leaf miners, thrips and longhorn beetles), although some increases were noted elsewhere (e.g. *Spodoptera* spp.). The increase in nematode notifications is attributable to increased interceptions of a range of wood nematode species, in particular in WPM from BY, and to a lesser extent UA. As for fungi, although there was no overall change in the percentage share of interceptions as registered for 2017 over 2016, there was an actual overall decrease in the total number of fungal interceptions, from 51 to 41 over the same period. Interceptions of viruses, and virus-like organism, remain very few.

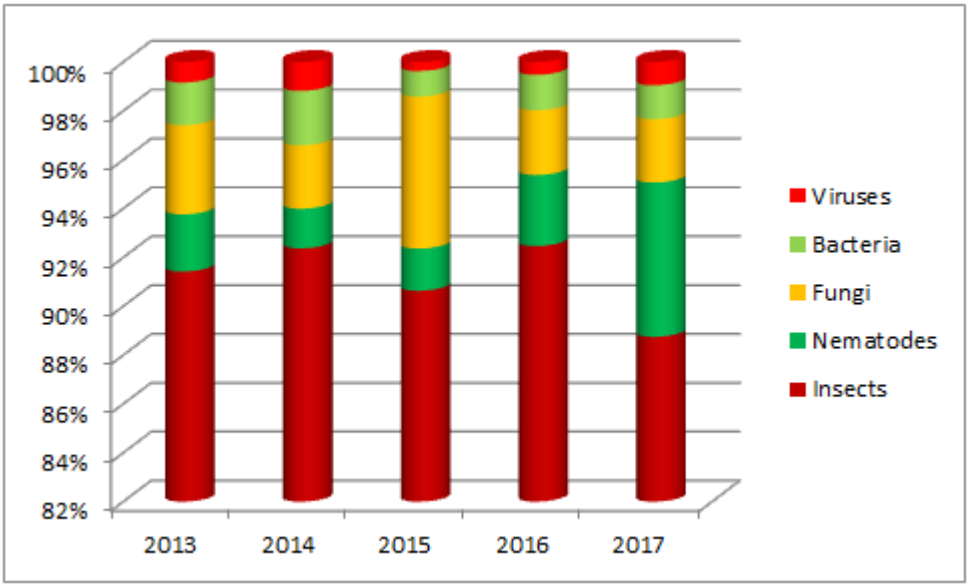


Fig. 6.2. Share of harmful organism groups in the interceptions from non-EU countries (2013-2017).

Despite reduced numbers of notifications, fruit flies, white flies, leaf miners and thrips, as well as false coding moth, all maintained their position as the most commonly intercepted HO grouping in 2017.

7. Time taken by MS to notify

A notification period of no more than two working days after the date of interception is laid down in Article 2 of Commission Directive 94/3/EC. This timeframe has continued to present technical and administrative challenges to MSs. Improvements to the EUROPHYT-*Interceptions* interface and considerable efforts by MS users of the system have led to overall improvements over the years. However, the average reporting period[13] remains in excess of the two days stipulated (see **Fig. 7.1**). Thus in 2017, the average reporting period for all notifications, and those exclusively for HOs, was nine and seven working days, respectively.

[13] The reporting period is, in practice, defined as period between the date of interception and date of submission, except where laboratory analysis is required. In this case it is the period between the laboratory results date and date of submission.

