



WORKING GROUP
ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
Sections *Propagating material and plants of fruit genera and species*

Propagating Material of Ornamental Plants

Vine

1 JULY 2021

SUMMARY

SECTION A Information and/or discussion

1. Discussion on a draft Commission Implementing Directive amending Commission Directive 93/49/EEC and Implementing Directive 2014/98/EU as regards Union regulated non-quarantine pests on propagating material of ornamental plants, fruit propagating material and fruit plants intended for fruit production

The Commission presented the draft Implementing Directive. Several Member States expressed doubts about the application of the concept of pest free areas to Union Regulated non-quarantine pests (RNQPs). The Commission will take this matter up with plant health experts. An exchange of views on the proposed revisions to the measures against *Candidatus* phytoplasma *pyri* took place. Several Member States were in favour of similar measures for *Candidatus* phytoplasma *mali* but the Commission replied that this would need to be assessed by a Working Group. Following Member State comments on the exemption of mother plants from visual inspection, the Commission stated that this issue would be revisited.

2. Discussion on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning the equivalence of fruit propagating material and fruit plants intended for fruit production produced in certain third countries

The Commission presented the draft Implementing Decision. Several Member States stated that the current legal draft is complex and asked the Commission to simplify the legal draft based on the EU equivalence of seed produced in third countries. The Commission promised to look into this. In relation to the import of fruit species classified as high risk plants from third countries, the Commission stated that the third country concerned needs to respect the rules on high risk plants. The

Commission concluded that a new legal draft would be prepared taking account of the comments raised by Member States.

3. Exchange of views on issues in relation to Implementing Directive 2014/98/EU

Member States recognised that the introduction of a harmonised certification scheme for fruit propagating material and fruit plants has provided many benefits but highlighted the need for further improvements to Directive 2014/98/EU. The Dutch and French Member State experts asked to label breeding and selection material moving between companies, to review the RNQPs listed in Directive 2014/98/EU and to allow the use of biomolecular techniques for identifying varieties. In addition, they raised a number of issues concerning the certification scheme namely the certification of seeds, not yet listed varieties and material in the testing phase, the testing of material produced through *in vitro* production and the number of generations allowed for basic material. Several other Member States agreed with the issues raised. The Commission replied that these issues will be addressed in due time.

4. Presentation and exchange of views on the Fruit Reproductive Material Information System (FRUMATIS)

The Commission presented the developments to FRUMATIS and informed that a new version of the information system is expected in the course of 2023. The Commission offered to assist those Member States still having problems with the submission of data to FRUMATIS through bilateral meetings.

5. Exchange of views on the Inception impact assessment concerning the revision of the plant and forest reproductive material legislation.

The Commission presented the Inception impact assessment and informed that the deadline for providing feedback through the Better Regulation Portal is 13 July. Member States welcomed the Inception impact assessment and presented their views on the policy options.

Several Member States emphasised that the current system is working well both for the professional users and for amateur gardeners and stated that there should be no distinction between marketing to professional users and to amateur gardeners. The Commission replied that the Impact assessment would assess the impact of potential changes to the rules on exclusive marketing to amateur gardeners. In addition, several Member States called for an improvement of the coherence between the plant health and the plant reproductive material legislation. Some Member States put forward the need for simplification of the legislation. Some Member States raised concerns about organic production and stressed the need to differentiate between the availability of organic varieties, the production of organic seed and breeding for organic production. In relation to seed conservation networks, Member States stressed the need to distinguish between the activities of seed conservation networks and of producers marketing exclusively to amateur gardeners and expressed concerns about the plant health rules upon exchange of plant reproductive material between farmers and movement of material by seed conservation networks.

The Commission informed that the comments on the Inception impact assessment would be analysed and that a subsequent Impact assessment would be carried out. Several Member States enquired about the timeline for the revision of the legislation. The Commission provided a provisional timeline for carrying out the Impact assessment and informed that a Commission proposal should be adopted by the end of 2022. The Commission reassured participants that Member States and stakeholders would be further consulted throughout the revision process.