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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*

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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 4 November and 8 December 2024. Amongst the non-compliances in non-EU trade, the Commission highlighted the ones due to (i) *Meloidogyne enterolobii* on already planted plants of *Sagetaria* from China; (ii) *Scirtothrips dorsalis* on plants of *Ficus*, and *Scindapsus* from Ghana (iii) *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Rosa* from Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda, on peppers from Kenya, on oranges from Zimbabwe, on litchi from South Africa, on avocados from Cameroon, and on pomegranates from Israel; (iv) *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on oranges and lemons from South Africa; (v) *Spodoptera frugiperda* on asparagus from Peru and on *Momordica charantia* from Tanzania. The Commission also highlighted the numerous non-compliances due to fruit flies, including *Bactrocera dorsalis* and *Bactrocera zonata*. The Commission also presented an update on audits and on the follow-up actions to the non-compliances.

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

Belgium shared information regarding the recent finding of *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens*. Eradication measures are in place.

The Netherlands informed about the recent finding of *Scirtothrips aurantii* and *Scirtothrips dorsalis* in a greenhouse on ornamental plants. Measures have been taken, the source of the outbreak is not known yet. Additionally, Spain and Portugal gave an update on the findings of *Scirtothrips aurantii* in new areas of their territory. The new findings are primarily in orchards. A specific point will be put on the agenda of the Committee to map the evolution of the outbreaks and discuss the potential need of further EU action on those two thrips.

Italy informed about the findings of *Bactrocera dorsalis* and *Bactrocera zonata* in traps. Furthermore, a presentation was given on the outcome of the surveys for *Meloidogyne graminicola*. The measures in place resulted in a significant reduction of the infested areas. Additionally, Italy informed about the finding of *Platynota stultana*, a pest that is not regulated in the EU. The pest is already present in the EU but does not show

significant impact. The level of impact in Italy will be followed to determine whether the pest shows increased impact compared to one observed in the current area of distribution.

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

A overview of the main plant health issues in the most recent EPPO report was presented. No recent EFSA newsletter was available.

A.04 Exchange of views on potential need for EU regulation for *Agrilus fleischeri*, *Chionaspis pinifoliae*, *Crisicoccus pini*, *Elasmopalpus lignosellus* and *Xanthomonas citri* pv. *viticola*.

The discussion on the above non-regulated pests was based on the available pest risk assessments and the reports of the Commission working group on the revision of the Annexes to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. It was concluded:

- a) *Agrilus fleischeri*: The impact observed for this pest is limited to a small part of the area where the pest is present and its hosts are grown. Based on those observations, it was decided that this pest will not be regulated in the EU.
- b) *Chionaspis pinifoliae*: There are currently taxonomic issues regarding this pest. Therefore, it was decided not to regulate this pest in the EU at this stage. The evolution on its taxonomy will be followed.
- c) *Crisicoccus pini*: The discussion on this pest has continued in the Committee based on the recent information provided by Italy on the situation at the outbreak site. Based on the impact observed in the outbreaks in the EU and the efficacy of the control measures it was decided not to regulate this pest in the EU.
- d) *Elasmopalpus lignosellus*: This pest has been regularly found during import control of imported asparagus. Based on the recent pest risk assessment, no EU action (no regulation and interceptions at borders) will be taken on this pest due to the low probability of its transfer to hosts in the EU and the very specific ecoclimatic conditions for its establishment in a new area.
- e) *Xanthomonas citri* pv. *viticola*: Exchanges on this pest will be continued.

A.05 Exchange of views on measures to prevent the introduction into and spread within the Union of *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv *flaccumfaciens*.

The Commission presented a non-paper including import requirements related to this pest and requirements for its survey in the Union territory. Member States were asked to send written comments.

A.06 Exchange of views on the renewal of the measures to prevent the introduction into and spread within the Union of *Aromia bungii* (Decision (EU) 2018/1503).

The Commission presented a non-paper including eradication/containment requirements related to this pest and requirements for its surveys in the Union territory and a non-paper containing import and internal movement requirements. Member States were asked to send written comments by 13 January 2025.

A.07 Exchange of views on the renewal of the measures to prevent spread within the Union of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (Decision 2012/535/EU).

Postponed.

A.08 Presentation by EFSA and DG JRC on the evaluation of candidate priority pests.

EFSA presented the methodological report and the outcomes of its work on the mandate for priority pests. EFSA is preparing the pest reports for the shortlisted pests and the updates of the available ones. The datasets for all pests have been provided by DG JRC to run them through the Impact Indicator for Priority Pests (I2P2). EFSA addressed questions from Member States, notably on the presented yield impact of *Xylella fastidiosa*, how human assisted spread has been taken into account in the methodology, and the weighting of impact on biodiversity parameter.

