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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 interceptions with pests by Member States and the actions taken.

The Commission and the Member States discussed the interceptions for the period between 10 September and 17 October 2020.

As regards imports, the Commission highlighted the interceptions of *Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus* on seeds of *Solanum lycopersicum* from Israel, Peru and India, and on seeds of *Capsicum annuum* from Israel. The Commission informed that follow-up actions will take place.

The Commission also highlighted the interceptions of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* mainly on citrus fruits from South Africa and Uruguay and the interceptions of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on citrus fruit from South Africa and Zimbabwe, as well as on *Capsicum* species from Uganda and Rwanda and on *Rosa* from Kenya and Rwanda.

Member States also expressed concern about the recurrent interceptions on aquatic plants from Singapore and it was agreed to request clarifications from Singapore on the export certification system.

The issue of imports of *Momordica* from Bangladesh was also discussed as to under which status Bangladesh exports *Momordica*. The Commission informed that a letter to Bangladesh is underway.

A discussion regarding the import of soil for aquatic plants took place, and in particular whether the import of this product is prohibited or not. The Commission referred to the EU legislation relevant to the prohibition of import of soil/growing media. This prohibition is independent from any treatments that the commodity might have undergone (or not). It concerns the chemical nature/consistency of the commodity. In certain cases the name of commercially traded growing media might create unclarities related to their chemical nature/consistency. In case of doubts at import, import inspections and exchanges with the exporter would need to offer the necessary clarification.

As regards internal EU trade, the Commission noted the interception of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (pinewood nematode) on wood packaging material from Portugal. Portugal informed that investigations for this interception are ongoing.

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

Member States shared their experience in managing the recent outbreaks of ToBRFV and presented a state of play of the measures in place. Many questions were raised as regards the managing of two open air outbreaks in Greece, the survival capacity of the virus in the soil and the resistance of *Capsicum* varieties. When a Member State is aware that specified seeds from other Member States have not been tested with PCR, they can perform an additional molecular testing to make sure the material is free from the specified pest but this should not hinder the free movement of the seeds.

A.03 New notifications by Italy and France of an outbreak of *Xylella fastidiosa*.

Italy presented the latest findings detected in the buffer zone of Apulia where 61 olive trees had been found infected in the municipality of Monopoli (Bari). Italy confirmed that EU eradication measures are being applied, including the preventive felling of other olive trees present in the 50 m radius surrounding the infected plants.

France provided an update on the outbreak of *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* detected in a nursery in Occitanie (municipality of Trèbes). EU eradication measures are being applied and further investigations are ongoing to confirm the source of the infection, including the tracing of plants sold to local clients.

A.04 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 pilot of scientific literature newsletter of October 2020 and the EPPO Reporting Service No. 9 of 2020 have been disseminated to Member States.

A.05 Overview of Member States' 2019 survey results and state of play of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* in Portugal and Spain.

Portugal presented the overall activities being carried out in their territory to actively contain PWN from further spread in the rest of the Union. The 20 km buffer zone established along the Spanish border remains still free from the pest. In line with EU legislation, an intensive surveillance and removal of declining trees is ongoing both in the buffer zone and in its proximity, within the infected zone, where the pest has been identified. Spain also provided an overview of the eradication measures being taken in the three demarcated areas established in their territory (Galicia, Castilla y León and Extremadura). Intensive surveillance and removal of declining trees are also being carried out in the areas concerned. For both countries, the outcome of the control activities carried out on movement of susceptible wood and wood packaging material within and out of the areas concerned was presented in line with EU legislation.

A.06 Exchange of views on the need to review the emergency measures Decision 2012/535/EU for *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*.

A first exchange of views took place on a possible review of Decision 2012/535/EC, taking into account relevant scientific information and technical experience in the

different outbreak areas. Member States were invited to send comments by 16 November 2020 for a follow-up discussion at the forthcoming PAFF meeting.

A.07 Findings and preliminary conclusions from the Commission audit DG(SANTE) 2020-7089 to Kenya, in order to evaluate the system of official controls for the export of plants and plant products to the EU.

