



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANT HEALTH ON
27-28 JUNE 2011**

Chair: Harry Arijns

All Member States present, except Cyprus, Luxembourg and Austria. Switzerland was present as observer.

A1. Miscellaneous.

Denmark reported the finding of one adult beetle and three exit holes of *Anoplophora chinensis* in two young *Acer palmatum* trees in a private garden.

The Czech Republic informed the Committee of the interception of a consignment of artificially dwarfed *Juniperus* plants originating in the Republic of Korea and imported via Germany, which were infested with the regulated fungus *Gymnosporangium asiaticum*.

Upon the request of Sweden, the Committee discussed the existing import requirements applicable for worm castings. The Committee agreed that when worm castings are marketed as a growing medium, then they are submitted to Annex III of Directive 2000/29/EC and their import is prohibited from certain origins.

France reported the detection of a series of outbreaks of *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* on *Castanea sativa* plants in orchards, forests and one nursery, in the départements Gironde, Lot, Hérault, Indre, Loire and Dordogne. In the four latter départements eradication of the pest is considered to be no longer feasible.

The Netherlands reported the first official finding of *Tomato apical stunt viroid* (TASVd) on tomatoes in its territory. The disease was detected in a tomato fruit production facility whose plants showed heavy damage. The origin of this outbreak is not clear at present.

The United Kingdom informed the Committee of a new outbreak of *Phytophthora lateralis* on *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* in Scotland.

The Commission asked the Member States to reflect on regulated harmful organisms, whose listing in Council Directive 2000/29/EC or the related phytosanitary requirements, may need to be revised at mid-term. Written input was requested in advance of the July 2011 Committee meeting, in which an exchange of views on this issue will take place.

2. Presentation by Portugal and discussion on an amended proposal for interim treatment of pine bark against pine wood nematode.

Portugal presented an amended interim protocol for the treatment of pine bark against pine wood nematode. The Committee approved the amended interim protocol, on the condition that Portugal will not issue plant passports for consignments of treated bark, for which laboratory tests reveal the presence of any species of the genus *Bursaphelenchus*.

3. Presentation by the Commission of the report of the Working Group meeting of 20 May 2011 on reduced frequency of inspections, followed by an exchange of views.

The Commission presented a report of the Expert Working Group of 20 May 2011.

The WG evaluated all "trades" (commodity / country of origin combination), which had been approved for 2010. It was proposed to take out of the reduced frequency system cut roses from Israel (because of a low volume of import) and mango fruit from Peru (due to interceptions).

For some trades lower minimum inspection levels were proposed, while for others, the minimum levels were raised. Cut leaves of *Phoenix spp.* from Costa Rica were added to the list of eligible trades, with a minimum inspection level of 35%.

The changes shall be applicable as of 1 January 2012, except for the increased inspection level from 50 to 100% for mango fruit from Brazil (because of interceptions): this shall be applicable as of 1 October 2011. In total, 49 trades are listed for the application of a reduced inspection frequency in 2012.

The Committee supported the proposed levels of reduced frequency of plant health checks for 2012. The Commission shall publish the amended list of trades and the relevant minimum plant health checks percentages thereof on the DG SANCO webpage.

4. Exchange of views on a possible prolongation of the derogation regarding seed potatoes originating in certain provinces of Canada.

Postponed

5. Continued exchange of views on the request introduced by USDA-APHIS for the EU to accept electronically signed phytosanitary certificates.

The Committee raised concerns regarding the security of the system announced by APHIS and its compliance with International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM12). More detailed information was requested, before taking a common position. This might be organised through an on-the-spot visit by the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO). Opportunities for this will be investigated and the Committee will come back to this issue during a later meeting.

6. Exchange of views on a common approach regarding Phytosanitary Certificates issued after dispatch of consignments imported into the Union.

The Committee discussed the issue and agreed on a common approach, whereby the inspection date has to be indicated in the additional declaration section of Phytosanitary Certificates issued after dispatch, thus making use of the relevant provision in part 4 of the 2011 revision of the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures No.12 (Phytosanitary Certificates). It was also stressed that this procedure should remain the exception, and not become a generally applied standard.

7. Presentation by the Commission of the overview of Member States' monitoring results for *Anoplophora chinensis* related to the 2010 campaign.

Member States carried out the surveys in accordance with Commission Decision 2008/840/EC. The surveys were carried out in nurseries, garden centers, public greens and garden and forestry sites. Isolated findings were reported from Italy (region of Lombardy and Lazio), the Netherlands and United Kingdom.

8. Presentation by the Commission of a series of missions on the situation of *Anoplophora chinensis* and *A. glabripennis*.

The series of audits in relation to *Anoplophora chinensis* and *A. glabripennis* were carried out in 2010 by the Food and Veterinary Office in 5 Member States. The Commission presented the main findings from these audits. The crucial elements of the pest control were identified to be early detection and strict measures at an early stage, as the pest is difficult to eradicate.

9. Presentation by the Commission of the outcome of the Working Group meeting of 13 April 2011 regarding a possible derogation for citrus fruit for processing, followed by an exchange of views.

The Commission presented the outcome of a Working Group held on 13 April 2011, dealing with the request for a derogation for the import of citrus fruits destined for processing. An exchange of views took place on the Commission non-paper. The discussion will be continued during a forthcoming Committee

- C10. Continued exchange of views on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (Steiner et Buhrer) Nickle *et al.* (the pine wood nematode) and repealing Commission Decision 2006/133/EC. (Doc. SANCO/10796/2011) (Legal Base: Article 16.1 of Council Directive 2000/29/EC).**

The Committee progressed on a draft version for revised emergency measures against pine wood nematode.

- C.11 Continued exchange of views on a draft Commission Decision as regards emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of *Anoplophora chinensis* (Forster) and repealing Decision 2008/840/EC (Doc. SANCO/11099/2011) (Legal Base: Article 16.3 of Council Directive 2000/29/EC).**

An exchange of views took place on the text for a draft Commission Decision as regards emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union, of *Anoplophora chinensis*. The discussion will be continued.