



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

sante.ddg2.g.5(2019)8881222

Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed

Section *Plant Health*

18 - 19 November 2019

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/5d75d3fb-d40e-4a32-be99-8462e584bec5>

SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Evaluation of recent import interceptions with harmful organisms by Member States and the need for further action.

The Commission presented an overview of the interceptions from 4 September to 14 November 2019, highlighting the various interceptions in planting material including 2 for *Spodoptera frugiperda*, the 32 interceptions for *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (false codling moth) mainly in peppers and roses, the continuing interceptions for *Elamspopalpus lignosellus* (a non-quarantine pest) on asparagus from Peru and the continuing interceptions on wood packaging material, including on ISPM 15 certified material. On internal trade, the Commission highlighted the 8 interceptions by the UK for *Bemisia tabaci* and the 9 interceptions for oak processionary moth by the UK.

The Commission also presented an overview of citrus interceptions since the beginning of 2019, highlighting in particular, the interceptions for *Phyllosticta citricarpa* (citrus black spot) (17 from Argentina, 9 from South Africa, 7 from Tunisia, and 6 from Uruguay), the 32 interceptions for *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (false codling moth) (19 from South Africa, 7 from Israel, 4 from Zimbabwe and 2 from the Kingdom of Eswatini), the 12 interceptions for *Elsinoe australis* from Uruguay and the 11 interceptions for *Elsinoe fawcettii* from Bangladesh.

The Commission informed about the follow-up actions to the interceptions, which were mainly related to citrus interceptions but also to the implementation by the Member States of Directive (EU) 2019/523.

A Member State expressed concerns about the number of interceptions on citrus fruits imported from third countries, and asked for stricter measures to be taken. The Commission reminded that a review of the measures concerning import of citrus fruits will take place at the beginning of 2020.

The Commission also explained that when in Annex IV-A “treatment” is mentioned as an option against different pests, that term includes both the systems approach and a post-harvest treatment. The Commission highlighted that this issue will be clarified under the upcoming Regulation replacing the annexes of Council Directive 2000/29/EC.

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

Germany presented information regarding an outbreak of the citrus cracking bark viroid in hops in 2019. The German authorities took immediate eradication measure and initiated a monitoring programme to delimit the infested area. According to the information collected so far, the outbreak is limited to a small area and eradication seems feasible. The source of infection is not yet clear. The pest will be put on the agenda of the December meeting as a single point in order to allow an in-depth discussion.

France informed the meeting about an outbreak of *Ceratocystis platani*. The pest was introduced in the 1940s and slowly spread in the Southern part of the country. In 2019, it was found in the areas of Nantes and Paris, i.e. in the North of France. Eradication measures have been put in place. The French authorities will closely monitor the situation in order to decide whether eradication is expected to be possible or whether contingency measures shall be implemented instead.

The remaining notifications had to be postponed to the next meeting.

A.03 EFSA newsletters on horizon scanning for new and emerging plant health risks and ranking of pests identified by media monitoring.

EFSA presented the newsletter on horizon scanning and the outcome of the ranking of pests identified by media monitoring. The committee exchanged views on the outcomes of the ranking.

A.04 Exchange of views on a derogation from certain provisions of Council Directive 2000/29/EC in respect of naturally or artificially dwarfed plants of *Pinus thunbergii* and *Pinus parviflora*, originating in Japan.

The committee took stock of the reports from the Member States on imports of bonsai plants from Japan and Korea in 2018 and 2019 and then held a first discussion on a possible extension of the existing derogation for bonsai from Japan to cover *Pinus thunbergii*.

A.05 Results of the Commission Working Group meeting on reduced frequency of import inspections on 27 June 2019, followed by an exchange of views and possible approval of the minimum reduced frequencies.

The Commission presented a follow-up proposal to the discussion of the previous meeting of the Committee. While for most of the trades (commodity/origin combinations) there were no changes suggested in their inspection frequency for the calendar year 2020, an increase of the frequency was suggested for *Citrus* fruits (specific species) from Israel, passion fruit from South Africa and Zimbabwe, and stone fruits from South Africa and the USA (all due to a lower volume of trade). For two trades, *Citrus* fruits from Mexico and eggplants from Turkey, the Commission suggested a further reduction in the frequency. The Commission also proposed to exclude from the system *Citrus* fruits from Tunisia, and to include two new trades of blueberries from Chile and Peru. The Committee accepted the Commission's proposal and supported the suggested frequencies for 2020. The Commission shall publish the updated list on the Commission's Plant Health website.

