



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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

22-23 September 2008

Chairman: Mr. H. Arijs

All Member States (MS) present, except BG (absent at the moment of the vote of item 5), IT (was absent on 22/09/2008 – morning session), LU (absent on 22/09/2008), MT (absent on 22-23/09/2008), SI (absent on 23/09/2008).

All absent MS were represented at the moment of the votes. Switzerland was present as observer.

1. MISCELLANEOUS.

CZ informed the Committee of findings of *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *phaseoli* on stored seeds of bean and in a bean field, of *Mycosphaerella dearnessii* (*Scirrhia acicola*) on pine trees, and of *Chalara fraxinea* on ash.

DE notified two findings of *Diabrotica virgifera* in Bavaria.

UK repeated its offer to send a specialist on *M. dearnessii* to SCPH for discussing this fungus, and brought the attention of the Committee to the presence of *Mycosphaerella pini* (*Dothistroma septospora*) in Ukraine and Russia.

BE reported regular interceptions of quarantine nematodes in Japanese bonsai.

ES gave an update on the findings and measures concerning *Tuta absoluta*.

AT notified outbreaks of *Diabrotica virgifera*, *Rhagoletis completa* (in walnut), PSTVd in *Solanum jasminoides* and *Cylindrocladium buxicola* in buxus.

The Commission recalled an agreement reached in May 2007 that Canada is considered as free from alfalfa bacterial wilt (*Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *insidiosus*), implying that no specific additional declaration for this is necessary at import.

The Commission had asked the MS for their opinion on granting Switzerland access to CIRCA and noted that the Committee supported this proposal.

Switzerland indicated that it would treat the documents confidentially and would actively participate.

2. UPDATE ON THE SITUATION REGARDING THE PRESENCE OF PINEWOOD NEMATODE (PWN) IN SUSCEPTIBLE TREES AND WOOD FROM PORTUGAL.

Portugal informed the Committee that the extra monitoring campaign for PWN organized since late spring 2008 had resulted in 2 major outbreak areas (1 old and one new) and 3 minor outbreak sites. Sweden and Finland presented the results of their monitoring for PWN in Portuguese wood packaging material. Portugal confirmed their efforts for a safe trade of susceptible material out of their country.

3. DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF ISPM 15 IN THE COMMUNITY

The Commission announced that a draft Directive is under preparation for the amendment of the EU requirement for the debarking of wood packaging material at import in the Community. The proposal would include that the material needs to be free from bark, but with a tolerance for the presence of small pieces of bark which do not include an unacceptable phytosanitary risk. The technical basis is similar to the compromise that was reached in the IPPC Technical Party for Forestry Quarantine.

4. 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

FR explained the necessity for an inter-laboratory ring tests, given the apparently poor reliability of the existing protocols. FR presented an updated version of a ring test for validating existing detection methods in view of developing an agreed protocol for international use, and invited other MS to join.

5. COMMISSION DECISION ON EMERGENCY MEASURES TO PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION INTO AND THE SPREAD WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF *ANOPLOPHORA CHINENSIS* (FORSTER) (SANCO/2505/2008)

This draft Decision would lay down Community emergency measures against *Anoplophora chinensis* (Forster), (the citrus long horn beetle or CLB, a polyphagous insect which can attack a wide range of woody plant species and mainly present in Asia). CLB is listed in the Annexes to Directive 2000/29/EC and there is already a general level of protection of the Community against this harmful organism. Nevertheless, it is necessary to take emergency measures against the introduction into and spread within the Community of CLB, as a consequence of interceptions of the organism on many consignments of plants for planting of *Acer* spp. (maple tree) originating in third countries, and of

recent outbreaks of CLB in the Community. In summary, the emergency measures will apply to a well defined list of major host plants known. They are composed of import requirements from infested countries, stating that if the plants have not been grown throughout their life in a pest-free area, they shall be grown for two years prior to export in places of production meeting particular conditions. Similar requirements for the movement of specified plants within the Community are also foreseen. In particular, if the specified plants originate in areas where CLB is known to be present (demarcated areas), they shall be grown during two years in places of production subject to specific conditions. Requirements for the demarcation of areas in the Community where the harmful organism is present complete the provisions, as well as a survey requirement to check for the presence or continued absence of the harmful organism on certain plants in the Member States.

Vote: favourable opinion by unanimity.

6. COMMISSION DECISION AMENDING DECISION 2004/4/EC AUTHORISING MEMBER STATES TEMPORARILY TO TAKE EMERGENCY MEASURES AGAINST THE DISSEMINATION OF *PSEUDOMONAS SOLANACEARUM* (SMITH) SMITH AS REGARDS EGYPT (SANCO/2894/2008)

On the basis of the conclusions of previous Committee meeting, the Commission (SANCO E1) presented a draft Decision for possible opinion. This text should amend the existing emergency measures to extend the possibility for exporting Egyptian ware potatoes to the EU with another season (export season 2008-2009).

Vote: favourable opinion by unanimity.

7. COMMISSION DECISION EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF VALIDITY OF DECISION 2002/887/EC IN RESPECT OF NATURALLY OR ARTIFICIALLY DWARFED PLANTS OF *CHAMAECYPARIS* SPACH, *JUNIPERUS* L. AND *PINUS* L., ORIGINATING IN JAPAN (SANCO/2580/2008)

The Commission (SANCO E.1) presented a summary report on imports which had taken place under the derogation permitting the importation of certain bonsai plants from Japan and a draft text to extend the validity of Decision 2002/887/EC for two more years.

The Committee agreed that the current derogation should be renewed and took note of the planned FVO mission to Japan in 2009 to assess the situation in situ.

Vote: favourable opinion by unanimity.

8. COMMISSION DECISION AMENDING DECISION 2003/61/EC AUTHORISING CERTAIN MEMBER STATES TO PROVIDE FOR TEMPORARY DEROGATIONS FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2000/29/EC IN RESPECT OF SEED POTATOES ORIGINATING IN CERTAIN PROVINCES OF CANADA (SANCO/2600/2008)

The Commission (SANCO E.1) presented a draft text to extend the validity of Decision 2003/61/EC for three more years. The Committee agreed that the current derogation should be prolonged.

Vote: favourable opinion by unanimity.

9. COMMISSION DECISION AMENDING DECISION 2003/63/EC AUTHORISING MEMBER STATES TO PROVIDE FOR TEMPORARY DEROGATIONS FROM COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2000/29/EC IN RESPECT OF POTATOES, OTHER THAN POTATOES INTENDED FOR PLANTING, ORIGINATING IN CERTAIN PROVINCES OF CUBA (SANCO/2582/2008)

The Commission (SANCO E.1) presented a draft text to extend the validity of Decision 2003/63/EC for three more years. The Committee agreed that the current derogation should be prolonged.

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.



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List of participants