



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANT HEALTH HELD ON
15-16 DECEMBER 2008**

Chairman: Mr. H. Arijs

All Member States (MS) present, except Italy, Luxembourg and Malta. All absent MS were represented at the moment of the vote. Switzerland was present as observer.

1. Miscellaneous.

The Netherlands announced the preparation of a pest risk assessment for the polyphagous nematode *Meloidogyne enterolobii*, which has been repeatedly intercepted.

Slovenia reported the first confirmed finding of *Scirrhia acicola* in *Pinus sylvestris* and the presence of *Paysandisia archon* in 13 *Trachycarpus fortunei* palms in a garden centre. In both cases official measures were taken.

The United Kingdom confirmed the first finding of Tobacco mild green mosaic virus (TMGMV) in plants of *Impatiens* sp. and announced that a PRA is under preparation.

2. Presentation by Portugal and discussion concerning the implementation of the emergency measures against pine wood nematode, laid down in Decision 2006/133/EC, as amended.

Portugal presented its new authorisation procedure for processing plants to carry out wood treatment, in line with the latest amendment of Decision 2006/133/EC, as voted during previous Committee meeting and adopted on 15 December. A first series of 21 premises with specific authorisation numbers was introduced and an additional series was announced. The Committee welcomed the new procedure and the authorisations. The Commission agreed to compile the authorised premises with their numbers in a list, to be made publicly available. From 15 December 2008 onwards, all Portuguese wood susceptible to pine wood nematode and leaving continental Portugal should bear a mark including an authorisation number from this list.

- 3. Presentation by the Food and Veterinary Office of the main findings of a mission from 24 November to 5 December 2008 to Spain in order to evaluate the monitoring programme and the control of pine wood nematode, followed by a discussion on further actions to be taken for the eradication of the organism.**

The Commission (FVO) presented an overview of the main findings during a recent inspection mission to Spain, with a focus on the Spanish monitoring and testing system for pine wood nematode (PWN), the development of a contingency plan and the control measures taken so far to control the recent outbreak of PWN.

Spain presented its provisional action plan for pine wood nematode, including legislative, monitoring and eradication initiatives. The Committee welcomed the plan and agreed to assess it once when data about the extent of the outbreak will be available.

The Commission announced the organisation of a technical working group meeting in January 2009 to, inter alia, review the EU harmonised monitoring system for PWN.

- 4. Report by the Commission and discussion on the import of contaminated soil under Decision 2005/51/EC.**

The Commission presented the existing derogation, which expires on 28.02.2009, for review. No imports of contaminated soil under this derogation had been reported. Nevertheless, some Member States requested the prolongation of the period of validity of the Decision 2005/51/EC, because it is very likely to be used in the near future. The Commission agreed to prepare a text for prolongation of the derogation for a forthcoming Committee meeting.

- 5. Report by the Commission and discussion on the import of *Vitis* plants from Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia under Decision 2007/847/EC.**

The Commission presented the reports from Member States on the use of derogation Decision 2007/847/EC. Slovenia provided additional details regarding the implementation of this Decision.

- 6. Report by the Commission of the working group meeting on 16-17 October 2008 concerning a possible derogation from existing specific requirements for the import of wood chips into the EU.**

The Commission presented the results of the meeting of a technical working group concerning a possible derogation for the import of wood chips. It was noted that the phytosanitary risk of such imports is associated with the potentially poor quality of the wood chips to be imported for energy production. The Committee examined the request for a derogation from the existing heat treatment requirement. It was concluded that the interested parties should carry

out a risk analysis assessing the phytosanitary risk of wood chips, against the agreed list of harmful organisms.

7. Presentation by the Commission of additional information provided by the USA regarding an alternative option of certifying herbaceous plants for export by the USA under the EU regulations laid down in Council Directive 2000/29/EC (issue: *Bemisia*).

The additional information received from the USA in September was presented and welcomed by the Committee. The available information was still considered to be rather limited. It was concluded that a US pilot programme could allow the USA to provide detailed information and offer an opportunity for the FVO to assess the system in advance of a possible derogation.

8. Overview by the Commission and discussion on the main activities of the SCPH in 2008 and priorities for 2009.

The Commission gave a short overview of the main activities of the Committee during 2008 and referred to some outstanding dossiers for 2009. A short exchange of views took place on the 2009 priorities.

9. Commission Decision on a Community financial contribution for 2008 to cover expenditure incurred by Germany, The Netherlands and Slovenia for the purpose of combating organisms harmful to plants or plant products (doc. SANCO/3157/2008).

The Decision would establish the Community financial contribution (“solidarity”) for dossiers examined in 2008 to cover expenditure incurred to control respectively the Western corn rootworm (*Diabrotica virgifera*) in Germany (in 2007) and in the Netherlands (in 2006 and 2007), the potato spindle tuber viroid in the Netherlands (in 2006 and 2007), the tobacco ringspot nepovirus in the Netherlands (in 2006) and the oriental chestnut gall wasp (*Dryocosmus kuriphilus*) in Slovenia (in 2007).

Vote: favourable opinion by qualified majority

10. 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 2009 (doc. SANCO/3497/2008).

This Decision would establish the Community's financial contribution to cover expenditure incurred by France for programmes set up in the French overseas departments (DOMs) for 2009, covering an inter-DOM sub-programme for the development of detection methods for harmful organisms based on quantitative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and support to the transfer of Citrus plant material, a sub-programme for the department of Martinique consisting of phytosanitary surveys and set-up of tools for the integrated management of plant health issues, a sub-programme for the department of Guyane to manage an agricultural phytosanitary warning

system for rice production; and a sub-programme for the department of Guadeloupe in two parts: set up of a survey network for fruit flies and management of the risk of introduction of harmful organisms by the touristic activity.

Vote: favourable opinion by unanimity.

Harry Arijs
Sector "Harmful Organisms"

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