DG JRC presented the updates made to the I2P2 methodology to take into account the most recent available statistical datasets, post-Brexit, and the new indicators on social impact of forest pests. The update of the methodology includes a more thorough assessment of uncertainties, as well as alternative sets of weights of the different parameters. JRC addressed questions from Member States, i.e. on the weighting of parameters and inclusion of forest production and carbon capture in the methodology.

The final outcome of the JRC work will be presented in one of the next Committee meetings and its follow-up will be discussed at the appropriate fora (Committee, working groups). EFSA will publish all the pest reports by the end of March 2025.

A.09 Presentation on the Commission's evaluation of EFSA's performance (2017-2024).

The Commission informed the Member States on the ongoing EFSA's Performance Evaluation, highlighting the forthcoming consultation activities for Member States' participation.

A.10 Exchange of views on the current distribution of *Agrilus planipennis* and potential amendment of Annex VII.

The Committee took note of the new developments with the distribution of this pest, in particular the findings close to the border of Kazakhstan. Annex VII of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 contains import requirements whereby pest free areas cannot be closer than 100 km from a known outbreak of emerald ash borer. As a consequence, in case of import of host plants or wood from Kazakhstan, guarantees should be needed that the plants or wood do not originate from an area closer than 100 km from an infestation in the neighbouring country. A revision of the existing import requirements from Kazakhstan is needed. Member States were asked to send written comments on a possible amendment of Annex VII in relation to emerald ash borer by 13 January 2025.

A.11 Exchange of views on the regulatory status of algae and seaweed.

Upon a question from a Member State, the Commission presented some initial reflections concerning the need for a Phytosanitary Certificate for the introduction of algae and seaweed. The Commission asked Member States to submit any comments in writing by 6 January 2025.

A.12 EU funding of phytosanitary programmes for 2025-2027: final outcome of the evaluation procedure and budget allocation for 2025-2027.

HaDEA presented the final outcome of the evaluation procedure and budget allocation for 2025-2027 concerning the phytosanitary programmes 2025-2027. 24 M€ have been allocated to 25 Member States. The grants need to be finalised in E-GRANT by each country and signed by 31 January 2025 at the latest. The grant amendments for 2024 have been signed by all Member States except 5, to be completed by 17 December at the latest.

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 item raised.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on measures to eradicate and to prevent the establishment and spread within the Union territory of fruit flies of the species *Bactrocera dorsalis* (Hendel), *Bactrocera latifrons* (Hendel) and *Bactrocera zonata* (Saunders).

The draft Implementing Regulation was slightly revised on the basis of some final comments and proposed to the Committee for vote.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1941 as regards the prohibition of introduction, movement, holding, multiplication or release of certain pests.

The Commission presented a draft to delist the pest *Leucinodes pseudobonalis* from the Annex of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1941 and to introduce expiry dates per pest in the Annex to that act. One Member State raised concern on the feasibility of the expiry date for the pest *Homona magnanima* listed in that Annex. The Commission will prioritise the development of the Pest Risk Assessment for the pest.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on measures to prevent the establishment and spread within the Union territory of *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Motschulsky) and for the eradication and containment of that pest within certain demarcated areas of the Union territory, and repealing Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/893.

Vote Postponed

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/2095 as regards measures to prevent the introduction into, establishment and spread within the Union of *Anoplophora chinensis* (Forster).

Vote Postponed

- B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annexes VII, VIII, XI and XIII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 as regards measures against the entry into, and presence in the Union territory of *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Motschulsky) and *Anoplophora chinensis* (Forster).**

Vote Postponed

- B.07 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1630 as regards the list of demarcated areas for containment of Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma.**

The Commission presented the draft legal act and a technical agreement was received from the Member States. The draft legal act will be published for a four weeks' consultation on the 'Have your Say' Commission website.

Vote Postponed

- C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/632 as regards the prolongation of the temporary measures in respect of specified fruits originating in Argentina, Brazil, South Africa and Zimbabwe to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union territory of the pest *Phyllosticta citricarpa* (McAlpine) Van der Aa.**

Following the discussion at the Committee meeting of November 2024 on the way forward for that Regulation, the Commission presented a working document as regards the prolongation of the temporary measures against CBS for the specified citrus fruits from Argentina, Brazil, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Some Member States expressed concern about whether the level of the phytosanitary guarantees provided by Uruguay is adequate to allow the removal of Uruguay from the scope of those temporary measures. Upon further discussion, the Committee concluded that the temporary measures for the import of the specified fruits from Uruguay, prescribed by Regulation (EU) 2022/632, should be maintained. The Commission intends to present to the Committee a draft Implementing Regulation for exchange of views and possible opinion at a forthcoming Committee meeting.