



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANT HEALTH HELD ON
17-18 July 2008**

Chairman: Mr. H. Arijs

All Member States (MS) present except LU (absent on 18/07 PM). LU was represented by BE. Switzerland was present as observer.

1. MISCELLANEOUS.

FR requested the import of two 125 years old traditional Japanese "Minka" wooden houses, in the form of wood which will be subjected to methyl bromide treatment before the entry into the Community.

The Commission (SANCO E.1) announced that pursuant to article 15 of the Directive, requests have been also received for the provision of derogations for the import of ware potatoes from Cuba, seed potatoes from Canada and artificially dwarfed bonsai plants of *Pinus* sp. and *Chamaecyperis* sp. from Japan.

2. PRESENTATION BY THE FOOD AND VETERINARY OFFICE AND DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF OFFICIAL SURVEYS FOR POTATO RING ROT AND POTATO BROWN ROT RESPECTIVELY, CARRIED OUT BY MEMBER STATES FOR THE 2007 GROWING SEASON (DAY 1).

The Commission (SANCO F.4) presented a report of the results of the official surveys carried out by MS with regards to potato ring rot and potato brown rot conducted on tubers of potatoes harvested in 2007, originating in or moved/imported into their countries, in application of Council Directives 93/85/EEC (control of potato ring rot) and 98/57/EC (control of potato brown rot) respectively. MS welcomed this report. Additional information was supplied by MS on the situation in their respective countries.

Seen in the EU as a whole, the last season confirmed the trend already noted last year (SCPH July 2007) that both diseases are under control in most MS. The Commission reminded the MS to immediately notify outbreaks, in case these would occur.

3. DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE COMMUNITY ACTIONS TO CONTROL *ANOPLOPHORA* SP. IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (DAY 1).

The Commission (SANCO E.1) presented a non-paper on emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Community of *Anoplophora chinensis* (CLB). It concerns measures for the import and movement into the EU of specified host plants of CLB. MS made several comments on this non-paper. They expressed willingness for a fast entry into force of EU emergency measures. A revised version of the non-paper will be discussed at the next SCPH, in view of a possible opinion.

4. DISCUSSION ON THE 2007-2008 IMPORT SEASON OF EGYPTIAN POTATOES AND FUTURE IMPORT SEASON 2008-2009 (DAY 2).

The Commission (SANCO F.4) introduced a report on the history of the interception of *Ralstonia solanacearum* (potato brown rot) on potatoes imported during the 2007/2008 season. The Commission and several MS acknowledged that the last season had finished with a very good plant health result (not a single interception) but also noted, however, that efforts need to be continued in Egypt. The Commission noted that a full report by Egypt of the last export season had not been received yet. According to Article 2 of Decision 2004/4/EC as amended, the above mentioned report is needed to present in a forthcoming SCPH a draft Decision allowing the import of Egyptian potatoes during the 2008/2009 season, in view of a possible vote.

5. PRESENTATION BY THE FOOD AND VETERINARY OFFICE OF THE RESULTS OF SURVEYS AND INSPECTIONS/TESTS CARRIED OUT BY MS ON THE PRESENCE OF PEPINO MOSAIC VIRUS (DAY 2).

The Commission (SANCO F.4) presented an overview of the surveys organised by the MS for the presence of PMV on their territory in 2007, as laid down in Decision 2004/200/EC. Although general conclusions could not be safely drawn, it was noted that the number of PMV outbreaks was decreased in EU origin seed and plants for planting compared to last year. The Committee concluded that a revision of the existing emergency measures considering seed decontamination methods should be based on a revised PRA. The latter is under preparation in the framework of PEPEIRA research project.

6. PRESENTATION BY SANCO (E.1) AND DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE 2007 PROTECTED ZONES SURVEY PERIOD (DAY 2).

The Commission (SANCO E.1) presented an overview of reports from the Member States on Protected Zones (PZ) survey results in 2007. It was noted that the majority of the reports had been provided to the Commission. However, from one MS none of the reports was received. Some of the MS, in particular those from which the reports were missing, then presented their individual situation.

A short discussion took place afterwards on some of the aspects of reporting the survey results, a follow-up thereto and on certain elements of the EU Protected Zones concept. A MS recalled an earlier request by MS that an

expert Working Group (WG) on PZ is established to consider more detailed guidance for reporting the survey results. The Commission expressed its view that a forthcoming evaluation of the EU plant health system would provide an appropriate framework for such considerations, and that in the meantime the existing reporting tool, prepared by the FVO, should be used. The Commission also informed that it would approach a MS with reporting inconsistencies with the aim of seeking a rapid improvement of the situation.

7. PRESENTATION BY THE FOOD AND VETERINARY OFFICE ON THE RESULTS OF A MISSION CARRIED OUT FROM 8 TO 12 OCTOBER 2007 IN SWITZERLAND FOR THE PURPOSE OF EVALUATING THE SYSTEM FOR PLANT HEALTH CONTROL (DAY 2).

The Commission (SANCO F.4) presented the outcome of a mission carried out in 2007 in Switzerland for the purpose of evaluating the system for plant health control, in the framework of the agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on trade in agricultural products (Annex 4 on plant health). The overall conclusion was that the legislative and regulatory system is complete and coherent, there is a good organization of control tasks and enough resources to carry them, a rather good passporting system, well organised surveys for *Erwinia amylovora*, *Diabrotica virgifera* and Flavescence dorée, and a good diagnostic support. Some aspects could be improved like the registration of importers of plants and plant products, the checks on plants and plant products imported from third countries, the identification of the final destination of arriving consignments, the formalities linked to the re-export to the EU, and the information included in the plant passport. MS welcomed the presentation of this report and made some comments on it. They also welcomed the attendance of Switzerland in the SCPH.

8. PRESENTATION BY FRANCE AND DISCUSSION ON A PROTOCOL CONCERNING AN INTER-LABORATORIES RING-TEST FOR THE DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION OF *CLAVIBACTER MICHIGANENSIS* SUBSP. *MICHIGANENSIS* ON TOMATO SEEDS (DAY 2).

postponed

9. COMMISSION DECISION AMENDING DECISION 2006/133/EC REQUIRING MEMBER STATES TO TAKE ADDITIONAL MEASURES AGAINST THE DISSEMINATION OF *BURSAPHELENCHUS XYLOPHILUS* (STEINER ET BUHRER) NICKLE *ET AL.* (THE PINE WOOD NEMATODE) AS REGARDS AREAS IN PORTUGAL, OTHER THAN THOSE IN WHICH IT IS KNOWN NOT TO OCCUR (SANCO/2301/2008) (DAY 1).

The Commission (SANCO E.1) presented a draft Decision requiring strict measures for the internal movement of PWN susceptible wood within the demarcated area, which is covering the whole territory of continental Portugal. Wood originating from healthy trees, confirmed by testing, remains excepted. The most strict requirements are applicable in a buffer zone of 20 km wide along the border with Spain.

Vote: favourable opinion by unanimity.

10. COMMISSION DECISION AMENDING DECISION 2007/365/EC ON EMERGENCY MEASURES TO PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION INTO AND SPREAD WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF *RHYNCHOPHORUS FERRUGINEUS* (OLIVIER) (SANCO/1298/2008) (DAY 1).

The Commission (SANCO E.1) presented a draft Commission Decision updating the emergency measures for *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (red palm weevil) in line with the SCPH conclusions of March 2008. The draft Decision would amend the list of host plant species for the harmful organism.

Vote: favourable opinion by unanimity.

Signed
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.