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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 Commission presented the interceptions for the period between 25 January and 22 February 2021 as well as follow-up actions on notified non-compliances. The Commission highlighted the two interceptions of *Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus* (ToBRFV) on tomato seeds from China. The Committee also discussed the interceptions of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Persea americana* from Cameroon, *Annona muricata* from Togo, and *Rosa* from Kenya, Uganda and Zambia, the interceptions of *Spodoptera frugiperda* on asparagus from Peru, and *Xanthosoma* from Suriname and the interception of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on pomelos from China. It was agreed to keep monitoring the development of the relevant interceptions.

Regarding the follow-up actions, the Commission informed about the video conference with China on ToBRFV interceptions, and the citrus interceptions including the letter sent to China about those interceptions. The Commission also updated the Committee on the audits for the period as well as the upcoming ones.

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

The Commission presented the overview of the outbreaks notified by the Member States in the period from 25 January 2021 to 25 February 2021.

Germany gave information on the recent finding of *Euwallacea fornicatus*, a pest which is currently not included in the list of quarantine pests in Annex II of Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072. The pest was found in a greenhouse and the outbreak is under eradication.

Exchanges on outbreaks of pests affecting potato cultivation and Members States' past and current efforts, have continued. Belgium and Spain provided an update regarding *Ralstonia solanacearum* and *Epitrix papa*, respectively.

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 February 2021 were disseminated to Member States.

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

The Commission informed about the ongoing internal discussion on the issue. The Committee will be kept informed on any future developments.

A.05 Evaluation of the 2020 citrus fruit import season and review of Decision (EU) 2016/715 on citrus black spot measures for the import of citrus fruit originating in Argentina, Brazil, South Africa and Uruguay.

The Commission presented an overview of the 2020 citrus export season followed by a discussion with the Member States. With regard to Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/715 on measures against *Phyllosticta citricarpa*, the Committee discussed the way forward for the imports of citrus fruit from Argentina. Based on the information submitted by Argentina in the framework of a recent Commission audit the Committee agreed that the ban on lemons and oranges originating in Argentina should not be prolonged. However, the import requirements should be strengthened so as to provide further reassurances for the imports of the citrus fruits originating in Argentina to the Union, already starting in the 2021 export season. For citrus fruits originating in Brazil, South Africa and Uruguay the Committee agreed that the current measures in place should remain.

With regard to citrus fruits originating in South Africa and Israel, in relation to the issue of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*, the Committee agreed to wait for the assessment currently carried out by the European Food Safety Authority on the systems approaches applied by those two countries, before discussing on the way forward.

With regard to citrus fruit originating in Argentina, in relation to the issue of *Xanthomonas citri* *pv.* *citri*, the Committee agreed to monitor closely the upcoming export season and to discuss again in case of need for additional measures.

With regard to citrus imported from China, the Committee agreed to monitor closely the evolution of the interceptions of *Bactrocera* and *Resseliella citrifrugis*, prioritise the assessment of the latter and discuss again in case further action is needed.

A.06 Provisional findings of the Commission audit carried out from 8 to 19 February 2021 to evaluate Argentina's system of official controls and certification of citrus fruits for export to the EU.

The Commission presented the preliminary findings of the audit carried out remotely between 8 and 19 February on the citrus export certification system of Argentina. Member States found the actions taken by Argentina appropriate but considered that some problems persist. Member States considered it important to be able to assess if Argentina is ready to export in the 2021 season and welcomed the information that the Commission shared with them.

A.07 State of play of the renewal of declarations from third countries about the pest status of *Xylella fastidiosa* in their territory.

The Commission presented the state of play of the declarations received from third countries, informing about the bilateral exchanges intercurrent with those not complying with Article 28 of Regulation 2020/1201. The Commission also presented the changes made as regards the dedicated webpage of DG SANTE. Member States had specific questions on Japan, Brazil and some recently received declarations of pest freedom. The Commission informed about the acceptance of pest free production sites from Uganda and suggested the same way forward for Ethiopia and Tanzania, while waiting for the completion of surveys for the declaration of freedom of the whole countries.

It was agreed to remove Brazil from the section of pest free production sites on the webpage, while waiting for its reaction to the letter of the Commission.

It was also agreed that any removal of declarations from the webpage would have an effect on trade after one week time.

A.08 Exchange of views on import requirements for *Ficus carica* plants for planting originating in Israel in relation to a possible amendment of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019.

The Commission presented the main conclusions of the scientific opinion by the European Food Safety Authority on the commodity risk assessment of *Ficus carica*. The Committee held a first exchange of views on the potential mitigation measures of the pests identified in the opinion as pests of concern for the EU. Member States were asked to submit written comments by 10 March 2021.

