



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANT HEALTH HELD ON 9-10 MARCH 2009**

**Chairman: Mr. H. Arijs**

All Member States (MS) present, except Luxemburg (9-10/3) and Portugal (10/3). Switzerland was present as observer.

**1. MISCELLANEOUS.**

Austria announced the detection of *Ralstonia solanacearum* in a cultivar of ware potatoes. The ware potatoes derived from seed originating from the Netherlands and were marketed exclusively in Austria.

The United Kingdom announced that it is preparing a PRA for *Aphalara itadori* followed by a public consultation for the possible release of this sap-sucking psyllid to tackle Japanese invasive knotweed *Fallopia japonica*. In addition the United Kingdom reported the finding of *Tuta absoluta* on tomatoes originating from Spain.

The Commission (FVO) informed the Committee that the "Better training for safer food" courses will be continued for the period between 2009-2011 and invited the Member States to contribute in the preparation of the courses with comments and suggestions.

**2. PRESENTATION BY THE EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY (EFSA) OF THE SCIENTIFIC OPINION OF THE PANEL ON PLANT HEALTH CONCERNING THE PEST RISK ASSESSMENT AND ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE PROVIDED BY SOUTH AFRICA ON *GUIGNARDIA CITRICARPA*, CITRUS BLACK SPOT FUNGUS, FOLLOWED BY A DISCUSSION.**

EFSA gave a detailed presentation of the above scientific opinion of the Panel on Plant Health. The presentation focused on the suitability of the climatic conditions for the establishment of citrus black spot in the EU, the citrus fruit pathway risk analysis and an evaluation of existing and some other management options. The Committee accepted this opinion, in particular its conclusions on climate suitability and the pathway risk analysis, and expressed its satisfaction for the work done by EFSA thereon. It concluded that the EFSA opinion provides broad support for the existing import requirements. Considerations of further management options shall continue in one of the forthcoming meetings of the Committee.

**3. DISCUSSION ON PRIORITIES FOR PEST RISK ANALYSIS (PRA) TO BE ORGANISED BY THE EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY (EFSA).**

Suggestions by Member States were collected on PRA work that will be planned by EFSA.

**4. FOLLOW-UP TO THE DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PORTUGUESE ACTION PLAN AGAINST PINE WOOD NEMATODE (PWN), SUBMITTED IN NOVEMBER 2008 AND AMENDED SUBSEQUENTLY.**

Portugal informed the Committee on the main changes in the National Action Plan against pine wood nematode, which had been requested on basis of the Commission Expert Working Group of 26-27 January 2009. This plan was accepted by the Committee on 2 conditions: (1) the plan must at all times be fully in line with existing legal EU emergency measures (some minor corrections needed) and (2) the intensity of controls in wood processing companies as well as road transport needs to be intensified. The Committee discussed the implications of recent notifications of interception of infected Portuguese wood and bark materials. The Commission requested the Member States to send in information on their annual surveys of coniferous forests, control of susceptible wood at import and control of susceptible wood moving from PWN-demarcated areas in the EU to free areas by the end of March 2009.

**5. PRESENTATION BY SPAIN OF THE SPANISH ACTION PLAN AGAINST PWN, FOLLOWED BY A DISCUSSION.**

Spain informed the Committee on its National Contingency Plan for PWN and clarified what measures have been taken at the outbreak in Extremadura. Spain stressed that the clearcut requested by the Commission would impact on Natura 2000 areas with protected bird nesting sites (Black Vulture and Black Stork). A short discussion on the 3 km diameter clearcut took place. The Committee requested Spain to add a detailed description of its actions in the contingency plan and put it again on the agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

**6. PRESENTATION BY THE COMMISSION (FVO) OF, AND DISCUSSION ON THE REPORT OF A 2008 INSPECTION MISSION TO JAPAN IN ORDER TO EVALUATE THE SYSTEM OF OFFICIAL CONTROLS AND THE CERTIFICATION OF BONSAI TYPE PLANTS FOR EXPORT TO THE EUROPEAN UNION.**

The Commission (FVO/SANCO F4) presented the findings of the inspection mission. The Committee noticed that although the system is in place, its implementation did not fully ensure for exported bonsai to be free from harmful organisms. Additional points concerning the import requirements of bonsai and the follow-up of non-compliance was postponed to the following meeting of the Committee.

