



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

D(2011)

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANT HEALTH HELD ON
25-26 NOVEMBER 2010**

Chair: Harry Arijs.

All Member States present, except Bulgaria (25-26/11), Luxembourg (25-26/11) and Portugal (25/11). Switzerland was present as observer.

1. Miscellaneous.

Italy informed the Committee of a new outbreak in the Veneto region of *Anoplophora glabripennis*, presumably independent from a previously reported outbreak in this region.

The United Kingdom reported the detection of *Phytophthora lateralis* on *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* (Lawson's cypress). The United Kingdom also presented an update of the outbreaks of *Phytophthora ramorum* on *Larix kaempferi* (Japanese Larch).

The Netherlands reported the first outbreak of *Anoplophora glabripennis* in its territory. The harmful organism was detected on *Acer pseudoplatanus* trees located in an industrial area. The Netherlands also reported the finding of *Tobacco ringspot virus* (TRSV) on *Phlox subulata* plants of the variety "Temiskaming".

Romania informed the Committee of the first finding in its territory of *Ralstonia solanacearum*, the causal agent of potato brown rot, which is supposedly linked to use of contaminated seed potatoes.

Spain reported the detection of an outbreak of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (pine wood nematode) on *Pinus pinaster* (maritime pine) in the autonomous community Galicia.

Lithuania reported the first finding in its territory of *Scirrhia acicola*, the causal agent of brown-spot needle blight, on plants of *Pinus mugo* growing in a natural reserve.

2. Presentation by Portugal and discussion of a proposal for long-term and interim treatment of pine bark against Pine Wood Nematode.

Portugal presented a proposal to upgrade the reliability of the heat treatment method that it currently applies to ensure that no live Pine Wood Nematode is present in treated pine bark that is moved in trade. In view of the recent opinion issued by EFSA's Panel on Plant Health concerning the present composting method, Portugal will develop within the next two years a validated treatment method addressing the current shortcomings. In the interim period, Portugal will reinforce the technical requirements of the current method so as to seriously mitigate the risk of spreading Pine Wood Nematode with pine bark. Portugal presented this strengthened procedure. The Committee accepted the proposal with some modifications. The Commission will update the official Commission list of authorised treatment companies, with a restriction for the bark treatment companies to use the agreed interim upgrade for maximally two years.

3. Presentation by Spain and discussion of the state of play concerning the recent outbreak of Pine Wood Nematode in Galicia and the corresponding Action Plan.

Spain presented the recent outbreak of Pine Wood Nematode in Galicia, the ongoing investigations and the preliminary scheduling of actions to eradicate the outbreak. A complete Action Plan will be presented by Spain for discussion in the next meeting of the Committee.

4. Presentation by the Commission of the report of the Working Group meeting of 24-25 June 2010 on the revision of the status of pine wood nematode in the EU and the related phytosanitary requirements for its control, followed by a discussion.

The Commission presented the report of the Commission Working Group on EU Plant Health Measures related to Forestry. The Committee discussed its content with the aim of the future review of the current legislation.

5. Discussion on the scientific justification for the current EU import requirements against the introduction of *Tilletia indica* in the EU territory.

Based on a recent request, the Committee discussed the appropriateness of the current EU import requirements against the introduction of *Tilletia indica* in the EU territory. The available scientific justification which was taken in consideration was the Pest Risk Analysis prepared in 2006 for the EU territory by the FP5 research project "Karnal bunt risks" as well as the EFSA opinion of June 2010 on the US pathway analysis. The Committee concluded that there is no new scientific information which would justify a revision of the Pest Risk Analysis and, consequently, of the current EU import requirements against this harmful organism.

6. Presentation by the Commission (Food and Veterinary Office) of the draft report of a mission carried out in Thailand from 06 to 17 September 2010 in order to evaluate the system of official controls and the certification of plants for export to the European Union, followed by a discussion.

The Commission presented the results of its inspection mission in Thailand related to high numbers of interceptions of harmful organisms in plants and plant products at arrival in the EU. The results of the mission are unsatisfactory. Furthermore, the Commission informed about a letter sent to Thailand in a follow-up to the mission results, announcing that the Commission is considering a temporary prohibition of import of the 5 most critical commodities (basil, bitter melon, Mexican coriander, egg plant and sweet pepper). The Committee agreed that proportionate measures – if needed by trade restriction - aiming at achieving promptly full compliance with EU plant health import requirements were necessary.

7. Presentation by the Commission (Food and Veterinary office) of the draft report of a mission carried in China from 15 to 21 September 2010 in order to evaluate the official control of plants exported to the European Union with particular attention to measures against *Anoplophora chinensis*, followed by a discussion.

The Commission presented the results of its inspection mission in China concerning in particular the measure against *Anoplophora chinensis*. The Committee took note of the conclusions of the mission. Given the fact that the mission had concluded that the listed Chinese nursery did not comply with the EU import requirements, the Committee concluded that the import will only be acceptable after upgrading the growing conditions in the Chinese nurseries, to be confirmed by a Chinese action plan in reply to the FVO report.

8. POSEIDOM

- **Presentation by France and discussion on the application of the programme of actions in the phytosanitary field covering the year 2010.**
- **Presentation by France and discussion on the programme of actions in the phytosanitary field covering the year 2011.**

France gave a presentation of the preliminary report of the actions carried out under the POSEIDOM programme, plant health measures, for the year 2010. The programme was composed of an inter-DOM sub-programme (programme common to several "departements d'outre-mer" or DOMs) and three sub-programmes respectively for Martinique, Guyana and Guadeloupe.

Finally, France presented its programme of actions for 2011. It contains an inter-DOM sub-programme and 2 individual sub-programmes (Martinique, Guadeloupe). Most of the actions are follow-up of actions of 2009 and/or 2010.

9. Continued discussion on the use of Member States' monitoring data for regulated harmful organisms in public documents.

The Committee agreed on the use, disclosure and re-use by the Commission, the Standing Committee on Plant Health and the European Food Safety Authority, of data on pest findings provided by the Member States to the Commission on condition that a basic set of conditions, as agreed by the Committee, was respected.