



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Brussels,  
sante.ddg2.g.dir(2015)592417

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED  
SECTION PLANT HEALTH ON  
19 – 20 JANUARY 2015**

Chair: Harry Arijs

**A.1. Miscellaneous.**

The Commission provided an overview of the outbreaks of harmful organisms reported by the Member States from 12 December 2014 to 15 January 2015.

The Commission reminded the Committee of its recently (Friday, 16 January) distributed letter inviting COPHS to nominate experts to the forthcoming meeting of the Commission's Expert Working Group on monitoring programmes in 2016. The meeting is scheduled for 19-20 February 2015.

The Commission informed the Committee that, as a consequence of the new name and abbreviation of DG SANTE, the functional mailboxes were also modified. The functional email address of the Plant Health Unit, for example, now reads: [SANTE-E2-HARMFUL-ORGANISMS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:SANTE-E2-HARMFUL-ORGANISMS@ec.europa.eu).

Concerning the recent interceptions of the regulated harmful organism *Xylella fastidiosa* in ornamental *Coffea* L. plants originating in Costa Rica and Honduras, the Commission informed the Member States that it will send letters to those countries expressing deep concern for these interceptions and requesting that appropriate pre-export measures are put in place to certify that all plants to be exported to the EU are free of *X. fastidiosa*.

The Commission clarified that a heat treatment certificate instead of a phytosanitary certificate under the provisions of Commission Decisions 93/363/EEC, 93/422/EEC and 93/423/EEC for the import of coniferous wood originating in Canada and the United States of America cannot provide for additional declarations. In cases where such declarations are needed, a normal phytosanitary certificate needs to be issued.

- A.2. Presentation by the Commission of an overview report of the Member States plant health checks carried out on imported citrus fruit**
- from South Africa in accordance with Commission Decision 2014/422/EC
  - from Brazil in accordance with Commission Decision 2004/416/EC
  - and a global overview on citrus fruit import interceptions in 2014, followed by an exchange of views.

The Commission presented the results of the import of citrus fruit from Brazil and South Africa. The number of interceptions due to the presence of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* was analysed. Further discussions for the 2015 import season will take place in a forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

- A.3. Presentation by the Commission of the conclusions of an audit carried out by the Food and Veterinary Office in Italy from 18 to 25 November 2014 in order to evaluate the situation and official controls for *Xylella fastidiosa*, followed by an exchange of views.**

As part of the conclusions, it was highlighted that extensive human and financial resources have been made available for research and containment of this pest. The situation has deteriorated since the last audit and the pest continues to spread rapidly. The current Italian policy for the Infected Zone is now containment of the pest and, contrary to the EU Decision, measures aiming at full eradication are not carried out. Movement restrictions and controls in place do not provide adequate security that no infected plants leave the area. There is a significant risk of further spreading of *X. fastidiosa* outside the Demarcated Area. The Committee concluded that current EU emergency measures now have to be reviewed on the basis of this FVO audit and the EFSA opinion. It was agreed to set up a Working Group for this purpose.

- A.4. Presentation by the European Food Safety Authority of the Scientific Opinion on the risks to plant health posed by *Xylella fastidiosa* in the EU territory, with the identification and evaluation of risk reduction options, followed by an exchange of views.**

The European Food Safety Authority presented the Scientific Opinion on the risks to plant health posed by *Xylella fastidiosa* in the EU territory, including the identification and evaluation of risk reduction options. It was highlighted that the pest has a very broad host range, including many common cultivated and wild plants. All xylem fluid-feeding insects in Europe are considered to be potential vectors. *Philaenus spumarius*, a polyphagous spittlebug widespread in the whole risk assessment area, has been identified as a vector in Apulia. The probability of entry of *X. fastidiosa* from countries where this pest is reported is very high with plants for planting and moderate with infectious insect vectors carried with plant commodities or travelling as stowaways. Establishment and spread in the EU is very likely with major consequences.

- A.5. Presentation by Italy of the official measures in place against *Xylella fastidiosa* in Italy.**

Italy presented the official measures being taken against *Xylella fastidiosa* in Apulia region and in the rest of their territory. The current research activities were also presented in regard to detection protocols, biology and pathogenicity of the strain of *X. fastidiosa* identified in Apulia, as well as identification of potential vectors and host plants.

**A.6. Presentation by Ireland and United Kingdom of the presence of *Hymenoscyphus pseudoalbidus* (*Chalara fraxinea*) in their territories and the measures applied, followed by an exchange of views on the quarantine status of the fungus in the Union.**

Ireland and the United Kingdom presented an update of the situation in regard to the presence of *Hymenoscyphus pseudoalbidus* (*Chalara fraxinea*) in their territories and the measures being taken. Ireland will continue with its national survey and follow a policy of eradication where infected trees are identified before consideration will be given to applying for Protected Zone status. The UK concluded that survey evidence is sufficiently certain to conclude that only parts of the UK currently meet the criteria for protected zone status. The UK will continue its survey efforts for one more year to determine whether consideration can be given to applying for protected zone status for Northern Ireland. The Committee concluded that the national measures in place in Ireland and Northern Ireland can remain in place while survey efforts continue in these territories but the UK national measures in place for Great Britain should be revoked as the fungus is considered as established in mainland Great Britain.

**A.7. Presentation by the Commission of the report and the recommendations of the Commission working group meeting of 16-17 December 2014 concerning the listing of harmful organisms of Annex II A II to Directive 2000/29/EC, followed by an exchange of views.**

The Commission presented for exchange of views the recommendations prepared by the working group and further activities foreseen as regards *Scirtothrips dorsalis*, Grapevine Flavescence dorée, *Ragoletis ribicola*, *Ceratocystis platani*, and *Radopholus similis*. The Committee suggested to include *Radopholus similis* in the 2015 monitoring programme carried out at Member State level.

**A.8. Presentation by the Commission of the template of the grant decision approving survey programmes and associated funding.**

The Commission presented the details of Regulation (EU) N° 652/2014 ("the Food and Feed financial Regulation"), as regards co-financing of measures in the plant health area. It explained the workflow of EU funding for those measures and presented the main elements of a template of grant Decision for the co-financing for programmes for the surveys of plant pests to be implemented by Member States (17 of them) in 2015.

**B.1. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2014/237/EU on measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of harmful organisms as regards certain fruits and vegetables originating in India. (B.01\_SANCO\_12816\_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 to lift the import ban of plants other than seeds of *Mangifera* L. originating in India. The prohibition of the other banned commodities will be reviewed at a later stage.

**Vote: Favourable opinion.**

- C.1. Exchange of views of the Committee 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 final comments could be submitted in writing within a week ahead of an updated proposal being presented for a possible opinion at a forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

- C.2. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2013/92/EU as regards its period of application and as regards the specified commodities originating in China.** (C.02\_SANCO\_12847\_2014) (Legal Basis: Article 16(3) of Council Directive 2000/29/EC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure)

The Commission presented a draft proposal amending Decision 2013/92/EU, so that its period of application is extended for a further two years to end in March 2017 and more commodities will be subject to plant health import checks at a minimum frequency. An updated proposal will be presented for a possible opinion at the next meeting of the Committee.