The Commission presented the preliminary findings of the abovementioned audits. Some Member States expressed concern for the preliminary conclusions of the audit by which it is indicated that *Rosa* and *Capsicum* from Kenya present a phytosanitary risk with regard to the potential introduction of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* in the Union territory. Discussion focused mainly on *Rosa* in relation to the reduced frequencies of import inspections (see point A.19).

A.08 Exchange of views on the report of the Commission audit DG(SANTE) 2019-6741 from 5 to 13 November 2019 in Montenegro to evaluate the Plant Health controls applied in the potato sector.

Postponed.

A.09 Findings and preliminary conclusions from the Commission audit DG(SANTE) 2020-7060 to Belarus, in order to evaluate the system of official controls of the wood packaging material accompanying goods imported to the EU.

The Commission presented some preliminary findings of the remote audit to Belarus, performed from 7 to 15 September 2020.

The report will be prepared following the normal timeline and it will be shared under DG SANTE audit webpage. The discussion focused on the Belarussian ISPM 15 system of traceability, on the authorization of the operators applying the mark and on actions taken by Belarussian authorities since the EU measures of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1137.

A.10 Phytosanitary aspects of the preparedness for the EU-UK trade from 1 January 2021 onwards.

The Commission offered a briefing on the state of play of the negotiations and the need to amend some Annexes of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 in order to replace or add references to the UK, as necessary.

A.11 Exchange of views on possible emergency measures for *Meloidogyne graminicola*.

The Commission presented the amended draft on *Meloidogyne graminicola*. There was an exchange of views on the movement of seeds within or out of the demarcated areas. The Commission asked to send written comments by 30 October.

A.12 Exchange of views on the update of the technical Annexes of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.

The Commission continued the discussion with the Member States on the first amendment of the Annexes of Implementing Regulation 2019/2072. The amendment is anticipated to be a comprehensive draft act, comprising the inclusion of new pests as Union quarantine pests and Union regulated non-quarantine pests, further refinements in the list of Union quarantine pests, new import and internal movement

requirements and a further refinement of the CN codes of regulated commodities. Member States were asked to send written comments by 10 November.

A.13 Exchange of views on containment measures for *Aleurocanthus spiniferus* under Article 28.2 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The Commission presented and discussed further with Member States the containment measure for *Aleurocanthus spiniferus*. The Commission reminded Member States to send the list of containment areas, highlighting the importance of having clear administrative regions. The Commission asked to send written comments within two weeks in order to have a new discussion during the next Committee.

A.14 Exchange of views on containment measures for *Ceratocystis platani* under Article 28.2 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The Commission presented and discussed further with Member States the containment measure for *Ceratocystis platani*. The Commission reminded Member States to send the list of containment areas, highlighting the importance of having clear administrative regions. The Commission asked to send written comments within two weeks in order to have a new discussion during the next Committee.

A.15 Exchange of views on containment measures for *Flavescence dorée* under Article 28.2 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

Postponed.

A.16 Exchange of views on containment measures for *Popillia japonica* under Article 28.2 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The Commission presented and discussed further with Member States the containment measure for *Popillia japonica*. The Commission asked to send written comments within two weeks in order to have a new discussion during the next Committee.

A.17 Exchange of views on containment measures for *Toxoptera citricida* under Article 28.2 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The Commission presented and discussed further with Member States the containment measure for *Toxoptera citricida*. The Commission reminded Member States to send the list of containment areas, highlighting the importance of having clear administrative regions. The Commission asked to send written comments within two weeks in order to have a new discussion during the next Committee.

A.18 Exchange of views on the conditions for a possible derogation from Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 concerning the introduction of unrooted cuttings for planting of *Calibrachoa* spp. and *Petunia* spp. and their hybrids from certain third countries into the Union.

The Commission presented and discussed a first draft for a derogation requested by several Member States for the introduction of unrooted cuttings for planting of *Calibrachoa* spp., *Petunia* spp. and their hybrids from certain third countries. The Commission invited the Member States to send their comments in written in order to have a new discussion in a future Committee.

