



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 28 APRIL 2017
(Section Plant Health)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/44390b0e-597e-4096-8da7-5d7b4b966c1e>

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

A brief overview was given of the interceptions with harmful organisms and the follow-up carried out by the Commission from 15 March 2017 to 12 April 2017. The interception of marked wood packaging material originating in Israel of *Bursaphelenchus mucronatus* was highlighted. Other notifications analysed were the interceptions of *Xylella fastidiosa* and PSTVd found on commodities originating in US. Furthermore, the specific situation of Bangladesh was discussed in order to agree on a follow-up.

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

The main outbreaks were addressed. Slovenia presented an update of the outbreak of Citrus bark cracking viroid (CBCVd) in hop. Discussion followed on the potential listing of this organism. It was made clear that the pest is of concern to hop and not to other hosts as citrus and the pathway to be regulated is the plants for planting. It was concluded that a potential RNQP approach will therefore need further reflection.

A.03 Exchange of views on the internal movement of potatoes within the EU territory and the introduction of national measures (United Kingdom, Ireland and Germany).

Temporary UK national measures against the risk of spreading of *Epitrix* with potato consignments from Spain were introduced more than 1 year ago and have so far not been lined up with the existing EU measures laid down in Decision 2012/270/EU, which was updated on the basis on the text voted in the PAFF Committee in July 2016. Ireland has recently also introduced national *Epitrix* measures for the movement of potatoes from countries where *Epitrix* is known to occur into their territories but not lined up with the EU measures. As no valid technical or scientific justification

was provided, both Member States are requested to adjust the national measures to the EU measures. In the meantime, the relevant Member States were invited to collect surveillance, technical and scientific data to allow a review of the EU measures if appropriate.

Germany announced that it is setting up a notification system for the movement of potato consignments from Spain and Portugal into its territory to allow the inspection services to carry out some random inspections for the presence of *Epitrix* and the potato psyllid (*Scrobipalopsis solanivora*). It was confirmed that this approach will not interfere with the free movements of goods within the Union.

A.04 Presentation by the Commission of the conclusions of the audit carried out in Italy from 12 to 23 September 2016 in order to evaluate the situation and control of Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*).

The Commission presented the outcome of the audit carried out in Italy on *Popillia japonica*, and more specifically in the affected Regions of Lombardy and Piedmont. The Committee was informed that significant efforts and investments have been put in place by the Italian Authorities. National measures have been implemented with the aim to contain the further spread of the beetle. Shortcomings were identified as regards the activities carried out in the buffer zone, including the intensity of the surveys, and the enforcement of the national system to control risks of long distance spread of the beetle. The Commission informed that the Italian Authorities have provided an action plan as response to the shortcomings, with some further clarification and additional information being requested by the Commission for further assessment. Member States were invited to express their views before the next meeting of the Standing Committee, about the appropriateness of developing EU emergency measures against *Popillia japonica*.

A.05 Exchange of views on an amendment of Decision (EU) 2015/789 as regards measures against *Xylella fastidiosa*.

Postponed.

A.06 Exchange of views on comments from third countries on the WTO-SPS (Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures) notification of the draft Commission Implementing Directive amending Annexes I to V to 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 (SANTE/11002/2016).

The Commission presented the comments received by Colombia, Japan, Morocco, South Africa, USA and the letters sent by a number of citrus stakeholders from USA. The comments covered mainly issues on the import requirements of citrus fruits, the import requirements due to the addition of *Thaumatococcus leucocarpa* to the list of quarantine pests, the proposed changes on the import of tomato fruits, protected zones and the timing of implementation of the draft legislation. In relation to the comments from Morocco concerning the listing of tomatoes as a regulated commodity for which a phytosanitary certificate is needed at import and for which import inspections will

need to be organised at the EU point of entry, Spain and France indicated that preparations have already started to allow them to cope with the additional work load. After discussion, it was agreed that those comments do not necessitate a further amendment of the draft Commission Implementing Directive. Official replies will be sent by the Commission to all parties commenting during the WTO-SPS notification.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Directive amending Annexes I to V to 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.

The draft Commission Implementing Directive updates the current annexes of Directive 2000/29/EC. New harmful organisms are regulated as quarantine organisms, with specific import requirements stipulated. New commodities would need to be inspected prior to export to the EU. In addition, the provisions of import and internal movement control requirements of several already regulated commodities are amended based on recent scientific and technical information. These requirements will be reviewed - when technically justified - consistent with the pest risk involved, in the light of developments in scientific or technical knowledge. The protected zones have also been updated and specific requirements and new regulated commodities for entry into the protected zones have been included based on new scientific and technical information.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/159 as regards the procedures for the submission of applications for grants and requests for payment in respect of the emergency measures against plant pests.

The Commission presented the draft. Some Member States made comments to which the Commission replied by clarifying better the issues. The text will be presented for vote in the forthcoming meeting of the PAFF Committee in May.