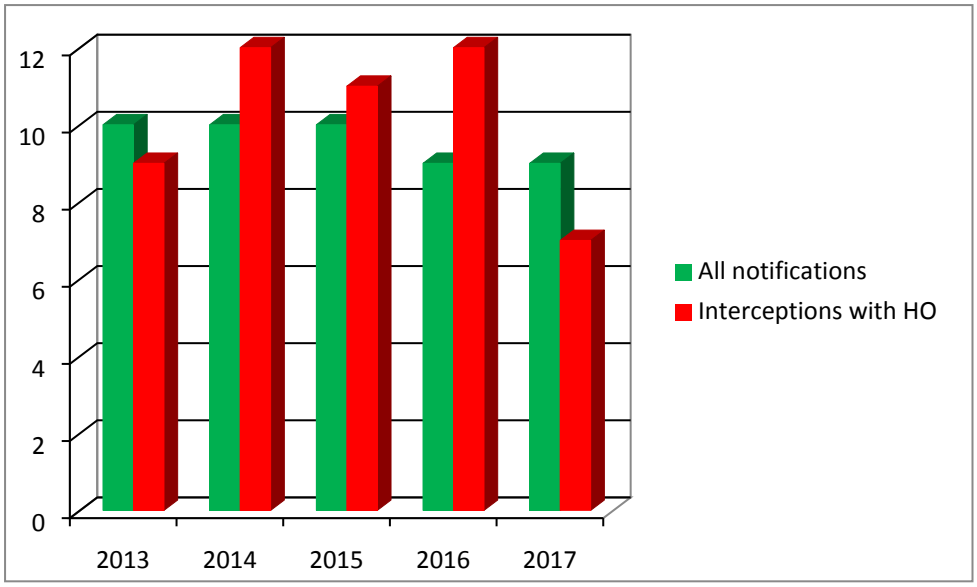


Fig. 7.1. Average notification period (in days) for all MSs (all notifications, and those exclusively attributable to HOs) over the reference period 2013-2017.

Broad variation exist in the number of days taken by MSs to report their notifications, and in 2017 the average delay ranged from 0 to 97 working days (see Table 7.1 of the Annex), with the majority of MSs still outside the required two-day notification timeframe. Such delays have a direct negative impact on the rapid alert function of EUROPHYT- *Interceptions*.

8. Conclusions

EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* continues its central role in alerting MSs and the European Commission to plant health risks from harmful organisms, as and when they are intercepted during import controls across the Union and in plant health controls on the EU market.

In 2017 a further 8,072 notifications were added to the EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* database, of which 7,719 were from non-European countries and 353 from internal EU trade. Currently, after 23 years, the EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* database holds more than 115,000 notifications, representing a valuable repository of trade interception data. In conjunction with other data sets, particularly on trade volumes and routes, EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* data can be used to analyse and evaluate plant health risk patterns and trends as part of the plant health risk management in MSs and across the Union, as well as to support policy decisions and action(s). Furthermore, with respect to follow-up activities and monitoring, this data can also be used to gauge the impact(s) of such decisions and actions (e.g. emergency measures).

As an integral component of the EU tools with regard to on-going vigilance against emerging and re-emerging plant health risks to the EU, the EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* database is used in the generation of the non-EU trade Alert List (see Table 8.1). As a rich and unique source of quantitative plant health data with respect to imports, on-going data mining via tailored database query functions provides valuable information and support to numerous discussions

in various fora related to EU plant biosecurity issues, as well as in the planning of the European Commission plant health audit programmes. Summary data from the system continues to be publicly available, and detailed data is systematically distributed to, and used by, MS NPPOs, non-EU country NPPOs, EPPO and EFSA for their risk management, risk analysis and other scientific purposes.

The total number of annual notifications to EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* in 2017 for all non-conformities (mainly presence of HOs, non-marked WPM, and documentary/administrative non-compliances) from non-EU countries was marginally lower than the previous year. However, specifically for HOs, generally considered the most significant indicator of phytosanitary risk, the trend, as reflected in the non-EU trade Alert List analysis for 2017, was 22.9% lower than in 2016, despite on-going high volumes of imports, including, regulated commodities. The fall in HO interceptions is reflected in markedly lower notifications across all principal commodity classes, and, with only few exceptions, all associated pests and pathogens.

Thirteen countries (12 MSs plus CH) were responsible for over 90% of all interceptions related to HOs, of which just four were responsible for 61.5%, with fourteen non-EU countries with the highest number of interceptions of HOs in 2017, accounting for approximately 60% of the cases. Most of these countries have been recognised for a number of years as a source of specific plant health risks and the most prominent of these have been, or continue to be, subject to particular Commission measures or other actions.

As in previous years, fruit and vegetables maintained its position as the commodity class with the greatest number of intercepted HOs from non-EU countries with over 69.3% of all interceptions. Despite this, the 2017 figure represents a fall, of 15.6% over 2016, continuing a steady downward trend with a total fall of 76.2% since 2014.

The 2017 fall is to a large extent due to reductions in interceptions of *Capsicum*, *Mangifera*, *Ocimum*, *Citrus*, *Corchorus* and *Luffa* spp. with fruit flies and leaf miners. This fall is mainly attributable to on-going influence of legal measures from previous years in addition to Commission correspondence seeking plant health assurances from the principal non-European countries involved, or plant health audits that took place immediately prior to or during 2017 (e.g. Laos, Cameroon and Mali).

