



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 11 OCTOBER 2018 - 12 OCTOBER 2018
(Section *Plant Health*)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/9a92d2da-6aa7-4545-bda5-59d6ba3f5b77>

A.01 Evaluation of recent import interceptions with harmful organisms by Member States and the need for further actions, including citrus from Argentina.

The Commission presented an overview of the interceptions from 4 September to 4 October 2018. The Commission highlighted the interceptions of citrus fruits for citrus black spot (CBS, *Phyllosticta citricarpa*) on oranges from Argentina and Brazil and informed that both countries have communicated to the Commission their decision to suspend the export of citrus fruits for the current season. Member States asked about the cause of the high number of interceptions in 2018. The Commission informed that a specific discussion on citrus black spot will be scheduled in a near future to discuss the prolongation of the emergency measure that will expire in March 2019.

The Commission highlighted the interceptions of false codling moth (FCM, *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*), informed that these are being closely monitored and that letters have been sent to different third countries due to the recurrent interceptions on this pest. The Commission reminded that this is the first year this pest is regulated and a complete analysis of the interceptions of FCM will be carried out by the end of the year.

Belgium informed that three olive plants were recently found infected with *Xylella fastidiosa* at a Belgium wholesaler, originating in two different nurseries of Alicante (Spain), outside the current demarcated area. Investigations carried out so far have not detected any additional findings neither in the Spanish nurseries nor in the Belgian site. Trade is temporarily suspended while waiting to conclude the survey and traceability activities. The Commission stressed the importance of implementing current movement requirements to all host plants found infected in the Union territory and grown outside demarcated areas, consisting in intensive sampling and testing, to ensure safe trade in the Union territory.

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

A brief overview of the outbreaks notified by Member States for the period of 4 September to 4 October 2018 was presented by the Commission. Italy gave detailed information on the outbreaks of *Anoplophora glabripennis*.

Italy presented the new demarcated area expanded towards the north of the Apulia region by around 20 km, as required by the latest amendment of Decision (EU) 2015/789 on *Xylella*. Italy also informed that the action plan to be implemented between 2018 and 2019, including a new survey plan, was currently being adopted.

France informed that surveys and eradication activities on *Xylella* were currently being taken in the different demarcated areas established in the PACA region. Details about the movement restrictions on specified plants grown within the demarcated areas of PACA and Corsica were presented, together with the communication activities towards public and operators about the risk posed by *Xylella fastidiosa*.

Spain presented the state of play of surveys and felling activities carried out in Alicante. The Committee was informed that on top of almond plants, other six host plants were found infected by *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* such as rosemary, *Polygala myrtifolia* and other wild plants. As regards the demarcated area in Madrid, survey activities are ongoing but no further findings have been reported so far following the removal of all host plants in the 100 m radius around the infected olive trees.

A.03 EFSA newsletters on horizon scanning of media and literature for new and emerging plant health risks; state of play of the ranking methodology for unregulated harmful organisms.

EFSA presented the 18th and 19th pilot edition of the newsletter. Highlights from the media were reported mainly on *Agrilus planipennis*, *Anoplophora glabripennis*, *Lycorma delicatula*, *Spodoptera frugiperda* and *Phyllosticta citricarpa* in relation to their worldwide distribution. Focus was given on reports of new findings.

For the harmful organisms not listed in the EU legislation, there was a report from the media on soybean gall midge found in USA, *Cylindrocarpon* sp. which was a so far unknown fungus recently identified causing damages to *Vitis* in southern parts of Spain. Additionally, *Liberomyces pistaciae* sp. nov has recently been identified by a research group as the causal agent of an unknown disease of pistachio in Italy.

A.04 Presentation by the Commission on the findings of the audit from 4 to 15 June 2018 in Canada to evaluate the system of official controls of wood intended for export to the European Union.

The Commission presented the results of the audit carried out in Canada on the certification system of different kinds of wood. Particular attention was given to ash wood export and to the systems approach for guaranteeing freedom from *Agrilus planipennis* (emerald ash borer).

Some delegates requested to review the derogation on coniferous wood which is technically outdated. The presentation was well received and possible comments from Member States are expected.

A.05 Exchange of views on a possible prolongation of Decision (EU) 2016/412 relating to the derogation for import requirements for ash wood from Canada.

The outcome of the audit in Canada was taken into consideration for a discussion on the possibility to extend the current derogation of the ash wood systems approach for export to the EU. The Commission will present a text for Member States' consideration where some improvements could be included compared to Decision (EU) 2016/412. Given the approaching expiration date of the Decision mentioned above, the Commission informed about the timeline to be respected.