**7. PRESENTATION BY THE COMMISSION (FVO) OF AN OVERVIEW REPORT OF THE 2008 MONITORING RESULTS FOR PRESENCE OF *DIABROTICA VIRGIFERA*, THE DEMARCATED AREAS AND THE CONTAINMENT PROGRAMMES IN MEMBER STATES, FOLLOWED BY A DISCUSSION.**

The Commission (FVO/SANCO F4) presented an overview of the 2008 survey results in Member States, as laid down in Commission Decision 2003/766/EC. In 2008 *Diabrotica* was found in eleven Member States (in two of them as isolated outbreaks while in the remaining nine the pest is established in part or the whole maize cultivated area). The lack of findings in areas with former isolated outbreaks confirmed again the efficacy of the compulsory eradication measures for isolated outbreaks. In 2008 a further expansion of the area in Central Europe where the pest is established was observed (natural spread).

**8. PRESENTATION BY THE COMMISSION (FVO) OF AN OVERVIEW REPORT OF THE 2008 MONITORING RESULTS FOR PRESENCE OF POTATO SPINDLE TUBER VIROID IN MEMBER STATES, FOLLOWED BY A DISCUSSION.**

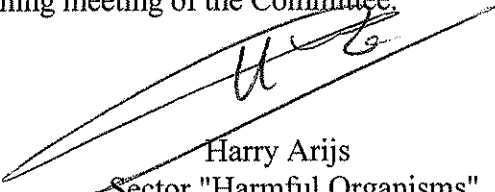
The Commission (FVO/SANCO F4) presented an overview report on the results of the surveys carried out by Member States for the presence of potato spindle tuber viroid (PSTVd) in their territory in 2008, as laid down in Commission Decision 2007/410/EC. A number of samples taken from PSTVd host plants from domestic production, internal movements as well as imported consignments tested positive for PSTVd. Notwithstanding the higher survey efforts, the total incidence of PSTVd in 2008 was considerable lower than in 2007, suggesting that the present Community measures (surveys, control of production and movement of host plants, and measures imposed in case of findings) are largely effective. Consequently the Committee agreed to the continuation of these measures for an additional year. The Commission reminded Member States that the obligation of plant passporting for internal movement of plants of *Brugmansia* spp. and *Solanum jasminoides* also extends to plants intended for sale to final consumers.

**9. DISCUSSION ON DRAFT COMMISSION REGULATION AMENDING REGULATION (EC) No 690/2008 RECOGNISING PROTECTED ZONES EXPOSED TO PARTICULAR PLANT HEALTH RISKS IN THE COMMUNITY.**

The Commission (SANCO E1) presented survey reports from Member States, whose protected zones were due to be reviewed by 31 March 2009. The Commission (SANCO E1) also presented a non-paper on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 690/2008 in relation to this review. The status of protected zones without regular survey reports was questioned. It was concluded to continue the discussion in the forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

**10. DISCUSSION ON DRAFT COMMISSION DIRECTIVE AMENDING ANNEXES II 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 Commission (SANCO E1) presented a non-paper on draft Commission Directive amending Annexes II to V of Council Directive 2000/29/EC. The amendment should align the Directive with possible changes in Commission Regulation (EC) No 690/2008 (see point 9.), correct some of the cross-references that have become obsolete and align the Directive with the current reading of the custom's combined nomenclature. A short discussion took place, in which some amendments were proposed to the text. It was concluded to continue the discussion in the forthcoming meeting of the Committee.



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Sector "Harmful Organisms"