



Brussels,  
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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANT HEALTH ON  
19-20 DECEMBER 2012**

Chair: Harry Arijis

All Member States present, except Bulgaria, Greece, Cyprus (on 19/12), Luxembourg and Romania. All absent Member States were represented at the moment of the vote. Switzerland was present as observer. Croatia was present as observer.

**1. Miscellaneous**

Spain requested a clarification about the implementation of option (b) of point 31 of Part B of Annex IV of Directive 2000/29/EC for movements of citrus fruits with leaves and peduncles into a protected zone. It was clarified and agreed that option (b) of point 31 of Part B of Annex IV allows the transit of fruits with leaves or peduncles into a CTV protected zone, if fruits are packed in a closed and officially sealed container and the consignment is identified by a mark. However, opening the container in the protected zone is not allowed and therefore selling in small quantities to final consumers situated in that zone is not allowed.

France intercepted 3 consignments of goods from Morocco, placed on pinewood nematode (PWN) infested wooden pallets. The case is being investigated specifically in relation to the origin of the wood.

The Czech Republic proposed to review the measures concerning *Diabrotica virgifera* requirements.

Belgium confirmed the notification of ring rot potatoes variety 'Frislander'. The interception was done during an annual survey of a storage consignment.

Germany gave additional information about the outbreak of *Anaplophora glabripennis* in Bavaria. The situation has expanded.

The Netherlands updated about the situation of *Anthomonus eugeni*. A 5th and 6th outbreak have been notified. Surveillance zones have been extended and measures have been taken.

The United Kingdom invited the Member States to a workshop on assessing and managing risk associated with plants for planting imports, at the Fera laboratory in Sand Hutton on the 12th of March 2013.

Spain requested the deletion of 3 protected zones regarding *Erwinia amylovora* since the organism is present there.

Hungary has intercepted potato consignments from Poland found infested with *Clavibacter michiganensis subsp. sepedonicus*.

**2. Presentation by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) of a Scientific Opinion on the pest categorisation of the tospoviruses.**

After the presentation, a discussion took place on the necessity to regulate some of the tospoviruses, linked to remaining difficulties for diagnosis and risk assessment. It was concluded that further scientific information is needed.

**3. Follow-up discussion concerning a possible amendment of the phytosanitary requirements related to potato cyst nematodes (PCN) in Directive 2000/29/EC.**

An exchange of views took place over the possible amendment of the phytosanitary requirements for PCN in Directive 2000/29/EC to align with the PCN Control Directive 2007/33/EC. The Committee indicated its position on the following four points;

- Whether or not to support a distinction between European and non-European populations of PCN.
- Whether or not to maintain PCN in Annex I(A)(II) of the Plant Health Directive.
- Whether or not place of production freedom should be replaced by field freedom for plants for planting.
- Whether or not to maintain the obligation that regulated plants for planting are grown in PCN-free soil in Annex IV(A)(II) Point 24.

A Commission proposal for review of the current requirements will be elaborated and submitted to a forthcoming Committee meeting.

**4. Exchange of views on recent data, in addition to the Lebanese request and dossier for export of potatoes to the European Union.**

An exchange of views took place over the Lebanese request to export ware potatoes to the EU based on a recently updated report on the phytosanitary situation in Lebanon received from the Lebanese Authorities. A number of questions were raised by Member States. More questions can be submitted until 10 January 2013, after which the Commission will write to the Lebanese Authorities and continue discussions at a future Committee meeting.

**5. Presentation by the Commission on the development of a harmonised notification system for outbreaks of harmful organisms in EU territory.**

The progress concerning a harmonised template was presented and some outstanding points discussed. It was announced that, after finalization of the template, a legal base for the notification procedure will be developed.

**6. Presentation by the Commission of an overview of the 2012 import interceptions, notified in EUROPHYT under Directive 2000/29/EC, Art 13c, followed by a discussion.**

A provisional overview of the 2012 notifications was presented and briefly discussed. The Committee was informed that the Commission is preparing a formal report which could then trigger a more fundamental discussion on import control and follow-up.

**7. Presentation by the Commission of an overview of the 2012 outbreaks of harmful organisms, notified under Directive 2000/29/EC, Art 16, followed by a discussion.**

An overview of 2012 outbreak reports by Member States was given. Almost 400 outbreaks for 80 different harmful organisms had been notified; 20% of the outbreaks related to non-regulated organisms.

**8. Presentation by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) of its current activities and the provisional 2013 work programme for plant health.**

During the accompanying exchange of views, it was stressed that a close collaboration with the Commission 'Annexes Working Group' can assure the best use of resources. EFSA also called for more information on the presence of some regulated organisms in the Member States, especially for the organisms listed in Annex IIAII of Council Directive 2000/29/EC.

**9. Presentation by the Commission of an overview of the on-going and planned work of the working group on the Annexes of Council Directive 2000/29/EC (Annexes Working Group).**

The Commission informed the Committee about a series of proposals for amendment of the Annexes that are ready, as well as a series that is close to finalisation. A Commission proposal for amendment of the regulated organisms

and specific import requirements will be elaborated and submitted to the Committee in the near future.

**10. Overview by the Commission on the main achievements of the Committee in 2012 and discussion on the main challenges for 2013.**

A broad range of activities was mentioned, followed by an exchange of views on priority setting.

**11. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2004/416/EC on temporary emergency measures in respect of certain citrus fruits originating in Brazil.** (Doc. SANCO/11931/2012) (Legal Base: Article 16 (3) of Council Directive 2000/29/EC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure).

The Commission presented for vote a draft Decision amending Decision 2004/416/EC on temporary emergency measures in respect of certain citrus fruits originating in Brazil. Specific requirements included in the mentioned Decision in relation to *Xanthomonas campestris*, are removed.

Vote: favourable opinion by unanimity.

**12. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the supervision, plant health checks and measures to be taken on wood packaging material actually in use in the transport of specified commodities originating in China.** (Doc. SANCO/12869/2012) (Legal Base: Article 16 (3) of Council Directive 2000/29/EC) (Opinion of the Committee via the examination procedure).

The Commission presented a draft proposal followed by an exchange of views. The proposal was supported by the Committee and will be progressed for a possible opinion at a forthcoming Committee meeting.

**N.B. The proposals on which the Committee expressed an opinion are subject to a defined procedure in relation to the formal adoption by the Commission.**