



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Brussel D (2011) 152771

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANT HEALTH HELD ON  
16-17 DECEMBER 2010**

Chair: Harry Arijs.

All Member States present, except Bulgaria (absent and represented by the Czech Republic), Luxembourg (absent and represented by Belgium) and Sweden (absent and represented by Denmark). Greece was absent on 16/12/2010. Greece was present at the time of the vote. Switzerland was present as observer.

**1. Miscellaneous.**

Finland reported the finding of a living *Anoplophora glabripennis* beetle in a shipment of paving slabs containing wood packaging material which originated from China.

Estonia informed the Committee of the finding of *Scirrhia acicola* on *Pinus sylvestris* trees belonging to the coniferous collection of the Tallinn Botanical Garden.

Portugal reported the detection of an outbreak of *Erwinia amylovora* on apple trees in a restricted area in the eastern part of the country.

**2. Presentation by Spain of the action plan for the eradication of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (pinewood nematode) outbreak in Galicia, followed by a discussion.**

Spain presented an action plan for 2011 concerning the recent outbreak of pine wood nematode in Galicia, with the objective to eradicate the pest. The action plan was discussed. The discussion will be continued in the next meeting of the Committee.

**3. Debriefing by the Commission from a bilateral meeting EU-Egypt on the phytosanitary import requirement for potatoes in Brussels on 2 December 2010.**

The Commission informed about a bilateral meeting with the Egyptian authorities on the phytosanitary import requirement for potatoes that took place in Brussels on 2 December 2010. Egypt requested the yearly re-opening of the EU market to be done earlier in the year. It also requested the withdrawal of the prohibition for Egyptian potatoes because of the progress made to combat brown rot in comparison to a situation in the 1990s.

**4. Exchange of views concerning EU import requirements for dried plums (fruit of *Prunus* sp.).**

The Commission presented Argentina's request regarding the export to the EU of consignments of dried plum originating in Argentina. This concerns dried plum to be sent to EU with a phytosanitary certificate without additional declaration. Certain questions were raised about the phytosanitary risk of dried fruit of plums regarding *Monilia fructicola*. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is developing a pest risk analysis (PRA) on *Monilia fructicola*. Therefore, it was concluded to wait for the outcome of this PRA before taking a position in this matter.

**5. Presentation by the Commission on the latest developments regarding delegated and implementing acts.**

The Commission gave an overview of the latest legal procedures that will be used to issue new Union legislation.

**6. Presentation by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) of the scientific opinion on a technical file submitted by the Japanese Authorities to support a derogation request from the EU import requirements for bonsai and topiary trees that are host plants of *Anoplophora chinensis*.**

EFSA presented the scientific opinion on a technical file submitted by the Japanese authorities to support a derogation request from the EU import requirements for bonsai and topiary trees that are host plants of *Anoplophora chinensis*. It was considered that the requests for a reduction of the required period for growing plants in field cages from two years to one season, prior to export and the removal of the net from the field cage during the winter period may result in an increased risk of entry of *A. chinensis* into the EU. The grafting of scions with a diameter not exceeding 0.5 cm was considered unlikely to provide conditions for survival of eggs of *A. chinensis*.

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

The Commission presented an overview of the outbreaks of regulated as well as non-regulated harmful organisms, which were reported by the Member States during 2010. This presentation was followed by a discussion on strategies for a future harmonisation of outbreak reporting modalities.

**8. Overview by the Commission on the main achievements of the Committee in 2010 and discussion on the main challenges for 2011.**

The activities of the Committee during 2010 as well as the priorities for 2011 were discussed.

9. **Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Decision extending the period of validity of Decision 2003/248/EC, authorising Member States to provide temporary derogations from certain provisions of Council Directive 2000/29/EC in respect of plants of strawberry (*Fragaria* L.), intended for planting, other than seeds, originating in Argentina. (Doc. SANCO/13187/2010)**

The Commission presented an overview report on the import of plants of strawberry (*Fragaria* L.), intended for planting, other than seeds, originating in Argentina and imported under the derogation provided by Decision 2003/248/EC. From the reports it was concluded that the situation remains stable. The Commission presented the main elements of the draft Decision that would extend the derogation for a period until 30 September 2020. Appropriate mechanisms are established in this Decision to ensure the monitoring of the conditions of application of the derogations. The Commission will continue to review the correct use of this derogation annually during a Committee meeting.

Vote: favourable opinion by unanimity.

10. **Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Decision extending the period of validity of Decision 2003/249/EC, authorising Member States to provide temporary derogations from certain provisions of Council Directive 2000/29/EC in respect of plants of strawberry (*Fragaria* L.), intended for planting, other than seeds, originating in Chile. (Doc. SANCO/13186/2010)**

The Commission presented an overview report on the import of plants of strawberry (*Fragaria* L.), intended for planting, other than seeds, originating in Chile and imported under the derogation provided by Decision 2003/249/EC. From the reports it was concluded that the situation remains stable. The Commission presented the main elements of the draft Decision that would extend the derogation for a period until 30 September 2020. Appropriate mechanisms are established in this Decision to ensure the monitoring of the conditions of application of the derogations. The Commission will continue to review the correct use of this derogation annually during a Committee meeting.

Vote: favourable opinion by unanimity.

11. **Exchange of views on a 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 2011.**

The Commission presented a non-paper dealing with a possible Union financial contribution to cover expenditure incurred by France for plant health programmes set up in the French overseas departments (DOMs) in 2011. At the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Plant Health (SCPH), a draft Decision on this financial contribution will be presented in view of a possible opinion.

**12. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2009/996/EU on a Community financial contribution for 2009 to cover expenditure incurred by Germany, Spain, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal and Slovenia for the purpose of combating organisms harmful to plants or plant products.**

The Commission presented a non-paper on the amendment of Decision 2009/996/EU with regards to the financial contribution to Spain and Italy for the replacement of trees infested by harmful organisms in previous years.

The Commission will present a draft Decision in view of a possible opinion during a forthcoming Committee meeting.