



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED  
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 18 JUNE 2018 - 19 JUNE 2018  
(Section *Plant Health*)**

**CIRCABC Link:** <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/ed6da94a-3f68-4966-9549-976e8d977c86>

**A.01 Evaluation of recent import interceptions with harmful organisms by Member States and the need for further actions, including the recent finding of *Ralstonia solanacearum* in Egyptian potatoes.**

The Commission presented an overview of the interceptions from 16 May to 13 June 2018. The Commission highlighted the first interception of citrus black spot on lemons from Brazil and one interception of citrus canker on limes from Brazil, the seven interceptions of false codling moth, six on cut roses and one on peppers, the interceptions of fruit flies, *Bemisia tabaci*, *thrips* and *leafminers*, the interceptions for *Spodoptera* sp. and the continuing interceptions of wood packaging material, the majority of which were marked compatible to ISPM15 standard.

A Member State informed about an interception of *Thaumtopoea processionea* and indicated that current import requirements are not effective due to the absence of Annex IVB requirements. They highlighted that temporary measures (at EU or national level) are considered necessary until Annex IV requirements are in place. Detailed information and proposals for such measures will be submitted to the Commission.

The Commission informed about the bilateral contacts with South Africa, including the issue of citrus black spot in light of the 2018 export season for which the Commission highlighted the importance of the proper implementation of the action plan for citrus black spot and that this situation cannot be repeated this year.

The Commission presented the latest information regarding the pest status of Australia for citrus canker, in the light of the recent findings of the pest in that country. The Commission explained that the situation will be clarified as soon as possible with Australia. In the meantime, the existing official statement of Australia remains applicable.

The Commission informed that a letter was sent to Guatemala to remind its obligation to communicate to the Commission the respective options under Directive (EU) 2017/1279 applicable to their country, following a request for import of citrus fruits. The Commission reminded Member States that until the communication is received, consignments from Guatemala (or from any other country that has not communicated to the Commission the respective applicable options) that fall under the provisions of the Directive cannot be accepted.

In a letter dated 21 May 2018, the Polish Authorities reported and analysed four interceptions of potatoes infested by *Ralstonia solanacearum* and originating from Egypt (three in 2018 and one in 2017).

The Commission asked the Member States concerned by these and other recent interceptions of potatoes infested by *R. solanacearum* and originating from Egypt to provide clarifications and additional information, particularly about the traceability of the phytosanitary controls, either at the points of entry and during internal movements. Furthermore, after the transmission of the annual reports by Member States by 31 August 2018, as provided in Article 2(1) of the Decision, the Commission will obtain a more complete overview of the potato trade with Egypt and of the related infestations by *R. solanacearum*.

The Commission will contact the Egyptian national competent authorities to discuss about the export checks efficiency and about the basins and pivots to be prohibited for exportations. The Commission asked the Member States to provide proposals about the number of tubers that should be sampled and analysed to be statistically more representative of the *R. solanacearum* infestations. The strategy and the type of control applied to the potato import from Egypt will be reconsidered, especially regarding possible latent infestations.

#### **A.02 Evaluation of recent outbreaks of harmful organisms notified by Member States and of the control actions taken, including update on the state of play of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Spain, France and Italy.**

A brief overview of the outbreaks notified by Member States for the period of 16 May to 7 June 2018 was presented by the Commission. France gave information on the recent outbreak of *Neonectria neomacrospora* in their territory, a non-regulated harmful organism that is known to affect *Abies* sp. trees in the northern part of Europe. With this finding the number of EU countries where the pest is found is increasing. Italy presented the state of art of the outbreaks and eradication measures taken for *Meloidogyne graminicola* and *Heterodera elachista*, both harmful organisms currently not-regulated in the EU and affecting cereals. Latvia presented the outbreak of *Brenneria goodwinii* in *Quercus* sp. which is a non-regulated organism as well.

An update about the state of play of *Xylella fastidiosa* was provided by Italy, France and Spain. More specifically, Italy informed about the outcome of the survey activities carried out in the current demarcated area in Apulia, as well as in the rest of the Apulian territory. Based on almost 200.000 samples analysed between July 2017 and April 2018, 3.803 infected trees have been detected in the current 20 km infected zone adjacent to the buffer zone of which 408 trees removed, while 19 infected trees in the buffer zone, of which 15 removed. France informed that at the present time outbreaks of *Xylella fastidiosa* in PACA region are mainly concentrated in three main areas of the region, where 67 demarcated areas have been established. Over 17.000 plants have been removed so far, while survey activities are ongoing. Movement controls carried out in ports in Corsica and in garden centres were presented. Spain informed that no further findings have been reported in the nursery of Almeria since 3 infected *Polygala myrtifolia* were intercepted in April 2018. No demarcated area has been established, although all specified plants have been destroyed and survey activities are ongoing as required by EU Decision for these kind of findings. Tracing activities are ongoing to confirm the origin of the infection. As regards the outbreak in

Madrid, Spain confirmed that only one olive tree was found infected to *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex*; all host plants, with the exception of 3 almond trees, located in the 100 m radius have been removed and survey activities are ongoing in the surrounding area. In Alicante, the current demarcated area (87.814 hectares) remains under close monitoring, with removal of all almond plants, treatment against the insect vector and survey activities ongoing. Based on more than 7.000 samples collected since the first outbreak (June 2017), more than 4.800 almonds have been found infected. More than 10.600 almond trees have been removed.

