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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed

Section *Plant Health*

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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Evaluation of recent import non-compliances notified by Member States and the actions taken.

The Commission presented an overview of non-compliances between 8 July and 10 September 2023. In non-EU trade the Commission highlighted the high number of non-compliances due to (i) Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus on seeds of tomatoes from China, Peru, Chile, Guatemala, India, Israel, Thailand and Türkiye and of peppers from China, Peru and Thailand, (ii) *Bactrocera dorsalis* on mangoes from Bangladesh, Gambia and Senegal and on guavas from Bangladesh (iii) *Spodoptera frugiperda* on *Dianthus* and *Rosa* from Kenya, asparagus from Peru, peppers from Suriname, coriander from Kenya and eggplants from Egypt and Suriname. It also highlighted the non-compliances due to (i) *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on peppers from Rwanda and Kenya, grapefruits and mandarins from South Africa, and (ii) *Ralstonia solanacearum* on ware potatoes from Egypt.

In EU trade the Commission highlighted the non-compliances due to (i) *Meloidogyne enterolobii* on *Ficus microcarpa* originating in the Netherlands, and (ii) Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus on seeds of *Solanum lycopersicum* originating in Italy, leaves and swabs of *Solanum lycopersicum* originating in France.

The Commission also presented the cumulative non-compliances for the 12-month period between 1 September 2022 and 30 August 2023 and discussed the evolution of those non-compliances. The Commission also provided an update on audits and on the follow-up actions to the non-compliances.

A Member State requested whether it would be appropriate to impose obligatory cold treatment on mandarins and grapefruits following the non-compliances due to *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*. The Commission considered that based on the number of non-compliances such measures would not be appropriate.

The Commission also indicated the washing/power washing as a post-harvest treatment against *Spodoptera frugiperda*.

The Committee agreed to continue with the procedure of follow-up actions by means of written communication and meetings and to monitor closely the evolution of those non-compliances.

The Commission held a dedicated discussion on non-compliances due to *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on lemons, oranges and grapefruits from South Africa, on oranges from Argentina, and on oranges from Zimbabwe. Regarding Argentina and Zimbabwe, it informed that replies to the letters are expected, and it was agreed to continue monitoring the evolution of the non-compliances from those two countries. Regarding South Africa, it presented an overview of the exchanges for the 2023 export season (letters from the Commission on the non-compliances, reports of South African investigations for certain non-compliances, requests by South Africa for technical details of sampling and analyses, and questioning by South Africa of certain of those results). Member States expressed dissatisfaction about some recurrent requests (administrative burden) which seem to imply distrust in Member States decisions at import. Member States may avoid replying to recurrent requests. The Commission will send a coordinated reply to South Africa on those and other issues mentioned above.

The Commission reminded Member States that the second consultation of the draft annex to ISPM 28 on cold treatment for *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Citrus sinensis* is ongoing, and that without any objections it will be adopted at the meeting of the Committee for Phytosanitary Standards (CPM) in 2024.

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

Cyprus presented the first finding of *Diaphorina citri* in citrus orchards in Limassol district and informed about the measures taken and difficulties encountered. Cyprus also presented the updates of *Spodoptera frugiperda* outbreaks across the country and informed about the measures taken and difficulties encountered. The Commission highlighted the importance of quick action to eradicate the pests and asked Member States that circulate host plants to be vigilant and increase their surveys.

The Netherlands presented the recent finding of *Ripersiella hibisci* following an outbreak of *Meloidogyne enterolobii*, and the measures taken. The Netherlands also suggested that the pest should be a candidate for delisting.

Italy updated about *Bactrocera dorsalis* and informed about the measures taken. Italy also stressed that the outbreak was probably caused by passengers returning from abroad. Italy also presented an overview of the current situation of *Anoplophora glabripennis* in the region of Marche and the eradication measures taken.

Germany updated on the isolated findings of *Popillia japonica* in Freiburg in Breisgau and Weil am Rhein. Italy updated of the latest findings of *P. japonica* in their territory and presented the eradication measures in Friuli Venezia Giulia. The Commission highlighted the importance to take measures in line with Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1584 to ensure the eradication of the outbreak. Switzerland also presented an overview of the situation with regards to this pest and the eradication measures being taken in the new outbreaks in Valais and Zurich.

Belgium presented the recent findings of *Bactrocera dorsalis* near Antwerp and near Brussels and the measures taken, but insisted that the potential establishment of the pest in the region was low.

A.03 EFSA newsletter on horizon scanning for new pests; EPPO monthly reporting service on pests.

The Commission highlighted EFSA's newsletters from August and September. The Commission also highlighted EPPO's reporting services of July and August.

A.04 Outcome of the working group meetings on the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2020/1201 as regards measures against *Xylella fastidiosa*.

The Commission informed the Committee on the outcome of the working groups on *Xylella fastidiosa* held in January, June and July with the Member States having the pest (France, Italy, Portugal and Spain), to discuss their experience with the application of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1201. The Commission explained that the outcome of the working groups will also be presented at the meeting of the Chief officers of plant health and that it will present, in a forthcoming meeting, a proposal for amending this Implementing Regulation.

A.05 Exchange of views on the amendment of Regulation (EU) 2020/1201 as regards the list of plants known to be susceptible to *Xylella fastidiosa* (Annexes I and II) and the list of infected zones where containment measures are applied (Annex III).

The Commission presented a non-paper outlining the updates in Annexes I and II (the list of host plants and specified plants) and in Annex III (the list of municipalities in the infected zones) to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1201. Some Member States raised comments with regards to the proposal and the Commission explained the changes proposed. The Commission will now proceed with its internal consultation process and will submit the text for a technical vote before starting the public consultation with EU stakeholders and SPS partners in one of the forthcoming Committee meetings.