As in previous years, WPM maintained its position as the commodity class with the second highest number of HO interceptions, although the number for 2017 was 6.8% down on the year before, despite a upward surge in wood nematode interceptions from BY and UA. The overall fall was primarily attributable to a marked decrease in interceptions of ambrosia beetles (*Xylosandrus* spp. and *Xyleborus* spp.), and, to a lesser extent, velvet longhorned (*Trichoferus campestris*) and Asian longhorn beetles (*Anoplophora glabripennis*) from China, and a fall in *Sinoxylon* spp. interceptions from IN. Irrespective of the marked reduction, these figures still represent a high incidence of intercepted HOs in ISPM 15 marked WPM, and as such raises on-going concerns regarding the reliability of this mark from certain origins, not least CN, BY and IN.

Cut flowers, again, the third most intercepted commodity class for HO interceptions, exhibited a 10.7% decrease in the number of interceptions over the previous year. Seven types of cut flowers (*Rosa*, *Gypsophila*, orchids, *Eryngium*, *Dianthus*, *Chrysanthemum* and *Solidago* spp.) accounted for approximately 69.5% of all HO interceptions in this class. Despite the overall decrease, interceptions on *Rosa*, *Eryngium* and *Dianthus* spp. increased, particularly for *Rosa* spp. (reflecting increased interceptions of white fly and false codling moth, particularly from East Africa).

With respect to planting material, generally considered the most critical from a plant health risk perspective, the total number of notifications due to HOs interceptions decreased by 48.2% over the previous year (despite an overall increase in notifications for all reasons (predominantly due to PC related issues). The marked decrease is attributable to fewer white flies (*Bemisia tabaci*) and nematode interceptions, with cuttings continuing to be the planting material with the majority of HO interceptions during 2017.

A number of species, both new to EUROPHYT- *Interceptions*, and the EU territory, have been identified from the database in 2017. These will be considered for their respective risks. Species level designation by notifying MSs increased considerably over 2016 (up from 53% in 2016 to 62.7% in 2017), with a shift from family level designation and above to species level designation (and to a lesser extent genus level). This positive momentum should be further encouraged towards a more informed operation of EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* as a rapid alert system and for supporting Commission measures against risks from non-EU country imports.

With regard to the time MS take to notify interceptions, the 2017 average was nine working days for all notifications, and seven for those with HOs. There was significant variation between MSs, from 0 to 97 days. EU legislation requires HO interceptions to be notified within two working days and, as such, there is still a need for improvement.

As in previous years, the Commission will continue to maintain its vigilance with respect to plant health risks from non-EU countries. The evolution of HO interceptions from non-EU countries, although encouraging with respect to the downward trends observed during 2017, will continue to be systematically monitored. EUROPHYT- *Interceptions* will continue to act as a fundamental tool to support policy responses and other measures as deemed necessary to manage plant health risks from non-EU trade as they appear, including, as a standard and periodic reporting tool, the generation and analysis of the non-EU trade Alert List.

Finally, it should be added that this downward trend in HO interceptions for a range of commodities from a range of non-EU countries during 2017 can be attributed to on-going and targeted Commission initiatives and related follow-up activities. The Commission, in support of, and in collaboration with MSs, stands ready and proactive to address plant health risks of threat to EU agriculture and the environment. Towards this objective, the Commission continues to provide the necessary technical support and assistance towards necessary improvements to increase the effectiveness of EUROPHT-*Interceptions* and its usefulness to the Union.

Annex

Table 2.1 Number of EUROPHYT notifications

Notified interceptions	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Consignments from Third countries	6,605	6,476	6,761	7,774	7,719
Consignments from Member States	324	241	418	379	353
Total notifications	**6,929**	**6,717**	**7,179**	**8,153**	**8,072**

Table 2.2 Reasons for interceptions of consignments from non-EU countries

Reasons for interceptions of consignments from Third Countries	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Presence of harmful organism	2,451	2,408	2,135	1,815	1,477
Reasons other than harmful organisms					
Prohibited plants, products, objects	215	279	207	190	363
Non-compliant wood packaging material (other than HO presence)	2,032	1,999	2,607	3,770	3,341
Phytosanitary certificate: absent	781	740	751	1,004	1,600
Phytosanitary certificate: illegible, fake, expired	568	460	548	424	436
Phytosanitary certificate: declaration missing, inadequate, invalid	745	647	629	656	561
Other technical, documentary reasons	71	84	90	71	94
Total notifications	**6,605**	**6,476**	**6,761**	**7,774**	**7,719**

