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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 09 NOVEMBER 2018
(Section *Plant Health*)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/f2b0521a-33bd-4786-b2ee-39435996026f>

A.01 Overview of Member States reports on the import and inspection of Egyptian potatoes during the previous import season, in line with Decision 2011/787/EU.

Since the Standing Committee meeting of July 2018, Member States and the Egyptian Authorities have provided additional information on the interceptions of Egyptian potatoes contaminated by *Ralstonia solanacearum*. The Commission will contact the Egyptian authorities to clarify the control checks and the delisting of contaminated basins, at least the one from which two consignments were tested positively by Member States. The Commission clarified that testing at import (Point 5.1 of the Annex of the Decision) refers to the sector as well as to the basins from which potatoes should be tested; it can be implemented in the most appropriate way.

A.02 Conclusion on the need to prolong Decision 2013/413/EU (derogation from the import prohibition for potatoes from Lebanon).

Since the Commission Implementing Decision 2015/2057/EU, extending the derogation from the import prohibitions for potatoes from Lebanon as provided in Decision 2013/413/EU, no imports of Lebanese potatoes were recorded into EU in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

No interest was expressed to prolong the Decision 2013/413/EU. It was concluded that in case of a renewal request of the derogation, the submission of a new dossier by Lebanon would be needed.

A.03 Exchange of views on the elements of the future Commission Implementing Regulation on plant passports related to provisions of Articles 81 and 83 of Regulation (EU) No. 2016/2031.

The Commission presented a draft non-paper outlining possible provisions of the future implementing act. The Committee provided divergent comments. Member States were invited to submit written comments to the Commission by the end of November.

A.04 Exchange of views on the revision of the special requirements against Grapevine Flavescence dorée on plants of *Vitis* (Annex IV A II point 17 to Directive 2000/29/EC).

The future listing of Grapevine Flavescence dorée (FDp) has been discussed, in view of the new plant health regime i.e. as a union quarantine pest or a regulated non-quarantine pest. Emphasis was put on the current practices in the various Member States where the harmful organism is present and the importance of this agricultural sector. The role of the vector in the spread of this disease was also elaborated. It was decided that the Commission will look into the possibility of drafting additional control measures for FDp that will offer an EU-wide approach to eradication/containment of FDp and take into account the current state of art in the various Member States.

A.05 Presentation of the report of the Commission audit carried out in Israel from 6 to 15 March 2018 in order to evaluate the system of official controls for the export of plants and plant products to the European Union, followed by an exchange of views.

The Commission presented the results of the audit carried out in Israel from 6 to 15 March 2018. The audit resulted in 5 recommendations on the frequency of inspection of places of production of plants for planting in relation with *Bemisia tabaci*, sampling practice and procedures for cut flowers, revision of systems approach of the production of basil, implementation of measures following EU interceptions and the use of ISPM 15 in line with the ISPM 15 standard. Member States expressed their concerns about the situation of *Bemisia tabaci* because of the repeated interceptions despite the measures in place, *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (false codling moth) in relation to *Citrus* and *Capsicum* and the weaknesses identified in the certification system of wood packaging material. Israel has provided an action plan taking account of the audit recommendations.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision as regards measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of *Agrilus planipennis* (Fairmaire).

The Committee approved the text derogating from the standard import requirements for ash wood as referred to in point 2.3, Annex IV, part A of Directive 2000/29/EC.

This derogation, not allowing any longer the use of this option b), referring to the removal of 2,5 cm of the sapwood as a mitigating measure against *Agrilus planipennis* (Emerald Ash Borer), is addressed to Canada and the United States of America.

Member States expressed their concern about the situation of *Agrilus planipennis* in third countries other than United States of America and Canada. They suggested to the Commission to proactively engage with the Eastern partnership countries and request information on their pest status.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending and extending Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/412 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 Canada.

The Committee approved the text amending and extending the current derogation for ash wood from Canada produced under a systems approach preventing the risk of introduction of *Agrilus planipennis* (Emerald Ash Borer). The extension of the derogation is limited until June 2020.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

M.01 Lao PDR

The Commission informed Member States about the communication received from Lao PDR with the list of companies authorised to export plant and plant products from Lao PDR to the EU. The Commission highlighted that this is an informative point and invited Member States to contact the authorities of Lao PDR in case of doubt about the authenticity of the phytosanitary certificate of consignments from this country (e.g. from companies not included in the list provided by Lao PDR to the Commission).

M.02 *Thrips palmi*

The Commission informed that Thailand has recently requested clarification regarding new requirements to export orchid cut flowers into the EU. Thailand is included in an emergency measure against the dissemination of *Thrips palmi* (Commission Decision 98/109/EC). The Commission clarified that there are no changes in the requirements to import orchid cut flowers from Thailand and that the additional declaration used by Thailand making reference to "point 36.2 second indent of Annex IV, Part A, Section I of Council Directive 2000/29/EC and point 1.b of the Annex of Commission Decision 98/109/EC" is correct.

M.03 EU-US PHTWG

The Commission made reference to the overview table of the conclusions of the EU-US Plant Health Technical Working Group that took place 24-25 October 2018. The following items were highlighted: update of the pest free areas for CBS on US; deadline for the pest risk assessment on *Erwinia stewartia* on maize; extension of the derogation of wood packaging material and request from US for a derogation for hardwood wood packaging material for military ammunition; extension of the hardwood, ash wood and softwood derogations; information about interest of US company to export pollen of *Malus*, *Prunus* and *Pyrus* to the EU (an official request will be submitted).

The next meeting will take place in May 2019 in the US.

M.04 Passenger imports

The Commission informed about the ongoing discussions on the tertiary legislation related to the Regulation (EU) 2017/625, namely on the empowerments in relation to exemptions from official controls. Regarding the possibility to derogate from the controls at border control points, the Commission informed that a derogation for identity and physical checks is being considered and discussed in the relevant expert group.

As regards the possible use of the empowerment to grant an exception for passengers bringing small quantities of plants (including fruits, cut flowers, bulbs ...) for personal use into the Union territory under the Plant Health Law, the Committee expressed no interest.