A.06 Overview report of Commission audits in Member States affected by *Xylella fastidiosa*.

The Commission presented its new report on EU outbreaks of *Xylella fastidiosa*, which describes the outbreaks of the bacterium in the EU. The report analyses the key issues for the control of the disease and identifies examples of good practice. Eradication in small outbreak areas was achieved, when EU control measures were applied. The report identifies the difficulties to eradicate the disease in large outbreak areas and describes measures to contain the disease, as exemplified in Salento (Italy). The report will be published in the next weeks on the Commission website.

A.07 Information by Member States on the presence of *Aleurocanthus spiniferus* in their territory and exchange of views on a possible amendment of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1927 establishing measures for the containment of *Aleurocanthus spiniferus* within certain demarcated areas to include new areas under containment.

Italy, Croatia and France provided an overview of the presence of *Aleurocanthus spiniferus* in their territory, where containment measures are needed because eradication is no longer possible. The Commission invited these Member States to share the list of new areas under containment within the next two weeks and will then proceed with its internal consultation process and present the text for vote in one of the forthcoming Committee meetings.

A.08 Information by Member States on the presence of *Ceratocystis platani* in their territory and exchange of views on a possible amendment of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1629 establishing measures for the containment of *Ceratocystis platani* within certain demarcated areas to include new areas under containment.

Postponed.

A.09 Exchange of views on the extension of the inspection requirements for the introduction into the Union of wood packaging material for the transport of certain commodities originating in certain third countries and for plant health checks.

The Commission presented a revised version of the non-paper. The Commission recalls that the content of Annexes I to III of the document is subject to a further discussion in an expert group in the coming days. Several Member States took the floor during the discussion. For the time being, Member States do not see a need to revise Annex IV.

The Commission will revise the draft again on the basis of the discussion. To this end, Member States are invited to submit their comments in writing by 29 September.

The Commission will launch the internal consultation process with a view to present a final draft for a final discussion and vote to the Standing Committee as soon as possible. The Commission recalled that the legal act must be in force before the end of the year.

A.10 Exchange of views on temporary measures against the introduction into and spread within the Union territory of *Bactrocera* spp.

The Commission presented a reviewed version of the non-paper describing possible measures against the introduction and spread of *Bactrocera* spp. The Member States in general welcomed improvements in the text. Several Member States requested that the provisions should be more in line with other emergency measures.

The Commission asked Member States to submit any additional comments in writing within two weeks after the meeting.

A.11 Overview of the results of the 2022-2023 import controls on ware potatoes from Egypt, followed by an exchange of views on the import requirements as provided in Decision 2011/787/EU.

The Commission presented the volumes of ware potatoes imported from Egypt into the EU territory since the season 2017-2018. The important number of non-compliances due to the presence of *Ralstonia solanacearum* during the season 2022-2023 was discussed.

The Commission presented elements to be considered for a revision of the current Decision 2011/787/EU, elements linked to the provisions of current Plant Health Regulation, to the phytosanitary situation in Egypt and to various recent acts aiming at protecting the EU territory against the spread and the introduction of potato pests.

The Commission presented the comments and proposals received from Member States following the decision taken during the PAFF of July to draft a new Regulation providing for the introduction of ware potatoes from Egypt.

A preliminary planning was discussed in view of integrating the observations of a Commission's audit planned in the first semester of 2024 in Egypt, e.g. on the brown rot control.

A letter will be sent to the Egyptian competent authorities to inform Egypt in advance about the mandatory testing methods that will be required in the new Regulation, pursuant to Annex I of Regulation (EU) 2022/1193.

A.12 Exchange of views on potential need for EU regulation for *Aulacaspis tubercularis*, *Oligonychus perseae*, *Neoscytalidium dimidiatum* and *Takahashia japonica*.

The Commission presented to the Committee the highlights from the scientific opinions on the pest categorisations for the respective pests, with proposals for the regulatory status of each pest. The Committee agreed not to regulate the pests *Aulacaspis tubercularis* and *Oligonychus perseae*. For *Neoscytalidium dimidiatum*, some Member States expressed that even though they are open for assessment of the pest for RNQP status, their preference is not to regulate the pest, due to its very wide host range and possible wide distribution in the EU. The Committee concluded not to regulate the pest. For *Takahashia japonica*, though some Member States were of the opinion not to regulate the pest, other Member States need time for further reflection. It will be presented to the Committee in a following meeting, for a possible conclusion.

A.13 Information on the EURL work programme for 2023-2024.

The Commission briefly informed the Committee on the state of play of the current work program 2023-2024, and on the next administrative steps for the grant agreements.

A.14 Information on import-export issues between the EU and UK(GB).

The Commission informed the Committee about the upcoming acts implementing the Windsor Framework, and in particular Regulation (EU) 2023/1231, concerning the movement from Great Britain to Northern Ireland of:

- (i) seed potatoes,
- (ii) other plants for planting, and machinery and vehicles used for agricultural and forestry purposes.

The vote of the respective rules took place on 27 September and will apply from 1 October 2023.

Those acts were based on written guarantees provided by the UK authorities concerning the application of the EU plant health and official controls rules.

The Commission will also adopt an implementing act allowing the movement of 23 fruits and vegetable species, originating in third countries, from Great Britain to Northern Ireland.

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

No items raised.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation establishing measures to prevent the establishment and spread within the Union territory of *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire.

Postponed.

Vote Postponed

M.01 Pest freedom country declaration from Tanzania

The Commission informed on the pest freedom country declaration received from Tanzania, which fulfils the requirements set up in Article 28 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1201 with regards to the statistically sound and risk-based approach.