Table 2.3 Number of EUROPHYT notifications by notifying Member State

Notifying Member State	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
AUSTRIA	306	326	251	328	365
BELGIUM	152	175	286	264	236
BULGARIA	49	45	40	31	63
CROATIA	3	11	6	14	12
CYPRUS	7	18	10	9	12
CZECH REPUBLIC	69	59	39	34	29
DENMARK	13	11	6	10	4
ESTONIA	45	53	45	79	47
FINLAND	26	22	9	6	24
FRANCE	597	587	472	488	374

GERMANY	902	916	1,010	1,113	1,536
GREECE	33	23	39	33	41
HUNGARY	35	49	31	36	58
IRELAND	62	55	56	30	56
ITALY	291	186	194	167	139
LATVIA	453	467	927	1,628	1,433
LITHUANIA	353	165	345	557	513
LUXEMBOURG		2	4	3	1
MALTA	19	22	29	18	19
NETHERLANDS	917	793	695	777	722
POLAND	91	170	140	183	186
PORTUGAL	65	79	59	71	89
ROMANIA	30	19	9	12	4
SLOVAKIA	99	91	86	162	150
SLOVENIA	1	2	8	6	4
SPAIN	273	284	352	246	336
SWEDEN	100	157	129	92	39
SWITZERLAND	300	298	258	203	175
UNITED KINGDOM	1,314	1,391	1,226	1,174	1,052
Total notifications	**6,605**	**6,476**	**6,761**	**7,774**	**7,719**

Table 3.1 Type of notifications from non-EU countries (all reasons)

Notifications on	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Planting material	716	604	646	554	708
Seeds	454	387	367	593	629
Fruits, vegetables	2,367	2,438	2,227	1,922	2,136
Cut flowers	687	559	367	422	441
Wood, bark	167	208	328	970	796
WPM	2,052	2,178	2,725	3,222	2,974
Others	213	158	180	176	182

Table 3.2 **Non-EU countries with the highest number of interceptions (all reasons)**

Countries	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	703	670	1223	2089	1682
UNITED STATES	499	611	673	833	758
CHINA	428	472	391	574	411
INDIA	602	333	312	233	345
TURKEY	232	273	227	293	333
VIETNAM	95	119	114	330	96
THAILAND	374	265	334	272	290
BELARUS	132	50	82	154	261
UKRAINE	48	58	101	195	244
EGYPT	98	78	104	143	227
NIGERIA	29	40	48	56	142

Table 3.3 **Number of consignments intercepted with HO from non-EU countries, notified by the Member States in the table**

Notifying MS	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
UNITED KINGDOM	1,099	1,037	851	624	461
NETHERLANDS	441	353	307	328	357
FRANCE	186	209	171	221	163
BELGIUM	77	62	115	102	93
GERMANY	175	191	229	138	77
LITHUANIA	5	11	13	14	57
SPAIN	71	125	138	96	53
SWITZERLAND	151	126	63	56	50
ITALY	72	67	33	45	39
AUSTRIA	32	31	47	72	37
SWEDEN	74	115	96	72	33

Table 3.4 Intercepted consignments with HO from non-EU countries

Interceptions	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Plants	2,203	2,168	1,846	1,555	1,267
Objects	249	240	299	261	217
Total consignments	**2,452**	**2,408**	**2,145**	**1,816**	**1,484**

Table 3.5 Type of intercepted consignments with HO from non-EU countries

Commodity	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Planting material	103	106	74	112	58
Seeds	18	18	25	17	19
Fruits, vegetables	1,781	1,802	1,544	1,212	1,023
Cut flowers	235	179	144	169	151
Wood, bark	32	45	28	22	19
WPM	240	236	281	261	206
Others	30	25	48	24	20

Table 3.6 Non-EU countries with the highest number of interceptions with HO

Country	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
CHINA	137	164	137	186	107
UGANDA	49	109	136	108	99
NIGERIA	18	29	41	38	85
INDIA	386	143	162	76	80
ISRAEL	59	45	41	86	79
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	168	133	37	50	71
MALAYSIA	73	37	40	56	66
KENYA	99	106	107	56	48
SURINAME	24	12	21	31	46
LAOS	3	3	124	134	44
BELARUS	3	1		1	43
VIETNAM	38	52	62	67	43
THAILAND	92	60	96	98	40
SOUTH AFRICA	49	67	59	28	38

Table 3.7 **Type of commodities from non-EU countries, intercepted due to other reasons than the presence of HO**

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Planting material	626	514	587	456	661
Seeds	430	366	340	569	610
Fruits, vegetables	593	664	719	717	1,127
Cut flowers	464	384	230	260	289
Wood, bark	130	160	299	949	776
WPM	1,864	1,982	2,522	3,017	2,799
Others	141	79	89	102	76

