



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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**SUMMARY REPORT
OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANT HEALTH
(SCPH) HELD ON 26-27 APRIL 2007**

Chairman: Mr M. Vereecke

All Member States (MS) present except LU on 26-27 April and EL and IT on 26 April. LU was represented by BE.

1. MISCELLANEOUS.

The Commission (SANCO E.1) urged MS, if not yet done, to provide their national reports on reduced frequency [Art.5 of Commission Regulation (EC) No.1756/2004], which had been due by 31 March 2007.

The Commission (SANCO E.1) clarified a typo in the English version of Annex IV, A, I, point 46 to Council Directive 2000/29/EC. The special requirements in this point are applicable to plants intended for planting, other than seeds, tubers, bulbs, corms, rhizomes, originating in countries where the relevant harmful organisms are known to occur. This is laid down in all language versions of Council Directive 2000/29/EC, except in the English version. The word "bulbs" has been omitted here. The Commission will undertake to ask the relevant Council services to correct this situation as soon as possible.

2. FURTHER DISCUSSION OF A FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR AN INSPECTION PROTOCOL AND LABORATORY TESTING FOR THE DETECTION OF *COLLETOTRICHUM ACUTATUM* ON STRAWBERRY PLANTS.

Following the previous discussion on this issue in the SCPH of December 2006, FR presented additional information (preliminary list of host plants, sampling and inspection procedures) to its proposal for an EU-wide survey on *Colletotrichum acutatum* (Strawberry black spot), the results of which should serve as the basis for a reviewed pest risk analysis (PRA) currently being prepared by FR. FR proposed to base such a survey on a harmonised laboratory test method (draft EPPO¹ commodity-specific standard for *Fragaria* plants) and on the above provided inspection procedure. A discussion followed, in which different views were presented as to the choice of methods to be used and the scope of the survey. Several MS supported the FR proposal, some of which flagged, however, not to be in a position to carry out the survey this year. Some other MS informed that the phytosanitary status and the situation of *Colletotrichum acutatum* in their countries was quite clear, thus did not require a survey to be carried out. Therefore it was finally decided to leave it up to the MS, whether or not they would need and

¹ European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization

eventually carry out a survey for providing an update on the phytosanitary status of *Colletotrichum acutatum* in their respective countries.

The Commission (SANCO E.1) undertook to write a letter to the Chief Officers of Plant Health (COPHS), whereby MS should be requested to prepare themselves for a forthcoming discussion once FR submits its PRA. MS will be requested as well to base their national information on data obtained through appropriate sampling and inspection procedures and laboratory test methods. The procedures and methods used should allow for a detection of a latent infection in *Fragaria* plants. The results should be made available to the Commission and other MS in good time before the discussion.

3. FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 13 A 4(B) OF DIRECTIVE 2000/29/EC: REQUIREMENT OF USE OF ADDITIONAL DECLARATIONS ON PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATES.

The discussion was postponed. The Commission (SANCO E.1) asked the MS to send in their possible comments on a draft text already distributed in an earlier meeting of the SCPH, in writing before the issue is discussed in the next meeting of SCPH.

4. DISCUSSION ON REQUEST OF THE UNITED KINGDOM ON THE IMPORT OF CHIPS FOR BIOFUEL FROM THE USA AND WOOD SHAVINGS FOR ANIMAL BEDDING.

The UK made a request for the import of wood chips from the USA to be used in electricity generating plants in the Community. Currently, these chips, partially originating from coniferous wood, can only be introduced into the Community if they have undergone a heat treatment to achieve a minimum core temperature of 56°C for at least 30 minutes. Possibilities for fumigation under specifications that can be fixed at EU level were discussed. The recognition of methyl bromide as an import requirement was considered inappropriate by several MS. Possible alternative import procedures were envisaged. The discussion will be continued in a next Standing Committee. The UK informed the Commission that a dossier related to the import of wood shavings for animal beddings would be introduced.

5. PRESENTATION BY THE FOOD AND VETERINARY OFFICE (FVO) OF RESULTS OF SURVEY BY MS ON *DRYOCOSMUS KURIPHILUS* (ORIENTAL CHESTNUT GALL WASP) FOR 2006.

The Commission (SANCO F.4) presented an overview of the surveys organised by the MS for the presence of *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* (Oriental chestnut gall wasp) on their territory in 2006, as laid down in Decision 2006/464/EC. Survey results were not available from all MS. However, the presence of this insect could only be confirmed in Italy, although no written Italian report was available at this stage. The surveys in other MS, including France and Slovenia, where the pest had been found in 2005, were negative.

