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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 Committee discussed the interceptions for the period between 23 February to 21 March 2021. On non-EU trade the Commission highlighted the three interceptions of *Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus* on seeds of *Solanum lycopersicum* from China. In addition, Czech Republic informed about an interception of ToBRFV on seeds of tomato from China. Those seeds were stored since 2020 and have recently been re-tested with a RT-PCR method, in line with the current legislation. The lot was already distributed to other countries. The NPPO has informed the relevant countries. The Commission also highlighted the eight interceptions of *Spodoptera frugiperda* of which one on *Aster*, three on *Eryngium* and one on *Solidago*, all from Zimbabwe, one on *Solanum aethiopicum* from Burkina Faso, one on *Asparagus officinalis* from Peru and one on *Apium graveolens* from Suriname; the five interceptions of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* of which three on *Rosa* from Kenya, one on *Rosa* and one on *Capsicum annum*, both from Uganda, the interception of *Bactrocera dorsalis* on *Mangifera indica* from Cameroon, the interception of *Ralstonia solanacearum* on *Solanum tuberosum* from Egypt and the interception of *Tilletia indica* on *Triticum durum* from US. It was agreed to monitor closely the development of those interceptions in relation to relevant actions already taken for respective cases. Regarding the follow-up actions of the same reporting period, the Commission updated the Committee on the completed, ongoing and planned audits as well as changes in the planning due to postponements.

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

The Commission presented the overview of the outbreaks notified by the Member States in the period from 16 March to 4 April 2021.

Portugal gave information on the findings of the non-regulated pest *Blissus insularis* on lawns of *Stenotaphrum secundatum*, as result of a survey. Surveys will continue.

The Netherlands informed on the recent finding of the non-European Scolytidae species *Euwallacea fornicatus* sensu lato on few plants for planting of *Artocarpus altilis* and *Ficus microcarpa* in a greenhouse. Eradication measures are taken.

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 April 2021 and the EPPO reporting service no 3 were disseminated to Member States.

A.04 Exchange of views on the revision of the reduced frequencies for import inspections in 2021 on certain fruit, vegetables, cut flowers and wood originating in UK(GB).

The Commission presented the draft amendment of the reduced frequency overview table, whereby UK was included amongst European non-EU countries, and thus eligible for the reduced frequency of physical and identity import checks of quinces, apples, fruits of *Prunus*, pears, currants and blueberries exported from the UK into the Union. The Committee supported the proposal. The Commission will then publish the revised version of the overview table on the SANTE website.

A.05 EFSA opinion on the phytosanitary risk for introduction of Tephritidae linked to import of banana's into the Union.

EFSA presented the results of the scientific opinion on the phytosanitary risk for introduction of *Tephritidae* linked to the import of bananas into the Union, adopted in March 2021. In this opinion, EFSA concluded that the risk for introduction is negligible in commercial banana import. EFSA could, however, not exclude a potential risk from the introduction of bananas for direct consumption via passenger's luggage.

The Member States appreciated the scientific opinion. Some Member States are alarmed about bananas imported in passenger's luggage and believe that specific measures might be necessary. Some other Member States recalled that the communication campaign concerning passenger's luggage has only started recently and any necessary amendments should only be introduced in a second step.

A.06 EFSA commodity risk assessment of *Citrus* L. fruits from Israel under a systems approach against *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*.

EFSA presented the scientific opinion of the commodity risk assessment of *Citrus* L. fruits from Israel under a systems approach against *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* according to which, the Expert Knowledge Elicitation indicated, with 95% certainty that between 9863 and 10000 citrus fruits per 10000 will be free from this pest. On the basis of the evaluated weaknesses, specific actions were also identified that could increase the efficacy of the systems approach. Member States asked for clarifications on the methodology used to conclude on the probability of pest freedom. EFSA explained that it used the methodology developed for the commodity risk assessment of high risk plants while taking into account, where applicable, ISPM 14. The EFSA opinion will be the basis to determine the way forward as regards the actions needed with regard to the systems approach applied by Israel on citrus fruits.