Table 3.8 **Non-EU countries with the highest number of interceptions for reasons other than HO presence**

Country	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Russian Federation	702	667	1,214	2,088	1,679
United States	482	591	635	807	733
Turkey	225	266	223	282	316
China	316	320	265	414	314
Vietnam	62	46	69	52	292
India	237	208	187	161	271
Thailand	286	208	246	181	251
Ukraine	48	56	101	189	239
Belarus	132	50	82	154	221
Egypt	81	66	75	114	205

Table 4.1 Reasons and evolution of interceptions of consignments of planting material from non-EU countries over the reference period 2013-2017

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
HO presence	117	122	99	129	76
Prohibited goods	3	4	1	6	3
PC absent	470	425	413	659	769
PC incomplete, illegible, fake, expired	102	108	101	58	76
PC problems with additional declarations	338	237	252	199	208
Other reasons	107	46	103	85	99

Table 4.2 Fruit and vegetables with the highest number of interceptions with HOs from non-EU countries

Plant genus	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
***Capsicum* spp.**	52	210	400	213	204
***Mangifera* spp.**	421	276	135	193	178
***Ocimum* spp.**	153	161	92	111	93
***Solanum* spp.**	197	152	113	46	89
***Citrus* spp.**	121	136	193	97	85
***Momordica* spp.**	320	189	78	71	81
***Corchorus* spp.**	59	74	52	65	50
***Luffa* spp.**	122	147	55	11	5

Table 4.3 Harmful organism groups intercepted with fruit and vegetables from non-EU countries (2013-2017)

Harmful organism	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Fruit Flies	733	611	412	447	323
White flies	198	284	307	272	273
False codling moth	10	167	259	146	141
Thrips	450	356	218	84	92
Leaf miners	146	122	62	88	46
Citrus black spot	85	54	122	36	36
Fall armyworm	6	6	9	13	22
Citrus canker	17	37	12	14	13

Table 4.4 Interceptions for fruit and vegetables from non-EU countries due to HOs (2013-2017)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Uganda	13	88	128	106	92
Nigeria	18	28	39	38	84
Dominican Republic	167	132	37	50	71
Suriname	24	12	21	31	45
Malaysia	56	28	21	33	44
Laos	2	3	118	123	42
Israel	18	15	20	35	41
South Africa	45	65	57	27	38
Vietnam	31	31	45	57	38
Cote d'Ivoire	23	63	13	11	36
Kenya	64	69	91	42	31
India	285	71	56	32	27
Cambodia	61	122	248	8	12

Table 4.5 Cut flowers with the highest number of interceptions with HO from non-EU countries

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
***Rosa* spp.**	67	36	22	15	31
***Gypsophila* spp.**	47	42	15	38	28
Orchids	21	14	28	35	17
***Eryngium* spp.**	11	13	6	9	10
***Dianthus* spp.**	7	6	9	5	7
***Chrysanthemum* spp.**	15	10	4	9	6
***Solidago* spp.**	38	29	10	11	6

Table 4.6 Wood packaging material interceptions from non-EU countries (2013-2017)

Notified interceptions	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
With harmful organisms	240	236	281	261	206
For other reasons	1,864	1,982	2,522	3,017	2,799
Total[14]	2,104	2,218	2,803	3,278	3,005

Table 4.7 The principal non-EU countries responsible for interceptions of HOs from WPM (2013-2017)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
CHINA	108	128	107	161	87
INDIA	93	70	102	37	44
BELARUS	3	1		1	43
MALAYSIA	9	1	6		6
UGANDA		1	2	8	6
INDONESIA	7	3	13	8	5
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	2	5	13	10	3
VIETNAM	7	20	16	9	3

[14] The discrepancy in total figures between Table 4.7 (3,005), as shown above, and Table 3.1 (2,974) is due to recording of interceptions due to both the presence of HOs and absence of ISPM 15 markings, resulting in some duplication (in this case 31).

