



**SUMMARY REPORT
OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANT HEALTH
(SCPH) HELD ON 11-12 DECEMBER 2006**

Chairman: Mr M. Vereecke

All Member States (MS) present except LU and MT. BG present as observer. RO absent as observer.

1. MISCELLANEOUS.

UK informed the Committee of a research project for the biological control of an invasive plant, *Fallopia japonica*, developed by CABI-Bioscience.

2. REVIEW OF COMMISSION DIRECTIVE 2004/103/EC ON IDENTITY AND PLANT HEALTH CHECKS OF PLANTS, PLANT PRODUCTS OR OTHER OBJECTS, LISTED IN PART B OF ANNEX V TO COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2000/29/EC, WHICH MAY BE CARRIED OUT AT A PLACE OTHER THAN THE POINT OF ENTRY INTO THE COMMUNITY OR AT A PLACE CLOSE BY AND SPECIFYING THE CONDITIONS RELATED TO THESE CHECKS.

Commission Directive 2004/103/EC concerning checks at the point of destination has been in force since 1 January 2005 and under Article 7 of the Directive must be reviewed by 1 January 2007. The Commission (SANCO E.1) gave an overview of the provisions of the Directive and then invited MS to comment on their experience of operating the provisions. MS were happy with the text of the Directive with only some small exceptions but felt that there were some practical difficulties in trying to implement the provisions. There was therefore a general call for a working group to act as a forum for exchange of information between MS on how to overcome the problems identified. It was also suggested that consideration be given to putting some further information on CIRCA notably the list of approved places of destination. The Commission agreed to consider the requests made.

3. DISCUSSION ON RESULTS OF PHYTOSANITARY IMPORT INSPECTIONS OF CITRUS FRUIT FOR 2006 ORIGINATING IN ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL AND REVIEW OF DECISION 2004/416/EC ON TEMPORARY EMERGENCY MEASURES IN RESPECT OF CERTAIN CITRUS FRUITS ORIGINATING IN ARGENTINA OR BRAZIL.

The Commission (SANCO E.1) presented a summary report on results of phytosanitary import inspections of citrus fruit originating in Brazil (BR) and Argentina (AR), carried out in MS in 2006. The summary report was based on reports from the majority of the MS and on the data extracted from the EUROPHYT notification system. A discussion took place, in which a number of MS expressed their view that AR has repeated good results of 2005 and thus confirmed its progress to better guarantee the phytosanitary safety of citrus fruit exported to the EU. Some MS, however, were still concerned over the safety of imports of citrus fruit, not only from AR and BR, but from third countries in general. It was therefore decided to come back to this issue in the forthcoming SCPH meeting and to consider the review of Decision

2004/416/EC in the light of the complete 2006 results of imports into the Community of citrus fruit from third countries.

Following complaints from AR, BR and UY, the issue of notifying the plant protection organizations of countries of origin of citrus fruit, on interceptions and incompliance with EU plant health requirements was also discussed. The respective MS informed that such notifications are being made on standard basis and dispatched in timely manner. They will provide details and copies of the notifications to the Commission in order to clarify this issue with the relevant third countries.

4. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF A FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR AN INSPECTION PROTOCOL AND LABORATORY TESTING FOR THE DETECTION OF *COLLETOTRICHUM ACUTATUM* ON STRAWBERRY PLANTS.

FR presented its proposal for an EU-wide survey of *Colletotrichum acutatum* and for a harmonised laboratory test method (based on EPPO Standard PM 7/25), which should be used for the purposes of such a survey, together with a harmonised inspection procedure. The results of this survey should provide the basis for the revision of the status of this harmful organism, as also requested by FR following findings of latent infections in strawberries. A discussion took place, in which a number of MS supported the FR proposal. Several views were expressed by MS on the scope and extent of the survey; also some details of the harmonised inspection procedure were discussed. It was also noted that EPPO should finalise in the near future the first stage (sampling + import procedures) of its *Fragaria* phytosanitary procedures protocol, which should be taken into account. Following the discussion, FR undertook to provide additional details, particularly on sampling of strawberry plants, and to submit them for further discussion at the latest in the SCPH of March 2007.

5. FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 13 A 4(B) OF DIRECTIVE 2000/29/EC: REQUIREMENT OF USE OF ADDITIONAL DECLARATIONS ON PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATES.

Following the discussion on this point in the March 2006 SCPH meeting, the Commission (SANCO E.1) presented its proposal for an information leaflet and for a more detailed internet document, which would provide information on the current Community requirements for additional declarations on phytosanitary certificates, according to Article 13a(4)(b) of Directive 2000/29/EC. During the subsequent discussion, several MS supported the proposal and suggested a few amendments to the leaflet. The Commission invited MS to provide further comments in writing. Both documents will be amended accordingly and submitted for further discussion in one of the forthcoming meetings of the SCPH.

6. PRESENTATION OF QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE PLANT HEALTH SYSTEM IN THE JORDANIAN POTATO SECTOR.

The Commission (SANCO E.1) introduced the replies to an EC questionnaire from Jordan on the plant health status of potatoes in Jordan. This is a preliminary step towards granting Jordan the right to export potatoes to the EU. In general the replies given by Jordan were considered satisfactory but in a number of cases some further information or amplification was felt to be needed. The SCPH agreed with the intention of the FVO to carry out a mission to Jordan in order to examine the situation on the ground and to elaborate on the answers provided by Jordan to the questionnaire.

7. DISCUSSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES TO BE ENVISAGED AS REGARDS THE IMPORT OF CITRUS FRUIT FOR PROCESSING.

Following the discussion on this point, which took place in the SCPH of October 2005, the Commission (SANCO E.1) presented a non-paper containing a draft text for a derogation for citrus fruit for immediate processing. A first discussion took place. While some MS expressed their concern over possible phytosanitary risks posed by such derogation, some other viewed the draft provisions as unnecessarily strict. A further discussion will take place in one of the forthcoming meetings of the SCPH.

8. FURTHER DISCUSSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES TO BE ENVISAGED AS REGARDS THE IMPORT OF TREE FERNS.

Following the discussion held in the SCPH of March 2006, the Commission (SANCO E.1) presented a non-paper. This document contains a description of the main features of the export of tree ferns, a list of plant health issues linked to their export, the point of view of the exporting third countries as well as of UK, and a legislative proposal for modification of relevant provisions of Annex IV to Directive 2000/29/EC. A first discussion took place on the legislative proposal. Discussion will be continued at a forthcoming meeting of the SCPH.

9. PRESENTATION BY COMMISSION (SANCO D) OF THE INTEGRATED COMPUTERISED VETERINARY TRADE CONTROL AND EXPERT SYSTEM (TRACES), PROVIDING ASSISTANCE AND CERTIFICATION FOR ALL VETERINARY AUTHORITIES TO IMPROVE THE SANITARY PROTECTION OF THE EU.

The Commission (SANCO D.1) gave an exhaustive presentation of the different features of the TRACES system. The system provides assistance and certification for all veterinary authorities within an informatics network to improve the sanitary protection of EU. In its most recent version, it proposes to integrate EU and non EU competent veterinary authorities. It is dealing with animal health, animal welfare (EU exclusive) and veterinary public health. Its functionalities are: control of animals and animal products, trace back and forth of outbreaks, assistance in decision-making, central risk assessment and warning. It leads to reduction of administrative workload. MS made several comments and raised questions on the possibilities of the system for the plant health field. The Commission took note of the comments and proposed to continue the discussion later on in one of the forthcoming SCPHs.

10. REPORT ON WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 23 OCTOBER 2006 ON THE EVALUATION OF THE RESULTS OF RING TESTING OF THE FRENCH EXTRACTION METHOD FOR DETECTION OF POTATO RING ROT AND POTATO BROWN ROT.

