

**SUMMARY REPORT  
OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANT HEALTH  
(SCPH) HELD ON 28-29 JUNE 2007**

Chairman: Mr M. Vereecke

All Member States (MS) present except DK and MT on 28 and 29/06/07, IT and LU on 29/06/07.

**1. MISCELLANEOUS.**

The Committee was respectively informed by:

UK of the status of the processionary moth (*Thaumetopoea pityocampa*) in its territory and on envisaged phytosanitary measures against this harmful organism, as well as of an outbreak of Iris yellow spot virus.

HU of an outbreak of *Monilinia fructicola* in orchards of cherry trees and of the control measures taken. SW and AT of outbreaks of *Clavibacter michiganensis* ssp *michiganensis* on young tomato plants.

**2. 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.**

Following the previous discussions on this point and additional comments received from some MS, the Commission (SANCO E.1) presented an amended text for an information leaflet on the current Community requirements for additional declarations on phytosanitary certificates, according to Article 13a(4)(b) of Directive 2000/29/EC. A discussion followed, during which the latest version of the draft leaflet was regarded as almost fully acceptable with a few points viewed by several MS as still requiring certain improvement. The Commission (SANCO E.1) noted the outstanding points and will present a finalised version for a final discussion in the next meeting of the SCPH in July 2007.

**3. PINWOOD NEMATODE (PWN)**

**a) Further discussion on updated situation of PWN in Portugal**

Portugal presented an update on the implementation of the action plan against PWN. On 18 June 2007, all survey and sample analysis related to the demarcated area and the clear cut belt were finalised. Even so, tree eradication in the demarcated area and the clear cut belt area was completed, with the exception of about 250 trees which can not be cut due to *force majeure*. The latter are closely followed and will be cut as soon as possible. In total, about 215.000 trees were cut in the demarcated area. In the clear cut belt area, this number raised to more than 980.000 trees; in addition a large number of young, small trees were eradicated.

**b) Review of mid-term eradication plan developed in the framework of Commission Decision 2006/133/EC.**

The Commission (SANCO E.1) proposed to organise an in depth analysis of the previous action plan and a reflection on the future strategy to control PWN in Portugal. Therefore, the relevant expert working group will be convened on 5 and 6 September 2007. Terms of reference for this working group meeting were presented and approved. The objective is to develop a new mid-term evaluation plan, based on the experience of the previous plan and the latest scientific data.

**4. DISCUSSION ON UPDATED SITUATION OF *PHYTOPHTHORA RAMORUM* IN THE EC.**

On request of Slovenia, the legal basis for the application of measures to prevent the spread of *P. ramorum* through trade of host plants within the Community was briefly discussed. A basic discussion on the emergency measures laid down in Decision 2002/757/EC, as amended, will be organised once the results on the EU funded Risk analysis for *Phytophthora ramorum* (RAPRA ) research project will be available.

**5. PRESENTATION BY THE FOOD AND VETERINARY OFFICE OF THE SANCO INSPECTION PROGRAMME 2008 AND BEYOND, IN PARTICULAR FOR THE SECTOR PLANT HEALTH.**

The Commission (SANCO F.4) presented the inspection programme for the sector plant health for 2008/2009. MS commented thereon and made some suggestions for changes.

**6. REPORT OF WORKING GROUP "REDUCED FREQUENCY OF PLANT HEALTH CHECKS".**

The Commission (SANCO E.1) presented an oral report on the results of the latest Working Group (WG), which had taken place on 7-8 May 2007. Wood of *Acer saccharum* originating in Canada and the USA – were accepted as two new "trades" (*commodity / country of origin combination*) eligible for a reduced plant health checks frequency as of 1 July 2007.

The WG also evaluated 53 "trades" which had been approved previously. The WG proposed to take out of the reduced frequency system 4 "trades" (2 because of repeatedly low trade volume; 2 because of the interceptions in 2006); for 3 "trades" to increase the minimum level up to 100% (1 for minimum consignments; 2 for interceptions); and for further 11 "trades" to increase the minimum percentages (in 8 cases aimed at reaching a minimum of 200 consignments inspected per year; in 3 remaining cases because of the interceptions made in 2006). Some MS expressed their persisting concerns over "trades" of citrus fruits from Egypt and Uruguay, for which, however, the WG (after analysing the results of inspections in 2006) had not found legal reasons for changing the minimum plant health checks percentages. For 10 "trades" the WG proposed a further reduction in their minimum percentages. The changes shall take effect as of 1 January 2008.