A.06 Exchange of views on the review of the special requirements against the introduction of *Agrilus planipennis* in relation to the import of some wood species including *Fraxinus*.

Taking into account the outcomes of the two recent audits in Canada and the United States of America, the Commission has decided to take action regarding the import requirements currently allowed under the basic Council Directive 2000/29/EC.

The Commission presented a draft for an emergency measure banning the use of option b) of point 2.3 of Annex IV of Directive 2000/29/EC for Canada and US regarding the wood of plants susceptible of *Agrilus planipennis* (emerald ash borer). There was a general support for this act and many inputs were received for the review of the Annexes of Directive 2000/29/EC foreseen for the beginning of next year.

A.07 Continued exchange of views and possible approval of the minimum reduced frequencies of import inspections for 2019.

Following the Commission's presentation in the previous meeting of the draft for the reduced frequencies of import inspections of specified commodity/origin trades in 2019, the Committee continued its discussion on the draft. Several Member States requested more fruit commodities be added amongst the newly introduced trades with the general reduction of the inspection frequencies, in parallel to the ongoing revision of the Annexes to Directive 2000/29/EC. While the Committee agreed on 5% as a starting level of physical checks for these commodities, the discussion on the issue of documentary checks for these newly added fruit trades was not concluded and the Commission indicated it would need further reflection on it. The issue of commodities related to the recently adopted emergency measures for fall army worm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) was also discussed: it was agreed to raise the frequency of physical checks to the standard 100% only as of 1 January 2019 (due to feasibility issues); and with regard to trade of peppers from Morocco, some Member States requested more time for reflection. Also an issue with interceptions in 2018 of fruit flies in mangoes from Brazil was highlighted and the Commission promised to look into it. The discussion will continue in the next meeting of the Committee.

A.08 Communication from Croatia on their national measures against *Corythuca arcuata* and movements of oak logs.

Croatia presented the results of a study carried out to evaluate the efficacy of national measures in limiting the spread of the pest *Corythuca arcuata* on oak forests. During the exchange of views concerns were expressed about the efficacy of the measures to allow a real eradication – or at least containment – objective. Moreover some of the other affected Member States would not support emergency measures. As a conclusion the Commission requested Croatia to withdraw the national decree that is limiting movement and trade of oak logs. An official letter will be sent to the HR competent authority.

A.09 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).

The Commission presented an overview of the 2016-2017 imports and inspection results of the above mentioned bonsai plants, imported from Japan and Korea as derogation from the existing ban under Directive 2000/29/EC. It was concluded that the situation is stable and there is no need for revision of the current derogations, valid until the end of 2020.

A.10 Request from Gambia to be recognized as being free from *Candidatus Liberibacter* spp.

The Commission presented a request received from Gambia to be recognised as free from *Candidatus liberibacter* spp. The Commission informed that this is one of the few examples where the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed, Section Plant Health has to recognise a country as being free from a pest (Article 18(2) Directive 2000/29/EC). Member States briefly discussed the draft and requested some more time to be able to fully analyse it before taking any position. The request will be discussed again before an official position is taken.

A.11 Structure of a draft Implementing Regulation ('Phytosanitary Conditions Regulation'), including the lists of quarantine pests, RNQPs, regulated commodities and import and movement requirements.

The Commission presented the draft of the Implementing Regulation ('Phytosanitary Conditions Regulation'), pointing out its structure. The Commission explained that this is an initial draft, including only the 10 Annexes listing the pests and commodities and that the remaining 3 Annexes on the measures will be discussed at a later stage in November. The Commission briefly discussed the content of the lists of pests, gathering the first comments from the Member States. It also informed the Committee of the timeline for the development of the draft.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down specific rules concerning the procedure to be followed in order to carry out the risk assessment of high risk plants, plant products and other objects within the meaning of Article 42(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

The Commission presented the draft Implementing Regulation laying down the specific rules concerning the procedure to be followed in order to carry out the risk assessment of high risk plants, plant products and other objects within the meaning of article 42(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031. The Commission informed that the next step is the publication of the draft in the Better Regulation Portal for 4-weeks consultation with stakeholders.

Vote Postponed

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission 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.

An updated draft text based on comments received by the Member States has been presented by the Commission. The additional requirements for import of fruits have been further refined. The comments from the delegations were discussed. It is anticipated that upon completion of the internal procedures that the text will appear for stakeholder consultation at the Better Regulation Portal.