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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed

Section *Plant Health*

23 - 24 March 2021

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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Evaluation of recent import interceptions with pests by Member States and the actions taken.

The Commission presented the interceptions for the period between 23 February and 21 March 2021 as well as follow-up actions on notified non-compliances.

On non-EU trade, the Commission highlighted the three interceptions of *Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus* (ToBRFV) on tomato seeds from Israel and the ToBRFV interception on pepper seeds from China, the five interceptions of *Bactrocera dorsalis* on *Mangifera indica* from Cameroon and Uganda, the six interceptions of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Rosa*, *Capsicum frutescens* and *Capsicum annuum* from Uganda, Zambia and Kenya, and the three interceptions of *Spodoptera frugiperda* on *Asparagus officinalis* and *Capsicum frutescens* from Mexico, Peru and Kenya. It was agreed to keep monitoring the development of the relevant interceptions. The Commission also highlighted the two interceptions of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* on wood packaging material from US and China and informed that the relevant follow-up communication with those countries is underway. Finally, the Committee also discussed the interception of *Ralstonia solanacearum sensu lato* on ware potatoes from Egypt, and the six interceptions of *Aphidae* and *Thripidae* on different commodities from Israel. It was agreed that more information would be shared with the Committee by the reporting Member States on those interceptions in order to determine the relevant follow-up actions.

On EU trade, the Commission highlighted the ToBRFV interception on seeds of *Solanum lycopersicum* from Spain and the interception of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* on wood packaging material from Portugal. It was agreed that the concerned Member States will provide further information as their investigations progress.

Regarding the follow-up actions of the same reporting period, the Commission updated the Committee on the completed, ongoing and planned audits.

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

The Commission presented the overview of the outbreaks notified by the Member States in the period from 25 January to 25 February 2021.

Italy and Portugal informed about the *Xylella* outbreaks in Tuscany and Porto. Spain and France will present an update on their outbreaks during the next meeting.

A.03 EFSA newsletters on horizon scanning of media and literature for new and emerging plant health risks; EPPO monthly reporting service on pests.

The EFSA media newsletter and the EFSA scientific literature newsletter of March 2021 and the EPPO reporting service no 3 were disseminated to Member States.

EFSA presented the planning of the activities related to the PeMoScoring of the non-regulated pests identified in the media and literature Horizon scanning.

A.04 Exchange of views on national measures by the Netherlands against *Resseliella citrifrugis*.

The Netherlands gave information on the interceptions of *Resseliella citrifrugis* on *Citrus maxima*. Additionally, information was given on the interceptions of two other pests *Chloridea virescens* and *Spodoptera ornithogalli*. All three pests are non-regulated in the EU. The consignments where these pests are found are rejected based on Article 29 of Regulation 2016/2031. A discussion took place on the need of potential inclusion of these pests in the EU lists of quarantine pests and a coordinated approach in the case of such findings.

A.05 Exchange of views on the revision of the Decision 2012/138/EU on measures against *Anoplophora chinensis*.

The Committee exchanged views on a possible amendment of the EU measures for *Anoplophora chinensis*. Written comments are expected from Member States by 15 April 2021.

A.06 Exchange of views on the prolongation of Decision (EU) 2018/638 on measures against *Spodoptera frugiperda*.

The Commission presented an overview of the interceptions of *Spodoptera frugiperda* from 2016 till today. A discussion took place on the need for further actions related to these interceptions and the spread of the pest worldwide.

A.07 Overview on *Xylella* surveys activities in Member States.

The Commission reminded Member States to submit their 2021 plans for surveys activities, thanking those who already sent their submission. The Commission informed that the survey reports of 2020 of *Xylella* outside demarcated areas will be requested in the new module of EUROPHYT created for this purpose (EUROPHYT - Plant Health Surveys) and the survey reports of 2020 in demarcated areas will be requested by email, as in previous years.

A.08 Exchange of views on phytosanitary aspects of EU-UK trade as of 1 January 2021 onwards.

The Commission presented the latest state of play with regards to the infringement of the Northern Irish Protocol by the UK, as the latter allows until October 2021 the movement of plants and other regulated products towards Northern Ireland without phytosanitary certificates. The Commission has launched an infringement procedure by sending to the UK a letter of formal notice. The Commission also informed the Committee about the state of play of several other topics, such as the request of the UK for equivalence on the issue of seed potatoes, the issuance of pre-export certificates for plants and other products destined to the UK and the UK plant health rules.

A.09 Exchange of views and possible revision of the reduced frequency of inspection on roses imported from Kenya.

The Commission presented the latest interception figures on the import of cut roses from Kenya. In considering the situation, the Committee took into account the report of the Commission's remote audit in Kenya, the Kenyan action plan following the audit recommendations and the note that KEPHIS and the Kenya Flower Council submitted to the Commission on 22 March 2021. After having discussed the situation, the Committee agreed on a two-fold approach: 1) Await the development of the situation until June 2021, and review the situation again in its meeting in July 2021. Until then, unless the situation would significantly worsen, the inspection level of 10% is maintained. 2) The Commission will ask EFSA to assess the plant health risk of false codling moth on cut roses. The situation will then be reviewed in the light of the EFSA opinion.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible technical opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on emergency action against a plant pest in the Union and third countries.

No item raised.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible technical opinion of the Committee on the draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/715 setting out measures in respect of certain fruits originating in certain third countries to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of the harmful organism *Phyllosticta citricarpa* (McAlpine) Van der Aa.

The Commission presented to the Member States the draft measures on citrus fruits originating in Argentina with regards to specific import measures against the introduction into the Union of *Phyllosticta citricarpa*, proposed in replacement of the temporary prohibition of lemons and oranges originating in Argentina which entered into force with Commission Decision (EU) 2020/1199), following the unprecedented number of non-compliance during the 2020 season.

The draft measures were supported by the Member States and discussion focused on clarifying the provisions. The Commission will present an updated draft for vote in due course.

Vote taken by written procedure: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annexes II to XIV of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 establishing uniform conditions for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and the Council, as regards protective measures against pests of plants.

The Commission continued the discussion with the Member States on the first amendment of the Annexes of Implementing Regulation 2019/2072. The Commission will subsequently proceed with a view to submitting a formal proposal to the Committee prior to starting the stakeholder and WTO-SPS consultation.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation allowing for the containment of *Ceratocystis platani* (J.M. Walter) Engelbr. & T.C. Harr. within certain demarcated areas.

The Commission presented the draft Regulation detailing the containment of *Ceratocystis platani* and requested Member States to communicate the list of containment areas by 12 April 2021. The Commission will subsequently proceed with a view to submitting a formal proposal at one of the forthcoming meetings of the Committee.

C.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation allowing for the containment of *Aleurocanthus spiniferus* (Quaintance) within certain demarcated areas.

The Commission presented the draft Regulation detailing the containment of *Aleurocanthus spiniferus* and requested Member States to communicate the list of containment areas. The Committee discussed the proposal and agreed to provide comments to the Commission by 12 April 2021. The Commission will subsequently proceed with a view to submitting a formal proposal at one of the forthcoming meetings of the Committee.