A.06 Exchange of views on Member States experiences with the implementation of the emergency measures against Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus - Decision (EU) 2019/1739.

The Netherlands presented the situation of the two outbreaks recently notified to the Commission. The Netherlands described all the actions in place by the competent authority to follow up on the eradication of the two sites and to investigate some cases of suspicion. The other Member States where the disease has been found also provided a short update. The situation has worsened compared to the date when the emergency measures were voted. Member States and the Commission agreed that possible new elements for discussion, including the outcome of a dedicated EPPO working group held in Israel, should be taken into account for a review of the emergency measures. In the meantime, US has notified to a number of EU Member States their measures against the disease, regulating also fruits. When drafting the emergency measure, the Commission did not have enough information as regard the virus transmission by fruits, as it was not included in the express pest risk assessment prepared by Italy, nor in the information provided by Germany.

During the next committee meeting, the participants will take into account all the possible new elements for discussion.

A.07 Exchange of views on the use and location of sentinel trees for monitoring for *Anoplophora glabripennis* in demarcated areas.

Postponed.

A.08 Outcome of the evaluation procedure of survey programme submitted by Member States for Union financial contribution for 2020: list of the programmes technically approved and provisional amount for each programme.

The Commission presented the preliminary list of the approved programmes with the provisional amount allocated per programme for the Member States participating in the Survey Programme 2020. No comments have been recorded during the PAFF Committee by the Member States. The Commission informed Member States that amounts could be revised in the coming weeks and that the final amounts allocated per Member State will be presented in the PAFF Committee of January 2020.

A.09 Overview by the Commission of the intermediate reports submitted by Member States for 2019 plant health survey programmes.

The Commission presented the outcome of the reallocation exercise in relation to the 2019 survey programmes: the exercise is based on the data provided by Member States by 31 August 2019 (intermediate report as by Regulation (EU) 652/2014). The overview presented to the Member States indicated that a number of Member States (10) inserted additional measures and activities in the intermediate rapport and other reduced their activities. Therefore a redistribution of funds among Member States is needed for the year 2019. This redistribution will reduce the total awarded amount for 2019 survey programmes from 13.105.000 € to 12.743.000 €.

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 Regulation on specific rules concerning the release of plants, plant products and other objects from quarantine stations and confinement facilities pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The draft Regulation was presented by the Commission, highlighting the amendments made since the last working group meeting. The single comment received from a stakeholder was presented. It concerned the time needed to keep plants for seed production under quarantine, plants for which a full cycle of vegetation may not be necessary (Article 4). The draft was presented for vote and accepted by Member States after clarification and text improvement of the requirements laid down in Article 4.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on the arrangements for the presentation of information to passengers arriving from third countries and clients of postal services and certain professional operators concerning the rules for the introduction into the Union of plants, plant products and other objects.

The text was discussed and requests were expressed to ensure clearly that the posters will be presented in the most appropriate locations at points of entry into the EU. This will maximize the awareness of travellers. Therefore, a revised version of the draft Regulation will then be presented for vote at the next meeting of the Committee. Member States were requested to check the text of the poster in their own language before final approval.

Vote Postponed

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.

The Commission presented the revised draft of the proposal. The Committee expressed various views on the proposal and some Member States commented on the absence of provisions following to Article 81 of the Regulation 2016/2031. The Commission will reflect on the comments raised and will submit the proposal for further discussion in the forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/66 as regards post-import checks of plants for planting and unrooted cuttings.

The Commission presented a new version of the draft, addressing certain comments that were made by Member States during the previous discussion. In particular, the Commission presented the system foreseen for the post-import official controls of plants for planting released from the border control posts when in a dormant status. The Commission explained how Article 80 of the Official Control Regulation could be used in order to collect fees for the above-mentioned controls.

The Commission also included in the draft the requirement for a CHED-PP (part one) for plants under Article 73 of the Plant Health Regulation. The requirement is needed to apply the uniform frequency of checks on those plants referred to in Article 5 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/66.

Some Member States expressed concerns on the post import checks included in the draft, because of a possible additional workload for the inspectors.

M.01 Hungarian request for an implementing act listing plants according to article 75(2) of Regulation 2016/2031

Hungary sent a request to the Commission for exempting certain fruits and vegetables from official controls at the border control points. A discussion took place. The Commission will reply in writing.

M.02 *Halyomorpha halys* – letter from Freshfel

The Commission reported about an increasing interest in the press and by growers organisations about damages caused by *Halyomorpha halys* in Italy. The Commission recently received a letter from Freshfel referring to a number of crosscutting issues. The Commission will prepare an answer to the reply and will keep Member States informed thereof.