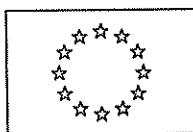


31.07.2009



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

D(2009)411201

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANT HEALTH HELD ON
17 JULY 2009**

Chairperson: Mr. H. Arijs.

All Member States (MS) present, except LU. All absent MS were represented at the moment of the vote.

Switzerland was present as an observer.

1. MISCELLANEOUS.

The United Kingdom announced the first outbreak of *Tuta absoluta* in a tomato crop in Southeast England most possibly caused by the circulation of contaminated tomato packing boxes for re-use. Eradication measures have been taken.

Latvia referred to the first finding of *Scirrhia pini* on three varieties of mountain pine *Pinus mugo* growing in a nursery. Eradication measures and tracing back efforts are in place.

Greece announced the first finding of *Tuta absoluta* in tomato plants grown in a glasshouse and that of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* in avocado *Persea americana* both in Chania Crete.

Hungary announced the first confirmed occurrence of *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* (pupae) which was detected on a chestnut tree originating from a garden centre.

France announced four findings of *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera*. Two of these were detected in new outbreak sites.

Switzerland notified the findings of *Tuta absoluta* (region of Geneva), of *Scirrhia acicola* on Pinus and of *Monilinia fructicola* in an apricot orchard. Tracing back has been attempted while appropriate eradication treatments are in place.

Italy announced that following up to the finding of *Anoplophora glabripennis* on *Acer* sp. a report evaluating the eradication plan in place will be available soon. After the recent findings of *Tuta absoluta* on *Phaseolus vulgaris*, the possible transmission of this pest on artichoke crops is under close monitoring in Sardegna. New outbreaks of *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* have been observed. *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* was detected in North Italy.

Germany announced two new interceptions of *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* in Baden-Württemberg and one interception of *Anoplophora glabripennis* adult found in Berlin. Tracing back investigations are carried out in both cases.

The Commission requested the Member States for the timely notification of regulated pest interceptions through EUROPHYT.

2. PRESENTATION BY SPAIN AND DISCUSSION ON THE SPANISH ACTION PLAN AGAINST PINE WOOD NEMATODE.

Spain presented to the Committee a revised Action Plan against pine wood nematode, clarifying what provisions are being made as concerns the eradication of the single outbreak of pine wood nematode in November 2008 and the related intensive surveillance around the site of the infested, now removed and destroyed tree. The Commission (SANCO E1) had discussed the Action Plan with Spain and with experts from the Member States and EFSA in June 2009. The Committee approved the Action Plan.

3. PRESENTATION BY THE COMMISSION (SANCO E.1) AND DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE 2008 PROTECTED ZONES SURVEY PERIOD.

The Commission (SANCO E.1) presented an overview of reports from the Member States on results of surveys in 2008 in Protected Zones and buffer zones. The oral presentation focused on results for *Erwinia amylovora*, citrus tristeza virus, *Globodera pallida* and *Bemisia tabaci*.

4. DISCUSSION ON THE 2008-2009 IMPORT SEASON OF EGYPTIAN POTATOES AND FUTURE IMPORT SEASON 2009-2010.

The Commission (SANCO E.1) provided an overview of the interceptions of brown rot in Egyptian ware potatoes imported by the Member States in the 2008-2009 season. It was concluded that further imports of ware potatoes from Egypt into the EU should be formally stopped for the 2008-2009 season.

5. FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION ON BULGARIAN EMERGENCY MEASURES AGAINST WARE POTATOES IMPORTED FROM CERTAIN AREAS OF TURKEY AND CONTAMINATED BY *SYNCHYTRIUM ENDOBIOTICUM*.

After a presentation of the situation in Turkey by a delegation from Turkish experts, the discussion on the unilateral measures from Bulgaria was continued. The Committee concluded that a common position should only be taken based on a report of a mission of the Food and Veterinary Office to Turkey to examine the situation.

6. PRESENTATION BY THE COMMISSION (SANCO E.1) ON THE STATE OF PLAY OF THE REQUEST BY SERBIA FOR A DEROGATION FROM THE EU PHYTOSANITARY IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR WARE POTATOES AND DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOW-UP.

The request from Serbia, together with the justification dossier, concerning a derogation from the current EU potato import prohibition was discussed. The

Committee agreed that the Food and Veterinary Office could be invited to carry out a mission to Serbia to examine the potato production system. The report of such a mission will be the basis for a common position.

7. COMMISSION REGULATION AMENDING REGULATION (EC) NO 690/2008 RECOGNISING PROTECTED ZONES EXPOSED TO PARTICULAR PLANT HEALTH RISKS IN THE COMMUNITY (DOC. SANCO/4914/2009).

The Committee continued its earlier discussion on this issue. EL presented additional information as regards citrus tristeza virus in Crete, which the Committee took note of and decided to come back to it in 2010.

The Commission (SANCO E.1) then presented a draft text of the amendment of the Regulation. The provisions in more detail are as follows:

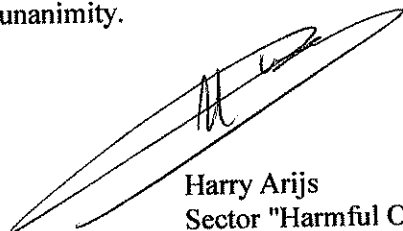
- for Greece: protected zones with regards to *Dendroctonus micans*, *Gilpinia hercyniae*, *Gonipterus scutellatus*, *Ips amitinus*, *Ips cembrae* and *Ips duplicatus* lost their permanent status and are recognised only provisionally until 31 March 2010, when the status thereof shall be reviewed on the basis of results of the survey in 2009; Crete and Lesvos are no longer recognised as a protected zone for *Cryphonectria parasitica*.
- for *Erwinia amylovora*: Austria is no longer recognised as a protected zone for this organism.
- for Grapevine flavescence dorée MLO: the temporary status of protected zone in Czech Republic, France (Alsace, Champagne-Ardenne and Lorraine) and Italy (Basilicata) has been extended until 31 March 2011.

Vote: favourable opinion by unanimity.

8. 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 (DOC. SANCO/4915/2009).

The Commission (SANCO E.1) presented a draft text of the Directive. This Directive would update the relevant Annexes as regards the protected zone status, in line with agenda point 7. In addition, this Directive would correct some of the cross-references that have become obsolete and align Annex V of the Directive with the current reading of the custom's combined nomenclature.

Vote: favourable opinion by unanimity.



Harry Arijs
Sector "Harmful Organisms"