6. FURTHER DISCUSSION ON UPDATED SITUATION OF PINWOOD NEMATODE IN PORTUGAL AND ON POSSIBLE MEASURES TO BE ENVISAGED.

The Commission (SANCO F.4) gave an oral report of the most recent follow-up mission to Portugal from 28 March to 3 April 2007 concerning the implementation of the action plan against pine wood nematode (PWN). Portugal presented a table with the detailed state of play of the activities. The surveillance for the presence of PWN in the buffer zone around the affected zone and in the zone for tree cutting was still on-going. So far, not any positive sample had been found in these areas. It was stated that 90% of the trees in bad health within

the demarcated area as well as 70% of all susceptible trees in the clear cut belt were cut by 1 April 2007. Surveillance and cutting activities were expected to last a few more weeks. The flying period of the PWN vector was not expected to start up until the beginning of May. The Commission and the MS acknowledged the huge amount of work done so far but remained concerned about the timely finalisation in the cutting activities.

7. COMMISSION DECISION EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF VALIDITY OF DECISION 2002/499/EC IN RESPECT OF NATURALLY OR ARTIFICIALLY DWARFED PLANTS OF *CHAMAECYPARIS* SPACH, *JUNIPERUS* L. AND *PINUS* L., ORIGINATING IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (DOC. SANCO/0391/2007).

The decision would provide for an extension of decision 2002/499/EC which authorises the import of naturally or artificially dwarfed plants (bonsai) of the genera *Chamaecyparis* (cypress), *Juniperus* (juniper) and *Pinus* (pine tree) originating in Korea. Importation is permitted under specific conditions aimed at preventing the introduction and spread of organisms harmful to the above plants growing in the Community.

Vote: favourable opinion by unanimity.

8. COMMISSION DIRECTIVE AMENDING DIRECTIVE 2001/32/EC RECOGNISING PROTECTED ZONES EXPOSED TO PARTICULAR PLANT HEALTH RISKS IN THE COMMUNITY (DOC. SANCO/3254/2006).

Following the discussion in the SCPH of February 2007, this Directive would recognize the Czech Republic, the regions of Champagne-Ardenne, Lorraine and Alsace in France and the region of Basilicata in Italy as protected zones for grapevine flavescence dorée; and would withdraw of the status of Denmark, on its request, as a protected zone for chestnut blight, *Cryphonectria parasitica*.

Vote: favourable opinion by unanimity.

9. COMMISSION DIRECTIVE AMENDING CERTAIN ANNEXES 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 AS REGARDS CERTAIN PROTECTED ZONES (DOC. SANCO/3255/2006).

See point 8 above.

Vote: favourable opinion by unanimity.

10. COMMISSION DECISION ON PROVISIONAL EMERGENCY MEASURES TO PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION INTO AND THE SPREAD WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF *GIBBERELLA CIRCINATA* NIRENBERG & O'DONNELL (DOC. SANCO/2572/2006).

This Decision would establish specific requirements for import and movement of plants for planting of *Pinus* L. and *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, including seeds and cones for propagation purposes, to guarantee that the disease will not be introduced or further spread. The material has to originate in a country where the disease is not known, or in a pest free area, or in a place of production under specific phytosanitary conditions. Areas within the Community where the

disease has been found have to be demarcated and put under eradication measures.

Vote: favourable opinion by unanimity.

11. FURTHER DISCUSSION ON A NEW SERIES OF MODIFICATIONS OF SOME TECHNICAL ANNEXES TO COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2000/29/EC.

In follow-up to an earlier discussion, a number of changes to the lists of harmful organisms, requirements for import and movements, and regulated commodities were proposed. Further discussion in a forthcoming Committee is needed before a draft Directive can be presented as a text for voting.

Marc Vereecke
Head of Sector “Harmful Organisms”

NB: The measures on which the Committee has given an opinion are subject to the appropriate procedure for final approval by the Commission.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Standing Committee on Plant Health

Date: 26-27/04/2007

Member States	Ministry or Organism	
BE	Service public fédéral "Santé publique, Sécurité de la chaîne alimentaire et Environnement"	1
	AFSCA	1
BG	National Service for Plant Protection	1
CZ	State Phytosanitary Administration	1
DK	Plant Directorate	1
DE	Biologische Bundesanstalt für Land- und Forstwirtschaft	1
EE	Ministry of Agriculture	1
EI	Department of Agriculture and Food	2
EL	Ministry of Agriculture	- (26/04), 1 (27/04)
ES	Sanidad vegetal – Mapya	1
FR	Sous direction de la qualité et de la protection des végétaux - MAP	1
IT	Ministero delle Politiche Agricole e Forestali	- (26/04), 2 (27/04)
CY	Department of Agriculture	1
LV	State Plant Protection Service	1
LT	State Plant Protection Service	1
LU	-	-
HU	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	1
MT	Plant Biotechnology Centre – Plant Health Section	1
NL	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	2
AT	Federal Ministry of Agriculture	1
PL	State Plant Health and Seed Inspection Service	1
PT	Direcção-Geral de Protecção das Culturas	1
RO	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development	2
SI	MAFF – Phytosanitary administration of the Republic of Slovenia	1
SK	Ministry of Agriculture, Plant Commodities Department	1
FI	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	1
SE	Swedish Board of Agriculture	1
UK	DEFRA – Plant Health Division	1
	Central Science Laboratory	1
	Forestry Commission	1
DG		
SANCO E.1		3
SANCO F4		-

