EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Brussels
SANCO G (2012) 183804

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANT HEALTH ON 26-27 JANUARY 2012

Chair: Harry Arijs

All Member States present, except Denmark (absent and represented by Sweden), Greece (absent and represented by Cyprus) and Luxembourg (absent on 27/01 and represented by Belgium). Switzerland was present as observer. Croatia was absent as observer.

1. Miscellaneous.

Hungary informed the Committee of the suspected finding of *Rhagoletis completa* in its territory. Larvae have been collected from fruits of *Juglans regia* to ascertain the identity of the organism.

The Czech Republic reported the first outbreak of *Tobacco ringspot virus* in its territory, on *Impatiens walleriana* plants. Measures to eradicate the harmful organism have been taken.

Italy reported the finding of an adult *Batocera rubus albofasciata* in a forest in the Province Reggio-Emilia. The origin of the beetle is unknown.

France informed the Committee of the finding of *Pseudomonas solanacearum* on French ware potatoes. The origin of the infestation is under investigation.

The United Kingdom reported the finding of *Cryphonectria parasitica* on *Castanea sativa* plants supplied by another Member State.

Germany reported the finding of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* in wood chips of *Pinus palustris* imported from the U.S., despite the fact that the accompanying Phytosanitary Certificate indicated that the chips had undergone the required heat treatment.

2. Information by the Commission on the approach taken to improve the phytosanitary status of consignments of regulated products originating in Vietnam for import into the EU.

The Commission presented an update of the situation with Vietnam related to the efforts made to reduce the high number of interceptions of harmful organisms in plants and plant products at arrival in the EU. A monitoring of the evolution of the situation will be done by the Commission and the Member States.

3. Presentation by the Netherlands of the pest risk analysis on Pepino mosaic virus, followed by a discussion.

The Netherlands presented a pest risk analysis on Pepino mosaic virus which was prepared by the EU-funded project PEPEIRA (**P**epino mosaic virus: **ep**idemiology, **e**conomic **im**pact and pest **r**isk **a**nalysis). The presentation was followed by a discussion of the pest risk analysis and its conclusions. The Committee supported the document as a good basis to review the EU measures against this organism.

4. Presentation by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) of a scientific opinion on the evaluation of the pest risk analysis on *Pomacea insularum*, the island apple snail, prepared by the Spanish Ministry of Environment, and Rural and Marine Affairs.

The scientific opinion of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published on 23 January 2012 was presented by EFSA. Further clarifications will be requested from EFSA.

5. Presentation by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) of a scientific opinion on the phytosanitary risk associated with some coniferous species and genera for the spread of pine wood nematode.

The scientific opinion of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published on 24 January 2012 was presented by the chairman of EFSA's Plant Health Panel. After the presentation of the opinion, the speaker and representatives of EFSA answered questions from the Committee on the opinion.

6. Presentation by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) of a scientific opinion on the request from the USA regarding export of Florida citrus fruit to the EU.

The scientific opinion of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published on 9 December 2011 was presented by EFSA. Member States supported the conclusions of the EFSA opinion and concluded that a revision of the EU protective measures against citrus canker is not needed. In relation to this issue, a letter to the US will be sent by the Commission in the forthcoming days.

7. Presentation by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) of its provisional 2012 work programme for plant health.

The Plant Health Unit of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) made a presentation of its provisional work programme for 2012, which also addressed data needs for pest risk assessment and approaches under development for the collection of data available in the Member States. The presentation was followed by questions and an exchange of views between EFSA and the Committee.

8. Presentation by the Commission of the overview of the Member States' survey results for the presence of Pepino mosaic virus (PepMV) on the EU territory.

The Commission made a presentation summarising the results of the surveys carried out by the Member States in 2010 and 2011 for the presence of Pepino mosaic virus in their territory.

9. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2005/51/EC as regards the period during which soil contaminated by pesticides or persistent organic pollutants may be introduced into the European Union for decontamination purposes. (Doc. SANCO/12953/2011) (Legal Base: Article 15(1) of Council Directive 2000/29/EC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure)

The Commission presented for vote a draft Decision for the extension of the period of the derogation regarding the import of soil contaminated by pesticides or persistent organic pollutants until 2017.

Vote: favourable opinion by unanimity.

10. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of *Bursaphelenchus xylophylus* (Steiner et Buhrer) Nickle *et al.* (the pine wood nematode) and repealing Commission Decision 2006/133/EC. (Doc. SANCO/10796/2011) (Legal Base: Article 16.1 of Council Directive 2000/29/EC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure)

The Committee progressed on a draft version for revised emergency measures against pine wood nematode.

11. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Implementing Decision as regards emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and spread within the Union of *Epitrix* spp. (non-paper). (Doc. SANCO/10126/2012) (Legal Base: Article 16.1 of Council Directive 2000/29/EC) (opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure)

The Commission presented a first draft for a Commission Implementing Decision as regards emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and spread within the Union of *Epitrix* spp. The discussion will be continued.

12. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Implementing Decision as regards the recognition of the territory of the Republic of Serbia as being free from *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp *sepedonicus* (non-paper). (Doc. SANCO/10127/2012) (Legal Base: Annex III, part A, point 12 of Council Directive 2000/29/EC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure)

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision as regards the recognition of the territory of the Republic of Serbia as being free from *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp *sepedonicus*. The vote on the document is scheduled at one of the forthcoming meetings of the Committee.

13. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 690/2008 recognising protected zones exposed to particular plant health risks in the Community. (Doc. SANCO/10128/2012) (Legal Base: Article 2(1)(h) of Council Directive 2000/29/EC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure)

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 690/2008 recognising protected zones exposed to particular plant health risks in the Community. Due to the fact that some Protected Zones have temporary status (until 31 March 2012) there is a need to decide on their prolongation. The discussion will be continued at the following meeting of the Committee.