Table 4.8 MS (plus CH) interceptions of HOs from WPM (2013-2017)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
AUSTRIA	25	20	38	66	36
BELGIUM		1	8	3	1
BULGARIA	1		1		2
CZECH REPUBLIC	5	5	3		1
DENMARK	2	2			
ESTONIA		1	1	4	2
FINLAND		1	3	1	10
FRANCE	2	20	8	12	5
GERMANY	105	105	154	89	57
GREECE	2		1	1	
IRELAND	1	1			
ITALY	2	1			1
LATVIA	1		3	6	4
LITHUANIA	5	11	13	12	54
NETHERLANDS	19	28	9	16	3
POLAND	1	1	4	2	1
PORTUGAL			1	4	3
SLOVAKIA	2			1	
SLOVENIA			2	2	1
SPAIN	3	1	12	14	2
SWEDEN			1		3
SWITZERLAND	60	33	16	19	16
UNITED KINGDOM	2	3	3	7	2

Table 4.9 MS (plus CH) interceptions from WPM for reasons other than HOs (2013-2017)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
AUSTRIA	14	4	7	5	6
BELGIUM	23	36	37	45	38
BULGARIA	16	11	33	21	35
CROATIA		4	5	6	5
CYPRUS	1	5	1	5	2
CZECH REPUBLIC	48	29	17	14	7
DENMARK	2	1			
ESTONIA	32	34	19	44	12
FINLAND	21	15		2	11
FRANCE	16	44	41	48	57
GERMANY	326	476	510	562	411
GREECE	14	9	16	22	10
HUNGARY	3		1		19
IRELAND		3	5	2	
ITALY	53	39	43	30	41
LATVIA	446	460	861	1076	991
LITHUANIA	324	142	297	482	405
LUXEMBOURG			2	3	
MALTA	9		1		
NETHERLANDS	28	21	7	11	37
POLAND	69	137	89	113	144
PORTUGAL	8	23	19	35	31
ROMANIA	5	2			
SLOVAKIA	77	81	64	11	21
SLOVENIA			6	2	
SPAIN	177	118	164	117	224
SWEDEN	4	14	6		1
SWITZERLAND	96	116	128	105	94
UNITED KINGDOM	13	117	99	190	143

Table 6.1 Level of identification of HO intercepted in consignments from non-EU countries

Number of interceptions	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Species	1,038	1,101	1,166	1,039	961
Genus	514	402	300	363	237
Family	843	818	625	446	283
Other	124	144	109	81	52
% share in annual HO interceptions	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Species	41.6%	41.2%	44.7%	53.0%	62.7%
Genus	17.4%	20.4%	16.3%	13.6%	15.5%
Family	35.2%	33.5%	33.2%	28.4%	18.5%
Other	5.8%	4.9%	5.8%	5.0%	3.4%

Table 6.2 HO categories with the highest number of interceptions from non-EU countries

Annual numbers	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Insects	2,303	2,277	1,994	1,780	1404
Nematodes	59	40	38	56	100
Fungi	92	64	137	51	41
Bacteria	44	55	23	28	22
Viruses	21	29	8	10	15
% of annual interceptions	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Insects	91.4%	92.4%	90.6%	92.5%	88.7%
Nematodes	2.3%	1.6%	1.7%	2.9%	6.3%
Fungi	3.7%	2.6%	6.2%	2.6%	2.6%
Bacteria	1.7%	2.2%	1.0%	1.5%	1.4%
Viruses	0.8%	1.2%	0.4%	0.5%	0.9%

Table 7.1 **Average working days between interception and notification for each Member State**

Notifications	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	All	HO	All	HO	All	HO	All	HO	All	HO
AUSTRIA	3	5	5	5	8	6	7	8	7	3
BELGIUM	10	8	14	13	15	11	10	10	16	16
BULGARIA	6	10	6	17	8	23	10	21	7	7
CROATIA	4	0	18	4	14	11	5	7	18	35
CYPRUS	46	96	64	84	32	42	23	26	29	15
CZECH REPUBLIC	7	9	5	6	9	15	10	4	9	9
DENMARK	46	54	26	25	10	9	36	41	55	88
ESTONIA	3	4	5	4	13	32	21	73	7	19
FINLAND	14	2	14	13	28	18	12	11	16	12
FRANCE	20	20	12	18	8	11	7	11	5	6
GERMANY	10	15	17	35	18	20	17	19	19	13
GREECE	7	11	35	0	19	38	15	17	49	1
HUNGARY	8	31	27	26	3	1	4	8	34	0
IRELAND	4	5	13	26	6	4	9	4	11	2
ITALY	11	10	10	8	16	52	9	12	6	6
LATVIA	2	2	2	10	2	2	2	9	2	4
LITHUANIA	2	3	4	3	3	2	5	11	11	38
LUXEMBOURG	0	0	14	14	14	4	59	0	97	0
MALTA	10	43	3	0	10	0	6	0	1	1
NETHERLANDS	6	5	7	8	6	4	4	3	4	3
POLAND	5	14	3	7	2	1	8	14	3	1
PORTUGAL	40	38	5	6	9	12	18	39	10	8
ROMANIA	9	8	10	3	4	0	10	3	26	52
SLOVAKIA	4	6	3	14	3	20	13	22	8	15
SLOVENIA	10	10	4	3	7	11	4	2	4	5
SPAIN	23	27	26	37	13	16	14	15	10	6
SWEDEN	4	3	2	2	5	5	3	1	5	5
SWITZERLAND	10	11	9	8	12	12	6	5	3	4
UNITED KINGDOM	10	7	7	5	12	9	8	7	6	5
EU average	**10**	**9**	**10**	**12**	**10**	**11**	**9**	**12**	**9**	**7**