The Commission (SANCO E.1) gave a presentation of the report of the WG. The aim of the ring test was to assess an alternative method for the preparation of the samples of potato heel ends before the use of the detection methods mentioned in Council Directives 93/85/EEC (control of potato ring rot) and 98/57/EC (control of potato brown rot), as amended. The conclusion of the assessment was that the alternative method did not add any benefits in addition to the current validated preparation methods. In addition, it appears more costly than the other methods because it is more laborious and requires more chemicals. Therefore, the experts didn't recommend it for further ring testing at EU-level. France accepted the conclusions of the experts. Furthermore, the experts made some recommendations for future ring testing of methods for the potato ring rot and brown rot diagnostic.

11. DISCUSSION ON THE STATUS OF POTATO SPINDLE TUBER VIROID (PSTV) ON ORNAMENTAL PLANTS IN THE COMMUNITY.

The Committee was informed on the phytosanitary situation in the Community of Potato spindle tuber viroid (PSTV) on *Solanum jasminoides* and *Brugmansia* spp. ornamental plants. The PSTV infections were discovered as part of a monitoring survey for viroids or during follow-up inspections on symptomless plants. It is emphasised that PSTV is not present on potato or tomato crops in the Community. Phytosanitary measures as well as sampling and testing methods were discussed. It was recommended that MS should carry out a survey for the presence of PSTV on the above plants, the results of which should be reported to the Commission. The Commission (SANCO E.1) indicated that the issue will be discussed again in a forthcoming meeting of the SCPH.

12. COMMISSION DECISION ON A COMMUNITY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION FOR BELGIUM FOR ITS PROGRAMME FOR STRENGTHENING INSPECTION INFRASTRUCTURES FOR PLANT-HEALTH CHECKS ON PLANTS AND PLANT PRODUCTS COMING FROM THIRD COUNTRIES (DOC. SANCO/3620/2006).

This Decision would establish the Community's financial contribution to strengthen inspection infrastructures for plant health checks on plants and plant products coming from third countries. This is based on a programme presented by Belgium for expenditure in 2007 for equipment and facilities at inspection posts in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No. 998/2002.

Vote: favourable opinion by unanimity.

13. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE OPINION ON DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION ON THE COMMUNITY'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO A PROGRAMME FOR THE CONTROL OF ORGANISMS HARMFUL TO PLANTS AND PLANT PRODUCTS IN THE FRENCH OVERSEAS DEPARTMENTS FOR 2007 (DOC. SANCO/3626/2006).

Discussion postponed.

Marc Vereecke
Head of Sector "Harmful Organisms"

NB: The measures on which the Committee has given an opinion are subject to the appropriate procedure for final approval by the Commission.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Standing Committee on Plant Health

Date: 11-12/12/2006

Member States	Ministry or Organism	
BE	Service public fédéral "Santé publique, Sécurité de la chaîne alimentaire et Environnement"	1
	AFSCA	1
CZ	State Phytosanitary Administration	1
DK	Plant Directorate	1
DE	Biologische Bundesanstalt für Land- und Forstwirtschaft	1
EE	Ministry of Agriculture	1
EL	Ministry of Agriculture	1
ES	Sanidad vegetal – Mapya	2
FR	Sous direction de la qualité et de la protection des végétaux - MAP	2
IE	Department of Agriculture and Food	1
IT	Ministero delle Politiche Agricole e Forestali	1
CY	Department of Agriculture	1
LV	State Plant Protection Service	1
LT	State Plant Protection Service	1
LU	-	-
HU	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	1
MT	-	-
NL	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	3
AT	Federal Ministry of Agriculture	2
PL	State Plant Health and Seed Inspection Service	1
PT	Direcção-Geral de Protecção das Culturas	1
SI	MAFF – Phytosanitary administration of the Republic of Slovenia	1
SK	Ministry of Agriculture, Plant Commodities Department	1
FI	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	1
SE	Swedish Board of Agriculture	1
UK	DEFRA – Plant Health Division	1
	Central Science Laboratory	1
DG		
SANCO E.1		4
SANCO F4		1
BG	National Service for Plant Protection	1
RO	-	-