Some MS requested an updated guidance be developed for the evaluations carried out by the WG. The Commission (SANCO E.1) informed that a similar request had been already made by the WG itself. While the Commission (SANCO E.1) had already accepted this

request and aims at preparing such a guidance prior to May 2008 meeting of the WG, it emphasized that the WG had not felt any critical lack of guidance in its latest evaluations and that the WG had been confident in making its proposals for adjustments in 2008.

The Commission (SANCO E.1) will publish the amended list of "trades" and the relevant minimum plant health checks percentages thereof.

**7. 29/6/2007**

**PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON OPINIONS OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON PLANT HEALTH ON REQUESTS FROM THE COMMISSION ON**

**a) an evaluation of asymptomatic citrus fruit as a pathway for the introduction of citrus canker disease (*Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *citri*) made by the US Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The EFSA Journal (2006) 439, 1-41.**

**b) Pest Risk Assessment made by Spain on *Bactrocera zonata*. The EFSA Journal (2007) 467, 1-25.**

Representatives of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) Plant Health Panel (PLH) presented the first two scientific opinions they made on an evaluation of asymptomatic citrus fruit as a pathway for the introduction of citrus canker disease (*Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *citri* - *Xac*) made by the US Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and on a Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) made by Spain on *Bactrocera zonata*.

Following a thorough evaluation of the study, the PLH panel agreed with the method of analysis presented in the APHIS study but concluded that the key arguments provided are not supported by scientifically sound evidence. The Panel concluded that, where an initial inoculum load exists, the transmission of *Xac* in the scheme proposed by APHIS is more likely than with the current systems approach.

The panel conducted a detailed review of the Spanish PRA and concluded that the PRA does provide sufficient evidence to support the listing of *Bactrocera zonata* in Annex I Part A to Council Directive 2000/29/EC. The additional work required to identify the fruit species at greatest risk and select the most appropriate management options are outlined in the report. It is further mentioned that the Spanish pest risk assessment could be improved as well as the analysis of risk management options. A further discussion on the follow up of these scientific opinions will be organised in a forthcoming meeting of the SCPH.

**8. FURTHER DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES ENVISAGED FOR THE IMPORT OF TREE FERNS.**

At the last SCPH, the Commission (SANCO E.1) presented a non-paper containing a text for possible Community requirements to be applied to tree ferns. The conclusion of the discussion was that the Commission would turn its non-paper into a draft derogation for tree ferns originating in Australia and New Zealand. Therefore the Commission (SANCO E.1) presented such a draft derogation. The Committee welcomed the draft and acknowledged the interest for the Community to allow the import of the tree ferns. Nevertheless, the Committee underlined the need to have more information on the pests affecting the tree

ferns, including pest risk analysis of these pests, as well as additional information on the growing conditions of the tree ferns in the exporting countries. Discussion will continue at a forthcoming SCPH, when this information will be available.

**9. REVIEW OF COMMISSION DIRECTIVE 2006/14/EC (I.E. COMMUNITY RULES ON WOOD PACKAGING MATERIAL MADE FROM DEBARKED ROUND WOOD).**

By Directive 2006/14/EC, the EU debarking requirement for wood packaging material (WPM) imported into the Community is postponed until 1 January 2009, but needs to be reviewed by 1 September 2007. The Committee took note of the on-going revision of ISPM No. 15 and the fact that several actions have been taken in the frame of this revision, including an IPPC collection monitoring data on the presence of pests on marked WPM with bark. It took note of the delay of the ISPM No. 15 revision process and concluded that the current postponement of the EU debarking requirement should be maintained as scheduled. The further analysis of the situation will be made at the end of 2008.