A.07 Overview of 2020 survey activities for *Xylella fastidiosa* in Member States and 2021 survey campaign plans.

The Commission presented an overview of the Member States plans for the surveys to be carried out along 2021.

A.08 Situation of *Xylella fastidiosa* in France and Spain and measures in place.

France and Spain informed about the situation of the outbreaks of *Xylella* in their territory, in particular about the eradication measures in the demarcated areas, survey activities and the new species found infected. All the new information is or will be shortly reflected in the Europhyt outbreaks platform.

A.09 Status of *Anoplophora glabripennis* in the Union and measures in place.

Member States with outbreaks of the Asian longhorn beetle presented the state of play together with the pest management activities. The pest status was also discussed. Italy informed that it will send official information about certain outbreaks with the intention to move to containment.

A.10 State of play of the electronic system for EUROPHYT – Plant Health Surveys for submission of annual survey reports and the related guidelines.

The Commission presented the state of play of the new module developed in EUROPHYT (Plant Health Surveys) to submit the reports of the results of the surveys carried out in 2020 of Union quarantine pests and pests provisionally qualifying as Union quarantine pests in those areas where the pests are not known to be present in accordance with Article 22 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1231.

The Commission explained that the system will allow the bulk import of data from excel. The Committee agreed that, exceptionally this year, the reports could be submitted by 31 May 2021 to allow Member States to prepare their reports using the specifications needed to the submission of the reports via the electronic system.

A.11 Exchange of views on the Single Market Programme (Food chain activities) work programme 2021-2022.

The Commission presented the draft document after Interservice consultation and drew the attention to the updates. The Committee was informed that the document will be presented for vote as soon as the basic Regulation on the Single Market Programme will be approved by the European Parliament and the Council. This is expected in the coming weeks.

A.12 Exchange of views on phytosanitary aspects of EU-UK trade as of 1 January 2021 onwards.

The Committee discussed a letter from UK regarding *Xylella fastidiosa*, with reference to the measures in place at import by UK. The discussion was about the references to the situation in the Member States and to the origin of one of the outbreaks. The Member States concerned provided relevant information for completing the reply to UK.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible 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 opinion of the Committee on a 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 an updated draft Decision amending the existing Decision as regards specified fruits originating in Argentina. After further clarifications were provided in the text, the Committee reached a technical agreement.

The Commission informed of its intention to launch the written procedure in accordance with Article 8 of the standard rules of procedure of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed to obtain the Committee's opinion on the agreed draft proposal.

Vote taken by written procedure: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/638 establishing emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and spread within the Union of the harmful organisms *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Smith).

The Commission presented a draft Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/638 establishing emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and spread within the Union of the harmful organisms *Spodoptera frugiperda*.

The Commission informed of its intention to launch the written procedure in accordance with Article 8 of the standard rules of procedure of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed to obtain the Committee's opinion.

Vote taken by written procedure: Favourable opinion.

M.01 Xylella – third country declarations.

The Commission updated on the inclusion of Ghana in the list of *Xylella* free countries, following their official declaration which has been published on SANTE website.

M.02 Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus – Additional Declarations on the phytosanitary certificates.

Following a request of clarification from a third country, the Committee agreed that the wording to be used in the additional declarations of the phytosanitary certificates has to be aligned with Article 9(4) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1191. Concerning testing, it is sufficient that the additional declaration indicates that one of the testing methods referred to in point 3 of the Annex, other than ELISA, was used.

M.03 Oak logs with bark from US.

The Commission provided an update on the US request for the renewal of the derogation for import of US oak logs with bark attached into the EU. The Commission informed that a reply to the questions from the Commission to EFSA has recently been received and that the Commission will soon present some options for a discussion with experts from Member States.