Table 8.1 The non-EU trade Alert List (1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017)

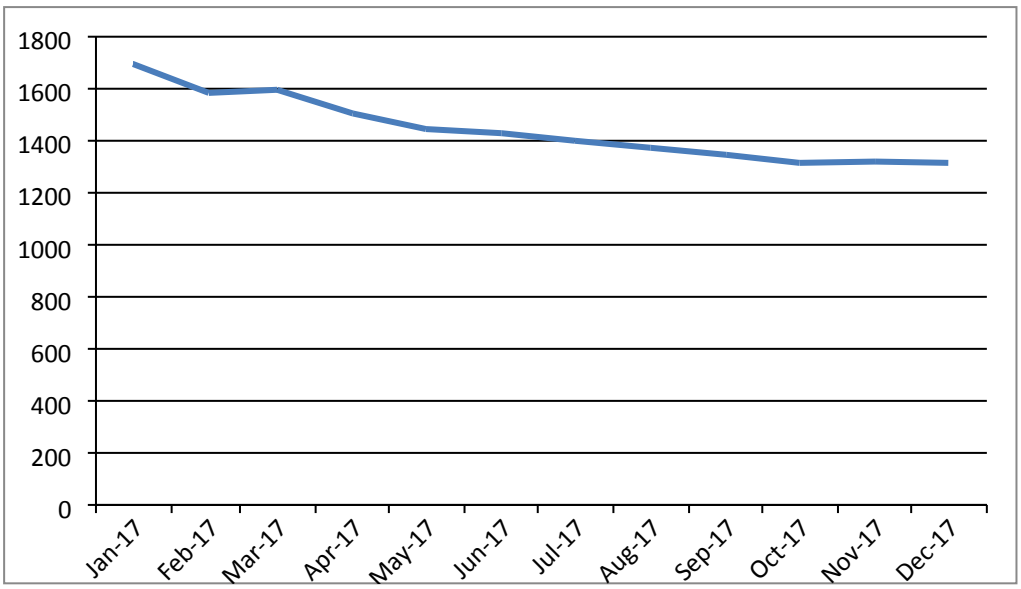
1	CHINA	107 (-6)	Wood packaging material	82	Wood and bark insects other than longhorn beetles	58
					Longhorn beetles	22
					Nematodes	10
			Citrus spp.	10	Fruit Flies	5
			Planting material	7		
2	UGANDA	99 (+1)	*Capsicum spp.*	72	*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*	65
					Fruit Flies	7
			Momordica spp.	10	Fruit Flies	10
3	NIGERIA	85 (+1)	*Telfairia spp.*	25	White flies	24
			Corchorus spp.	24	White flies	24
			Solanum spp. other than potato and tomato	18	White flies	17
			Vernonia spp.	11	White flies	11
			Ocimum spp.	10	White flies	10
			Hibiscus spp.	8	White flies	8
			Rumex spp.	6	White flies	6
4	INDIA	80 (-1)	Wood packaging material	44	Wood and bark insects other than longhorn beetles	44
			Rosa spp.	7		
			Trichosanthes spp.	5	Fruit Flies	5
5	ISRAEL	79 (+3)	*Ocimum spp.*	19	White flies	12
					Leaf miners	7
			Gypsophila spp.	15	Leaf miners	15
			Origanum spp.	12	White flies	11
			Mentha spp.	9	White flies	9
6	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	71 (+1)	*Momordica spp.*	41	Thrips	41
			Solanum spp. other than potato and tomato	23	Thrips	21
			Mangifera spp.	7	Fruit Flies	7
7	MALAYSIA	66 (+1)	*Ocimum spp.*	17	White flies	13
			Orchids	11	Thrips	11
			Corchorus spp.	8	White flies	7
			Eryngium spp.	8	White flies	8
			Wood packaging material	6	Wood and bark insects other than longhorn beetles	7
			Planting material	5		
8	KENYA	48 (+1)	*Capsicum spp.*	19	*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*	17
			Ocimum spp.	8		
			Planting material	6		
9	SURINAME	46 (+6)	Solanum spp. other than potato and tomato	19	*Spodoptera frugiperda*	10
					Spodoptera eridania	6
			Cestrum spp.	12	White flies	12
			Capsicum spp.	7	*Spodoptera frugiperda*	6

