



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 26 SEPTEMBER 2016 - 27 SEPTEMBER 2016
(Section Plant Health)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/37c10fe8-8e05-44e7-a033-061acf9bf8e0>

A.01 Overview of new outbreaks of harmful organisms notified by Member States.

An overview of the outbreaks of the period from 6 July to 21 September 2016 was given. A number of outbreaks were highlighted by the Commission and Member States presented an update. Emphasis was put on the outbreaks of non-regulated harmful organisms and outbreaks of regulated harmful organisms that might raise concern. Following discussions it was agreed that this new mode of interactive exchange of information will continue and be further standardised. Commission has invited the Member States to highlight as well any outbreak reports where further discussion/presentation in the Committee is needed.

A.02 Overview of new import interceptions with harmful organisms by Member States.

A brief overview was given of the interceptions with harmful organisms reported for the period from 18 July to 14 September 2016. A regular monitoring of the interceptions will be carried out in each committee to contribute to a more effective prevention of the introduction of new harmful organisms. The citrus interceptions were analysed in detail under point A.07.

A.03 Presentation by Italy on the state of play of *Xylella fastidiosa* in its territory.

Italy informed that EU emergency measures are currently being implemented. Survey activities in the demarcated area of Apulia have been further stepped-up with additional resources made available, with the aim to conclude such activities by the end of the year. The few infected plants found in the last 20 km infected zone, adjacent to the buffer zone, are currently being removed. Movement restrictions of specified plants remain in place, except for *Vitis* plants for planting which undergo hot water treatment. Italy informed as well that survey activities are also ongoing in the buffer zone of the outbreak of Menton (France) which falls partly on the Italian territory. Due to the limited action completed so far for the implementation of

Decision 2015/789/EU in Apulia, mainly concerning the survey activities and the removal of infected plants, the Committee was informed that the Commission has launched infringement proceedings against Italy.

A.04 Presentation by France on the state of play of *Xylella fastidiosa* in its territory.

France informed that at the present time 302 outbreaks have been detected on the French territory, still limited to some parts of Corsica (287) and PACA (15) where eradication measures are being taken. Rest of the French territory is considered to be free from the bacterium based on survey results. New results, however, indicate the presence of *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *pauca* in the outbreak of Menton (PACA) (same subspecies present in Italy, Apulia), while in some parts of Corsica, the presence of a recombined *multiplex/sandyi* subspecies has been detected. Trace back activities are ongoing to understand the source of the infection, as well as the role of insect vectors in the natural spread of the bacterium. The Commission urged France to proceed with the removal of any host plants of the subsp. *pauca*, if present, in the infected zone of Menton, as listed in the Commission Database (Art. 1(b) of Commission Decision 2015/789/EU).

A.05 Presentation by Germany on the state of play of *Xylella fastidiosa* in its territory.

Germany informed that survey activities in the demarcated area established between Saxony and Thuringia are ongoing. The oleander plants present in the infected zone have all been removed and tested for the presence of *Xylella fastidiosa*, with no positive further findings reported so far. Awareness activities are also ongoing, including analysis of any potential insect vectors present in the area. Trade of any specified plant out of the demarcated area remains prohibited.

A.06 Presentation by the Netherlands of the results of the traceability activities for *Coffea* plants from imported consignments where *Xylella fastidiosa* had been identified.

The Netherlands presented an overview of the *Coffea* plants imported in 2014 and 2015 from Costa Rica and Honduras and the results of the tracing back activities put forward by the Authorities, following the detection of *Xylella fastidiosa* on a number of imported consignments. Most of the plants were traded before October 2014, with no more imports in 2015. Trace-back activity was carried out for the majority of *Coffea* plants imported in 2014 (3.814). More particularly, 1.506 plants were finally destroyed, while 1.016 were delivered to other EU Member States, with follow-up tracing activities which led to 108 infected plants, while at least 1.292 were considered untraceable as already sold to final consumers. Since 2015, no further interceptions of *Coffea* plants have been reported by Member States at import. The Commission invited Member States to monitor very closely the presence of *Coffea* plants in their respective territories and exchange information at EU level for further follow-up.

A.07 Presentation by the Commission of the state of play of the Member States' import control for *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on imported citrus fruits, followed by an exchange of views.

The Committee reviewed the state of play of the interceptions of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* on citrus fruits imported from non-EU countries during the 2016 export season. Member States requested an increased vigilance for the rest of the season. The situation will be further reviewed at the end of the season in a forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

A.08 Presentation by the Commission of the results of the Member States' plant health checks of wood packaging material introduced from China for the period between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016, followed by an exchange of views.

Data received from Member States and analysed by the Commission revealed that certain trade routes are more of phytosanitary concerns than others, mainly due to non-compliances on ISPM markings and on live pests interceptions. This interim report indicates that no significant improvement is taking place so far.