A.19 Results on the proposed reduced frequencies of import inspections on fruit, vegetables, cut flowers and wood followed by an exchange of views and possible approval of the minimum reduced frequencies for 2021 (SANTE/12210/2020).

The Commission presented a revised draft of the list of commodities and their origin, to which a reduced frequency of physical and identity inspections should apply as of 1 January 2021. Some Member States expressed their concern over the proposed frequencies for cut roses imported into the EU from Kenya. After a discussion, the Committee agreed to review this issue in its forthcoming meeting in December in the light of the latest figures on intercepted consignment recorded in TRACES. The Committee agreed on all the other proposed frequencies. The Commission will proceed with publishing the overview on the European Commission/DG Sante's website.

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 a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on import requirements and plant health checks on wood packaging material for the transport of commodities originating in certain third countries, and repealing Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1137

The Commission presented a draft for plant health checks to be performed at border control posts or control points on the wood packaging material of specified commodities originating from Belarus, China and India. The plant health checks will have the purpose to verify that the requirements of Article 43 of the Plant Health Regulation are implemented. Those checks will be performed by the competent authorities of the Member States with a minimum rate out of the total import of the specified commodities. The draft will be reviewed and presented for a final discussion during the next Committee meeting.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible technical opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 concerning the recognition of protected zones.

The Commission presented the revised draft text of the future annex of the amending regulation. France, in the light of the discussion on the amendment of other annexes to Regulation 2019/2072, requested to revoke the protected zone in respect of *Phytophthora ramorum* (EU isolates). The Commission will now proceed with its internal consultation process with a view of submitting a formal proposal at one of the forthcoming meetings of the Committee.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible technical opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on amendment of Articles 7 and 8 of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.

The Commission presented some further amendments of the draft Implementing Regulation that introduces clarifications in Articles 7 and 8 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 that this applies without prejudice to other Union acts introducing prohibitions or import requirements. Those amendments took into account comments of Member States submitted during the previous discussions.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation concerning types or species of plants for planting for which the exemption referred to in Article 83(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 does not apply and repealing Commission Directive 92/105/EEC

Following a written consultation with Member States, the Committee supported the revised draft text presented by the Commission. The Commission will now proceed with submitting the text to a formal vote procedure through a written consultation.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715 as regards procedures for the establishment and use of ADIS and EUROPHYT, the issuance of electronic official certificates and the use of electronic signatures, and the proper functioning of TRACES.

The draft amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715 ('the IMSOC Regulation') was presented by the Commission for an exchange of views of the Committee.

The Commission explained that the purpose of the draft is to complement the rules for the functioning of ADIS and TRACES to take account of the entry into application of the Animal Health Law and to amend the rules for the functioning of EUROPHYT in the light of experience gained so far.

The Commission informed that the draft was also presented for an exchange of views of the section "Animal health" of the Committee on 20 October 2020.

Some Member States asked clarifications on certain provisions of the draft.

Member States were invited to send their comments in writing by end October 2020.

C.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1191 on measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV)

The Commission presented a draft for amending Regulation (EU) 2020/1191 as regards requirements for seed in storage, both at import and for internal movement.

The Commission also discussed a number of concerns presented by Euroseeds regarding the above mentioned points.

Member States had comments and amendments to suggest on the text presented by the Commission and agreed to send comments within a short deadline.

The Commission stressed once more that the current presence of the disease world wide is very worrying and still expanding. The measures and the prescriptions in the

Annex of Regulation (EU) 2020/1191 are in line with recent scientific discussions at EPPO level. It was highlighted that the ELISA method for the detection of the virus on seeds should be avoided because it is considered less sensitive and less specific than Real Time PCR detection methods.

The Commission will take follow-up actions with the sector and with third countries involved (e.g. launching as soon as possible a SPS information notification). The Commission also reminded the urgency to solve the pending issue of seed in storage in order to provide clarity for all the operators involved in the production and trade of Tomato and Capsicum seeds.