10	LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	44 (+6)	*Ocimum spp.*	13	White flies	8
					Leaf miners	5
			Capsicum spp.	6	Fruit Flies	6
			Polygonum spp.	5	White flies	5
11	BELARUS	43 (+6)	Wood packaging material	42	Nematodes	53
12	VIETNAM	43 (-3)	*Mentha spp.*	5		
13	THAILAND	40 (-2)	*Ocimum spp.*	6		
			Orchids	5	Thrips	5
14	SOUTH AFRICA	38 (0)	*Citrus spp.*	34	*Phyllosticta citricarpa*	24
					Thaumatotibia leucotreta	9
15	COTE D'IVOIRE	36 (0)	*Mangifera spp.*	32	Fruit Flies	32
16	ZIMBABWE	33 (-1)	*Capsicum spp.*	10	*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*	10
			Citrus spp.	10	*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*	9
17	SENEGAL	30 (0)	*Mangifera spp.*	25	Fruit Flies	26
18	SRI LANKA	29 (-1)	*Momordica spp.*	8		
			Amaranthus spp.	5	Leaf miners	5
			Trichosanthes spp.	5	Fruit Flies	5
19	EGYPT	26 (+2)	*Capsicum spp.*	7	White flies	6
			Lactuca spp.	6	*Spodoptera littoralis*	6
20	MALI	26 (0)	*Mangifera spp.*	26	Fruit Flies	25
21	UNITED STATES	26 (0)	Wood and bark	11	Wood and bark insects other than longhorn beetles	9
			Planting material	8		
22	BURKINA FASO	24 (0)	*Mangifera spp.*	20	Fruit Flies	20
23	MEXICO	22 (+2)	Solanum spp. other than potato and tomato	8	White flies	5
			Capsicum spp.	5		
24	ECUADOR	21 (+1)	*Gypsophila spp.*	12	Leaf miners	12
25	CAMEROON	18 (0)	*Mangifera spp.*	12	Fruit Flies	12
26	JORDAN	18 (0)	*Corchorus spp.*	15	White flies	15
27	CAMBODIA	18 (+1)	*Capsicum spp.*	9	Fruit Flies	9
			Ocimum spp.	6		
28	TURKEY	18 (-1)	*Capsicum spp.*	14	White flies	14
29	COLOMBIA	17 (0)	*Mangifera spp.*	6	Fruit Flies	6
			Dianthus spp.	5		
30	PAKISTAN	17 (+2)	*Momordica spp.*	7	Thrips	6
31	PERU	13 (+1)	*Mangifera spp.*	9	Fruit Flies	9
32	BRAZIL	11 (+11)	*Mangifera spp.*	5	Fruit Flies	5
33	MAURITIUS	10 (-1)	*Capsicum spp.*	6		
34	RWANDA	10 (0)	*Capsicum spp.*	5	*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*	5
			Rosa spp.	5	*Spodoptera littoralis*	5
35	INDONESIA	9 (+9)	Wood packaging material	5	Wood and bark insects other than longhorn beetles	5
36	MOZAMBIQUE	8 (0)	*Capsicum spp.*	8	*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*	8
37	COSTA RICA	7 (0)	Planting material	7	White flies	5
38	GUINEA	7 (0)	*Mangifera spp.*	7	Fruit Flies	7
39	UKRAINE	6 (0)	Wood packaging material	6	Nematodes	9
40	ARGENTINA	5 (0)	*Citrus spp.*	5	*Phyllosticta citricarpa*	5

Table 8.2 **Rolling annual number of interceptions with harmful organisms as referred to by the Alert Lists of January to December 2017**

Month	Number of interceptions with HOs
January	1,695
February	1,584
March	1,596
April	1,505
May	1,445
June	1,429
July	1,400
August	1,373
September	1,346
October	1,315
November	1,320
December	1,315

Fig. 8.1. **Graphical representation of the total number of HO interceptions on the non-EU trade Alert List during 2017 (month-on-month evolution of interception totals for the previous 12 month periods (see Table 8.2)**



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