



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
SECTION PLANT HEALTH ON
18 – 19 DECEMBER 2014**

Chair: Harry Arijs

A.1. Miscellaneous.

The Commission provided an overview of the outbreaks of harmful organisms reported by the Member States from 21 November to 11 December 2014.

On request of FR, the Commission confirmed the conclusion of the Committee that in cases where protective covering is the preferred option for transporting coniferous wood in third countries prior to export to the EU, the legislation indicates that this needs to be done in a way that ensures that infestation with *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* or its vector cannot occur. This might in practice mean covering on all sides as appropriate.

The Commission reminded the Committee of its request for proposals on possible changes to the commodities and inspection levels referred to in Commission Decision 2013/92/EU concerning wood packaging material originating in China. The Commission requested submission by close of play 9 January 2015 in time for a discussion in the January meeting of the Standing Committee.

The Commission reminded the Member States of the importance of a proper conduct of import plant health inspections for the protection of the Union against emerging plant health risks. FR requested the issue of harmonisation of import inspection practices be discussed in one of the forthcoming meetings of the Committee and committed to prepare a paper for the discussion.

The Commission informed about the recently circulated note to the Chief Plant Health Officers on a new template to be used by the Member States for their reports on pine wood nematode survey results.

As part of the activities of the Commission working group concerning the future listing of harmful organisms of Annex IIAII to Directive 2000/29/EC, the Commission informed that for those organisms qualifying as Union quality pests, and possibly as Protected Zone quarantine pests, the decision to carry out a full Pest Risk Assessment by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) will be taken on the basis of Member States' request for Protected Zone. Furthermore, the Commission invited Member States to consider the possibility to include *Diaporthe vaccinii* and *Eotetranychus lewisi* in the national monitoring programmes for 2015 in order to support EFSA in the preparation of the full Pest Risk Assessment for these two harmful organisms.

A.2. Presentation by the Commission of a technical report from the Annexes Working Group concerning possible amendments of the Annexes to Council Directive 2000/29/EC in relation to *Guignardia citricarpa* (all strains pathogenic to Citrus; *Phyllosticta citricarpa*), followed by an exchange of views.

An initial exchange of views took place. Discussions will continue in a forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

A.3. Presentation by the Commission of a technical report from the Annexes Working Group concerning possible amendments of the Annexes to Council Directive 2000/29/EC in relation to *Xanthomonas campestris* (all strains pathogenic to Citrus), followed by an exchange of views.

An initial exchange of views took place. Discussions will continue in a forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

A.4. Presentation by the Commission of a technical report from the Annexes Working Group concerning a possible inclusion of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* in the Annexes to Council Directive 2000/29/EC, followed by an exchange of views.

An initial exchange of views took place. Discussions will continue in a forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

A.5. Presentation by the Commission of the recommendations from the ad hoc Working Group for the revision of the special requirements in Annex IV to Directive 2000/29/EC for the certified fruit plants regulated by Directive 2008/90/EC, followed by an exchange of views.

An exchange of views took place as regards the draft Commission Implementing Directive concerning the possible amendment of Section II of Part A of Annex IV of the Directive 2000/29/EC as regards the certification scheme of fruit plants. Based on the comments provided by Member States, the Commission will present an updated proposal for a possible opinion in a forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

A.6. Presentation by the Commission on the possibilities to review the listing of harmful organisms regulated under Council Directive 2000/29/EC towards a listing under the Council Directives for the Marketing of Propagating Material, followed by an exchange of views.

An initial exchange of views took place regarding the differences in phytosanitary protection under a plant quarantine regime compared to the plant quality system as regulated under the Marketing Directives. A similar discussion will be organised during a PAFF Committee for Propagating Material.

A.7. Presentation by the Commission of the report of the Working Group meeting of 11-12 December 2014 relating to "Response to emerging risks from import", followed by an exchange of views.

The report focused on 16 third countries with the most worrying level of interceptions, update on the situation and recommendations for further follow-up. The report also proposed some non-regulated vegetables to be monitored by Member States at import into the Union, and to be considered by the Annexes Working Group. The Committee welcomed the report as well as the continued work by the Working Group. The Commission will analyse the report and will inform the Committee on the follow-up in a forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

A.8. Update by the Commission on the activities of the Taskforce for pine wood nematode.

The Commission presented the outcome of the recent meeting of the Commission's Task Force on Pine Wood Nematode organised in Portugal from 24th to 28th November 2014 and the upcoming activities of the Task Force foreseen in 2015 in Portugal and in Spain.

A.9. Overview by the Commission on the main achievements of the Committee in 2014 and exchange of views on the main challenges for 2015.

From the discussion it appeared that the expectations for 2015 will result in a similar heavy workload as in 2014.

B.1. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2012/535/EU as regards the definition of susceptible wood and requirements on actions to be taken in demarcated areas. (B.01_SANCO_12074_2014) (Legal Basis: Article 16(3) of Council Directive 2000/29/EC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure).

The Committee discussed a proposal for a more complete definition of susceptible wood for Pine Wood Nematode and broadening some requirements in the emergency measures to be applicable also to felled healthy trees.

Vote: Favourable opinion.

B.2. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the adoption of the financing decision for the year 2015 for the implementation of Union co-funded programmes for the survey of pests. (B.02_SANCO_12617_2014) (Legal Basis: Article 45(2) of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure)

Based on Regulation (EU) N° 652/2014, the new financial framework in the Food and Feed area, the Decision will establish the framework of the Union plant health financial contribution for 2015 for survey programmes for plant pests, based on an ad hoc work programme of the Commission and dossiers introduced by 30 April 2014 by seventeen Member States, and evaluated by the Commission. Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden are the Member States requesting such support. The total of the envisaged co-financing by the Union amounts to €7, 5 million.

Vote: Favourable opinion.

C.1. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Implementing Decision as regards measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Motschulsky). (C.01_SANCO_12753_2014) (Legal Basis: Article 16(3) of Council Directive 2000/29/EC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure)

It was concluded that an updated version shall be discussed during a forthcoming meeting of the Committee following the submission of further comments in writing from Member States by early January 2015.