**10. COMMISSION DECISION ON THE DEFINITION OF THE MEASURES ELIGIBLE FOR COMMUNITY FINANCING IN THE PROGRAMMES FOR THE CONTROL OF ORGANISMS HARMFUL TO PLANTS AND PLANT PRODUCTS IN THE FRENCH OVERSEAS DEPARTMENTS, IN THE AZORES AND IN MADEIRA (DOC. SANCO/1146/2007).**

This Decision would replace Decision 93/522/EEC on the definition of the measures eligible for Community financing in the programmes for the control of organisms harmful to plants and plant products in the French overseas departments, in the Azores and in Madeira. Most of the provisions of the proposed Decision are similar to the existing provisions of Decision 93/522/EEC, in particular as regards the list of plant health measures eligible for EU contribution. These measures are divided into four categories: measures concerning knowledge of the local phytosanitary situation, preventive measures against organisms harmful to plant or plant products, curative measures against organisms harmful to plants or plant products, and measures of technical support to programs for the control of organisms harmful to plants and plant products.

Vote: favourable opinion by unanimity

**11. COMMISSION DECISION ON THE COMMUNITY'S FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO A PROGRAMME FOR THE CONTROL OF ORGANISMS HARMFUL TO PLANTS AND PLANT PRODUCTS IN THE FRENCH OVERSEAS DEPARTMENTS FOR 2007 (DOC. SANCO/3626/2006).**

This Decision would establish the Community's financial contribution to cover expenditure incurred by France for programmes set up in the French overseas departments for 2007, covering amongst others, a sub-programme for the department of Martinique in two parts: plant health evaluation and diagnostics by use of the regional laboratory and its mobile unit ("labo vert"), and study of the biodiversity in fruit or vegetable farms; a sub-programme for the department of Guyana in two parts: set up of an agricultural phytosanitary warning system for rice production, and strengthening of the diagnostic capacity by the use of the regional laboratory and its mobile unit ("labo vert"); a sub-programme for the department of Guadeloupe in four parts: set up of an survey network for fruit flies, survey and follow-

up of the coconut lethal yellowing disease, management of the risk of introduction of harmful organisms by the touristic activity, and methods of bio depollution of soils contaminated by chlordecone and HCH.

Vote: favourable opinion by unanimity.

**12. COMMISSION DECISION ON THE COMMUNITY POSITION ON THE AMENDMENT OF THE APPENDICES TO ANNEX 4 TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE SWISS CONFEDERATION ON TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS (DOC. SANCO/591/2007).**

This Decision would replace the appendices to Appendix 4 of the agreement signed in 1999 between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on Trade in Agricultural Products. The general purpose of this agreement is to facilitate commercial exchanges between the two parties. Annex 4 and its appendices deal with phytosanitary aspects. The content of the appendices has already be defined by Decision No 1/2004 of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, attached to Commission Decision 2004/278/EC, and Decision n° 2/2005 of the Joint Committee on Agriculture. Since the entry into force on the above mentioned Decisions, the legislative provisions of the EU and Switzerland in the plant health field have been amended in areas which affect the Agreement. In addition, following the enlargement of the Community, and modifications to the existing list of authorities responsible for issuing the plant passport, the list of these authorities had to be supplemented or revised.

Vote: favourable opinion by unanimity

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

The discussion on possible changes in the lists of harmful organisms and specific requirement for import and movements of plants and plant products within the Community, as well as the related scientific justification was continued.

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: 28-29/06/2007

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	2
DK		-
DE	Biologische Bundesanstalt für Land- und Forstwirtschaft	1
EE	Ministry of Agriculture	1
EI	Department of Agriculture and Food	2
EL	Ministry of Agriculture	1
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	1 (28.06), - (29/06)
CY	Department of Agriculture	1
LV	State Plant Protection Service	1
LT	State Plant Protection Service	1
LU	Ministère de l'Agriculture	1 (28.06), - (29.06)
HU	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	1
MT		-
NL	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	2
AT	Federal Ministry of Agriculture	2
PL	State Plant Health and Seed Inspection Service	1
PT	Direcção-Geral de Protecção das Culturas	2
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		4
SANCO F4		1
SANCO 04		2