A.09 Presentation by the Commission of the provisional conclusions of an audit carried out in Ghana from 6 to 15 September 2016 in order to evaluate the system of official controls for the export of plants to the European Union, followed by an exchange of views for the revision of Decision (EU) 2015/1849.

The audit carried out in Ghana revealed shortcomings in the phytosanitary export certification system. Decision (EU) 2015/1849 restricts the import of certain commodities originating in Ghana. Based on the comments provided by Member States, the Commission will present a proposal for a possible opinion extending the period of application of the restriction of Decision (EU) 2015/1849.

A.10 Revision of Decision (EU) 2014/237/EU on measures to prevent the introduction and the spread within the Union of harmful organisms as regards certain fruits and vegetables originating in India.

The Committee agreed to lift the restriction of the import of certain commodities originating in India at the end of the year. Decision 2014/237/EU will expire 31 December 2016.

A.11 Presentation by the Commission of the recommendations of the Commission working group meetings concerning the listing of harmful organisms of Annex II AII to Directive 2000/29/EC, followed by an exchange of views.

Postponed.

A.12 Follow-up given to the conclusions of the Commission Working Group on response to emerging risks from imports held in the Netherlands, 18-20 May 2016.

The Commission presented the follow-up actions of the recommendations of the above mentioned working group. The Committee welcomed the report and supported

the actions regarding the third countries with the most worrying level of interceptions. The Commission will keep the Committee informed on the follow-up.

A.13 Exchange of views on a recent analysis by France of the phytosanitary import inspections in the EU.

France presented a note analysing certain aspects of plant health import inspections in the EU. The main objective of the note was to achieve a more harmonised approach across the EU at import inspections of plants and plant products. The Commission fully supported the objective, and proposed that this can be achieved through an audit series (planned already to take place in 2017-2018), and a series of training sessions in the framework of the Better Training for Safer Food. The Committee, welcoming the French analysis, reacted by supporting both the training and auditing element, and expressed some concerns about the extension of the RERI mandate proposed by France. The Commission will further reflect on the issue, especially with a view to a possible BTSF training on plant health import inspections.

A.14 Overview by the Commission of the intermediate financial reports submitted by Member States for the 2016 plant health survey programmes.

The Commission presented the outcome of the reallocation exercise in relation to the 2016 survey programmes: the exercise has been based on the data provided by Member States by 31 August 2016 (intermediate report as by Regulation (EU) No 652/2014). The overview indicates that there is no need to reallocate funds amongst Member States as the initial budget allocated per Member State covers the needs for the whole 2016.

A.15 Overview by the Commission of the application procedure for the 2017-2018 plant health survey programmes.

Postponed.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex of Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/2416 that recognised certain areas of the United States of America as being free from *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire.

The Commission presented a draft text to amend the present Pest Free Areas for Emerald Ash Borer in the USA following new information communicated by the USA. The Committee supported the changes presented.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Article 3 of Commission Implementing Decision 2013/780/EU that provided for a derogation from Article 13(1) (ii) of Council Directive 2000/29/EC in respect of bark-free sawn wood of *Quercus* L., *Platanus* L. and *Acer saccharum* Marsh. originating in the United States of America.

The Commission presented a draft text to extend the timeline of the exemption from phytosanitary certificate for the import of *Quercus* wood foreseen in the emergency measure. The Committee supported the proposed changes.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Article 3 of Commission Implementing Decision 2002/757/EC that provided provisional emergency phytosanitary measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Community of *Phytophthora ramorum* Were, De Cock & Man in 't Veld sp. nov.

The Commission presented a draft text to extend the timeline of this derogation but also to correct and clarify a legal point that has developed with the publication of Commission Implementing Decision 2015/893/EU specifically on the requirements of *Acer* spp. wood from third countries. To this extent, *Acer macrophyllum* was removed from this new draft text. The Committee supported the proposed change.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision laying down the standard requirements for submission by Member States of applications, reports and requests for payments for the plant health survey programmes.

The Commission presented a draft text which specifies the different electronic systems and templates that Member States have to use when, in application of Regulation (EU) N° 652/2014, they respectively introduce their application for plant health survey programmes, their intermediate financial report, their final financial and technical report and their request for payment.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Directive amending Annexes I, II, III, IV and V of Council Directive 2000/29/EC.

The Commission proposal amending the annexes of Council Directive 2000/29/EC was presented to the Committee. The Commission gave further details on the new procedures of stakeholder consultation at the Better Regulation Portal that was initiated for this Commission proposal. Comments by stakeholders can be received until 14 October 2016. Discussion with Member States on this proposal will continue at the next Committee meeting.

