



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Brussels
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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANT HEALTH ON
20-21 FEBRUARY 2012**

Chair: Harry Arijs

All Member States present, except Denmark (absent and represented by Sweden), Greece (absent and represented by Cyprus), Cyprus (absent on 20/02) and Luxembourg (absent and represented by Belgium). Switzerland was present as observer. Croatia was present as observer.

1. Miscellaneous.

The Netherlands informed the Committee of an outstanding discussion point with Denmark on the trade of potato minitubers.

The Commission indicated that it would like that the communications it prepares on plant health issues, for example on the adoption of new legislation, to better reach stakeholders. For this reason the Commission invited Member States to collect email addresses of relevant national or regional magazines and to send this information to the Commission by 10 March 2012.

The Commission reminded the Committee that the next deadline for submission of dossiers for solidarity funding is 30 April 2012. Member States are requested to make sure that the dossiers are prepared meticulously following the existing guidelines.

2. Information by the Commission on the request from Thailand to recognize the Thai certification scheme for orchid cut flowers for passengers, followed by an exchange of views.

Postponed.

3. Presentation by the Commission of a final report of an audit carried out in Argentina from 29 August to 09 September 2011 in order to evaluate the system of official controls and certification of citrus fruit for export to the European Union, followed by an exchange of views.

The Commission presented the report of this audit mission. It was concluded that, in general, the system is in line with the EU requirements with the exception of some specific cases, where further progress is needed.

4. Citrus from Brazil

- **Presentation by the Commission of the findings of an audit carried out in Brazil from 7 November 2011 to 18 November 2011, in order to evaluate the system of official controls and certification of citrus fruit for export to the European Union, followed by an exchange of views.**
- **Exchange of views on the 2011 results of the phytosanitary import inspections of citrus fruit from Brazil in application of Commission Decision 2004/416/EC.**

The Commission presented the findings of an audit mission carried out in Brazil from 7 November 2011 to 18 November 2011 in order to evaluate the system of official controls and certification of citrus fruit for export to the EU. Several shortcomings were flagged up. It was concluded that it is necessary to wait for the final report to discuss the necessary measures in relation to citrus black spot on citrus fruits exported from Brazil to the EU.

5. **Presentation by the Commission of the 2011 overview report of the Member States' monitoring results for specified harmful organisms related to the protected zones, both temporarily and permanently recognized in Commission Regulation (EC) No 690/2008, followed by an exchange of views.**

The Commission presented the overview of reports received from the Member States with the focus on reports on Protected Zones whose status is due to be reviewed by 31 March 2012, and on some of the reports on Protected Zones with regards to fireblight (*Erwinia amylovora*). The relevant Member States briefly introduced their respective reports. It was concluded that based on the discussion, the Commission would prepare a draft amendment to Regulation (EC) No. 690/2008 for a possible vote in the forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

6. **Presentation by the Commission of the 2011 overview report of Member States' monitoring results for *Phytophthora ramorum*, followed by an exchange of views on the revision of the regulatory status of this organism.**

The Commission presented an overview of the results of the surveys carried out by the Member States in 2011 for the presence of *Phytophthora ramorum* in their territory. This harmful organism was found in 12 Member States. Compared to 2010, the number of findings in nurseries and garden centres has decreased considerably. However, there was an increase in the number of outbreaks in public greens and, in particular, in forest sites in the United Kingdom and Ireland. The Committee agreed to request the Commission Working Group on the Annexes of Council Directive 2000/29/EC, to work on the preparation of a technical proposal for the regulation of *Phytophthora ramorum* in that Directive, on the basis of the Pest Risk Analysis prepared by the EU RAPRA project, the opinion delivered by the European Food Safety Authority and a report of pest risk management presently being prepared by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation.

7. Presentation by the Commission of the 2011 overview report of Member States' monitoring results for *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*.

The Commission made a presentation summarising the results of the surveys carried out by the Member States in 2011 for the presence of pine wood nematode in their territory. The results confirm that, up to 2011, pine wood nematode outbreaks in the EU remain restricted to Portuguese territories, with the exception of 2 isolated cases in Spain.

8. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on a Union financial contribution to a programme for the control of organisms harmful to plants and plant products in the French overseas departments for 2012. (Doc. SANCO/12908/2011) (Legal Base: Article 17.3 of Council Regulation (EC) N° 247/2006) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure).

This Decision would establish a Union financial contribution to cover expenditure incurred by France for plant health programmes set up in the French overseas departments (DOMs) for 2012, covering an inter-DOM sub-programme and 2 sub-programmes, respectively for the department of Martinique and for the department of Guadeloupe.

Vote: favourable opinion by qualified majority.

9. 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 xylophilus* (Steiner et Buhner) 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.

10. 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. (Doc. SANCO/10126/2012). (Legal Base: Article 16.1 of Council Directive 2000/29/EC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure).

The Committee continued the deliberations on the draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning *Epitrix* species as presented by the Commission.

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 *Pseudomonas syringae* pv *actinidiae*.** (Doc. SANCO/10316/2012) (Legal Base: Article 16.3 of Council Directive 2000/29/EC) (opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure).

The Commission invited Member States to have an exchange of views on several key components of the future emergency measures – e.g. range of host plants, extent of demarcated zones etc. A fruitful discussion took place which will allow the Commission to prepare a draft proposal to the forthcoming meeting of the Committee for further discussion.

12. **Exchange of views on a draft Commission Implementing Decision as regards emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and spread within the Union of *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera*.** (Doc. SANCO/13079/2011) (Legal Base: Article 16.3 of Council Directive 2000/29/EC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure).

Postponed

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 a draft proposal. The Committee discussed the proposed text and concluded that a revised version shall be submitted for a possible vote to the forthcoming meeting of the Committee. (See also point 5. above).