A.09 Exchange of views on containment measures for *Pomacea* under Article 28.2 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The Committee was informed that no containment measure would be prepared for this pest. Spain, the only Member State where the pest is known to be present has informed the Commission of its intention to continue applying eradication measures against this pest.

A.10 Overview of the 2020 survey results for longhorn beetles in the EU.

The Commission presented an overview of the Member State's surveys carried out in 2019/2020 in order to detect possible presence of *Anoplophora chinensis*, *Anoplophora glabripennis* and *Aromia bungii*. The number of visual inspections has increased compared to 2018/2019. There were new findings in Italy and Germany, which led to eradication actions, however both Member States had also been able to close certain old outbreaks. Since 1 January 2020 until 16 February 2021, two interceptions concerning regulated longhorn beetles were notified, coming from China and Japan.

A.11 State of play of the management of *Anoplophora chinensis* and *Anoplophora glabripennis* outbreaks in the EU.

Member States with major outbreaks of longhorn beetles in the EU updated on their management. Following rigorous application of the EU measures in force by Italy, Finland, Austria and Germany, *Anoplophora glabripennis* has been declared eradicated in several cases after four consecutive years with no findings. The current

practice of management of these outbreaks was discussed with a view of possible amendment of the existing measures.

A.12 Exchange of views on amendment of the EU measures for *Anoplophora chinensis*.

The Committee exchanged views on a possible amendment of the EU measures for *Anoplophora chinensis*. Written comments are expected from Member States by 15 March 2021.

A.13 Exchange of views on the import requirements related to *Agrilus planipennis*.

Following recent finding of *Agrilus planipennis* closer to the EU borders, the Committee exchanged views on possible stricter measures against the introduction of this priority pest from third countries where it is known to be present.

A.14 State of play of the draft Work programme for years 2021 and 2022 for the plant health part of the Single Market Programme Regulation.

The Commission presented an overview of the new legal basis and the state of play of the work programme regarding food chain activities for 2021 and 2022. The legal basis is currently under review by the EP and the Council and is expected to be adopted during Spring 2021. The work programme can be voted and adopted as soon as the legal basis is adopted.

Figures regarding the food chain activities for the next 7 years were presented, as well as the allocation of the budget for 2021-2022 for the several areas covered (Plant Health, Veterinary Programme, EURLs/EURCs, Emergency measures, etc.).

Some Member States raised concerns about the limited budget allocated to the Emergency measures (covering plant pests and animal diseases). It was reminded that the emergency measures budget in plant health area only covers the first year of an outbreak, and that as from the second year onwards, the expenses will be covered by the relevant programme (Plant Health). It was also highlighted that, under the Multi-annual Financial Framework, special instruments such as the Emergency Aid Reserve will constitute a special provision in budgetary terms in the general budget of the Union to address additional financial resources in case needed to address all kinds of big crises.

The Commission also presented the latest version of the Phytosanitary Programmes, comprising prioritisation of groups of pests and measures, on the basis of which the budget is intended to be distributed. In case of insufficient budget, some groups/measures might not be co-funded. As regards the technical reporting, it will follow the current structure (templates in Regulation (EU) 2020/1231 for the surveys and the information currently required for the assessment of eradication/containment applications). The adapted IT-tool will be available within the next 2 months for testing and Guidelines for the applicants will be provided. The Commission took note of the concerns of some Member States and will explore the possibility to start the testing sooner.

As regards the financial reporting, DG SANTE supported by JRC, finalised the new unit cost methodology for the visual examination and sampling activities. It has been presented in previous PAFF committees.

Finally, applications for co-funding of emergency measures received for the year 2020 will be evaluated in the second semester of 2021.

A.15 Exchange of views on phytosanitary aspects of EU-UK trade as of 1 January 2021 onwards.

The Commission presented the state of play of the ongoing files. The European Parliament and the Council have in principle accepted its proposal to grant equivalence to the UK/GB concerning agricultural seeds and forest reproductive material. The precise timeline still needs to be determined. Some of the plants concerned by those proposals, namely forest trees, are listed as high risk plants pursuant to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019, but the UK has not submitted any dossier yet for their full risk assessment.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible technical 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.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a temporary derogation from Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 concerning the introduction into the Union of plants for planting *Fragaria* L. from Chile.

An exchange of views took place following which the Commission informed that an amended version would shortly be made available. Member States were asked to submit written comments by 10 March 2021. The Commission aims to adopt the text by May 2021.