**A.03 EFSA newsletter on horizon scanning for new and emerging plant health risks.**

EFSA presented the fifteenth pilot edition of the newsletter. Highlights from the media were reported mainly on *Spodoptera frugiperda*, *Xanthomomas citri* pv *citri* and *Xylella fastidiosa*. For the harmful organisms not listed in the EU legislation, there was a report from the media on *Solenopsis invicta*, the red fire ant, and its pest status in Australia. The pest is known as a threat to public and animal health. Additionally, it attacks a variety of plant species.

**A.04 Presentation by Italy of the updated situation of the *Anoplophora chinensis* outbreak in Tuscany.**

Italy presented in great detail the eradication efforts in Tuscany in relation to the 2017 outbreak of *Anoplophora chinensis*. Official measures were taken in accordance with Commission Implementing Decision 2012/138/EU, including delimitation and ban of movement of host plants from the demarcated area. Several thousands of infested and non-infested host plants have been destroyed by the competent authorities. Official measures cover nurseries and private gardens. Intense monitoring and surveillance continues this year to ensure eradication of the outbreak in this region. It has been established that this outbreak is not related to previous Italian outbreaks of this pest.

**A.05 Presentation by Portugal on the action plan against *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* in the fire affected areas of the buffer zone, in line with Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/618 amending Implementing Decision 2012/535/EC.**

The Portuguese Authorities, in line with point 3(b) of Annex II of Decision 2012/535/EU, presented an action plan for the removal of fire affected plants located in the buffer zone, along the Spanish border, to prevent introduction of pine wood nematode from the infected zone into the buffer zone and into the rest of the Union territory. The action plan will be updated on the basis of new developments and Member States informed accordingly. Given the amount of fire affected trees to be removed (4.7 times more than the pine industry consumes in a year), priority areas and risk maps were provided which would help the Authorities to prioritise resources and actions on the ground.

**A.06 Exchange of views on the notifications of import interceptions from personal luggage and postal shipments.**

The Committee discussed the issue of notifications of import interceptions from personal luggage and postal shipments, in particular the controls and the notifications of interceptions in EUROPHYT. All Member States who intervened perform controls. Different approaches were noticed in the notification of interceptions in EUROPHYT, with some Member States notifying all interceptions while other notifying only those for harmful organisms. The high numbers of interceptions and the difficulty to handle them via EUROPHYT were highlighted and the need for a simplified procedure was raised. The Commission highlighted the pending changes introduced by the new Plant Health Law which will affect the plant health status of passengers' luggage and postal consignments and will require harmonisation, and took note of the need for a simplified procedure. In the same context the Commission requested Member States to reflect on the need for small quantity passenger concessions.

**A.07 Results of the Commission Working Group meeting on the revision of the Annexes to Directive 2000/29/EC concerning the specific measures against *Atropellis* spp. and *Polygraphus proximus*.**

Postponed.

**A.08 Overview report of imports and inspection results of bonsai plants of *Chamaecyparis*, *Juniperus* and *Pinus* originating in Japan and Korea (Commission Decision 2002/887/EC and Decision 2002/499/EC).**

Postponed.

**B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision extending the period of validity of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/204 authorising Member States to provide for a temporary derogation from certain provisions of Council Directive 2000/29/EC in respect of ash wood originating or processed in the United States of America.**

The discussion focused on the draft of a decision which will replace Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/204 on the system approach of ash wood produced in US and intended to be imported into the EU. Member States provided their suggestions and comments to the above mentioned text and the Commission took note of the expressed positions including the new wording in the draft.

The vote on this measure was postponed and is expected to take place in July.

**Vote Postponed**

**C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2013/92/EU on the supervision, plant health checks and measures to be taken on wood packaging material actually in use in the transport of specified commodities originating in China.**

The Commission presented a draft Implementing Decision on import controls on wood packaging material, which will replace the current emergency measures expiring the 31th of July 2018 (Decision 2013/92/EU). The suggested approach will be to regulate more commodities than the current ones from other origins beside China. Member States actively contributed to the discussion in defining the critical points of phytosanitary checks of this material and suggested possible options and improvements of the text.

The Commission will present a new draft for a possible vote in July.

**C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down rules on uniform practical arrangements for the performance of official controls for internal movement.**

The Commission presented a draft implementing act to be adopted under the empowerment of Article 22 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on the official controls of the food chain.

Member States provided further suggestions to the draft already discussed in the previous Committee and their views on the minimum number of official controls to be performed on professional operators and before movements from a demarcated area. The Commission provided a timeline for the planned work within the Official Control Regulation and the scheduled stakeholder consultation.

An updated draft of the empowerment of Article 22 will be discussed in July.

**C.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Directive amending Annexes I to V of Council Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community.**

The Commission discussed with Member States the content and the timeframe of the next package of the amendment of the Annexes of Directive 2000/29/EC. A number of new harmful organisms are proposed for listing as regulated pests together with new import and internal movement requirements. Current import and internal movement requirements will be revised based on recent pest risk assessments.