



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Brussels, 15.06.2007

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**SUMMARY REPORT
OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANT HEALTH
(SCPH) HELD ON 29-30 MAY 2007**

Chairman: Mr M. Vereecke

All Member States (MS) present except EL, IT, SE on 29 and 30/05/07 and LU on 30/05/07

1. MISCELLANEOUS.

UK informed the Committee of the finding of *Paysandia archon* on big specimens of palm plants originating in ES.

SI and LV (on *Rhododendron* originating in PL), informed the Committee of the finding of *Phytophthora ramorum* in their territory.

FR informed the Committee of an outbreak of *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* in a site close to the Italian border.

CY informed the Committee of the finding of *Seridium cardinale* on *Cupressus* trees.

CZ informed the Committee of the finding of PSTV in plants of *Solanum jasminoides* and *S. ranstonetti*.

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 comments received from some MS, the Commission (SANCO E.1) presented an amended proposal 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. During the subsequent discussion, some MS commented on the proposal and suggested several further improvements of the text, in particular as regards its structure and illustrative examples (treatment of wood, area freedom, multiple declarations). A further version of the text shall be prepared by the Commission and posted on CIRCA. MS were invited to comment on it in writing. Depending on the comments received the Commission will produce either a final text or a version for a discussion in the next SCPH. Several MS pled for early finalising the text and its subsequent distribution as soon as possible.

3. PINEWOOD NEMATODE (PWN)

a) Presentation by the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) of results of surveys by MS on *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* for 2006

The Commission (SANCO F4) presented an overview of the results of the 2006 monitoring campaign by Member States for the presence of PWN. On an annual basis, Member States organise such monitoring on their territory. For 2006, numerous locations in forests and risk areas were surveyed and more than 3100 samples were analysed for PWN presence. With exemption for the demarcated area in Portugal, all results were negative and thus, the status of the EU territory, with exception of the demarcated area in Portugal, as being free from PWN is confirmed.

b) Further discussion on updated situation of PWN in Portugal

The PWN situation in the demarcated area in Portugal was presented by the Commission (SANCO F4) and Portugal. SANCO F4 made an oral presentation of the findings of the most recent FVO mission to Portugal on 7-11 May 2007 and Portugal distributed an updated table with the state of play of the action plan against PWN in the demarcated area. The delay for the implementation of the action plan against PWN was confirmed but a lot of progress had been made: all survey activities were finalised, the 3 km belt where all PWN vector host trees has to be removed was largely completed and the majority of unhealthy trees within the demarcated area had been cut. Portugal was asked to complete all actions immediately, as the vector could start flying - and possibly spreading PWN - any day. A limited number of samples had been found infested with PWN in the buffer zone and, as a consequence, the infected zone has to be enlarged slightly.

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

The current mid-term evaluation plan was focussed mainly on the implementation of the action plan against PWN before the start of the 2007 flight season of the PWN vector. The Committee concluded that, as the previous action plan is largely completed, a discussion of the future strategy needs to be organised. It was decided to reflect on the future approach and to formulate this during the forthcoming Committee meeting.

4. DISCUSSION ON ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CANADA ON THE STATUS OF BACTERIAL WILT FREEDOM OF CANADA.

The Commission (SANCO E.1) presented the additional information supplied by Canada on the status of bacterial wilt (*Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *insidiosus*) freedom in Canada. The Committee welcomed the information which covered results on alfalfa seed fields surveyed for bacterial wilt and seed samples tested. It agreed with the status of bacterial wilt freedom for all of Canada. The Commission will inform Canada thereof.

5. DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS FROM MS OF THE IPPC MONITORING ON THE PHYTOSANITARY STATUS OF BARK ON ISPM 15 MARKED WOOD PACKAGING MATERIAL.

The Commission (SANCO E1) presented a short overview of the reports that Member States had prepared in the framework of the IPPC survey on the phytosanitary status of bark on ISPM 15 marked wood packaging material. Most Member States had participated in this survey, but all reports had not been sent in so far. From the available reports, it could be concluded that a

few thousand pieces of marked WPM with bark had been spotted during the survey period of 3 months but that pests linked to this bark were limited.

6. FURTHER DISCUSSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES TO BE ENVISAGED AS REGARDS THE IMPORT OF TREE FERNS.

First UK made a presentation of the production and export conditions of tree ferns in New Zealand, as well as conditions applied to them after import in the UK. Then the Commission (SANCO E.1) made a summary of the previous discussions on this issue in the SCPH and presented information received from Australia and New Zealand on pests present on tree ferns. After this presentation, the Commission gave details of a non-paper containing a proposal for particular requirements to be applied to tree ferns. The Committee made several comments on this proposal. The Commission suggested to put this proposal in a draft Derogation for tree ferns originating in Australia and New Zealand. Such a draft derogation will be presented and discussed at the next SCPH.

7. DISCUSSION ON DRAFT 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).

The Commission (SANCO E.1) explained first the legislative background of its draft Decision. It is linked to changes in the legislation to the Community outermost's regions (POSEI regions: DOM regions in France, Azores and Madeira, Canarias) which made necessary to replace the existing 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 included in the draft are close to the existing provisions of Decision 93/522/EEC, in particular as regards the list of plant health measures eligible for EU contribution. Nevertheless, it is necessary to modify this legal base to allow an opinion of the SCPH on the draft mentioned under point 8 (financing Decision 2007 for the POSEIDOM regions). The Committee welcomed the draft, which will be re-presented at the next SCPH for discussion and possible opinion.

8. DISCUSSION ON DRAFT 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).

As a consequence of the presentation by France in the SCPH of October and November 2006 of its programme of actions for the POSEIDOM regions in 2007, the Commission (SANCO E.1) presented a draft Decision for an EU contribution to this programme. The purpose of the draft Decision is to give a Community financial contribution to the following plant health measures:

1. a sub-programme drawn up 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;

2. a sub-programme drawn up 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”);
3. a sub-programme drawn up for the department of Guadeloupe in four parts: set up of a 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 bio depollution of soils contaminated by chlordecone and HCH.

The Committee made some comments on the draft Decision. The draft will be re-presented at the next SCPH for discussion and possible opinion.

9. DISCUSSION ON DRAFT 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).

The Commission (SANCO E.1) re-explained the context 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 thereof deal with phytosanitary aspects. The content of the appendices has already been 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 of 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 must be supplemented or revised. Therefore a draft Commission Decision on a Community position on the modifications of the above Appendices to Annex 4 of the Agreement was presented by SANCO E.1. A preliminary discussion took place on this document. Discussion will continue in the next meeting of the SCPH, where the opinion of the SCPH will be sought.

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

The discussion on a number of changes to the lists of harmful organisms, requirements for import and movements, and regulated commodities was continued. Further discussion in a forthcoming Committee is needed before a draft Directive can be presented as a text for voting.

Signed

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: 29-30/05/2007

| Member States | Ministry or Organism | |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| BE | Service public fédéral "Santé publique, Sécurité de la chaîne alimentaire et Environnement" AFSCA | 1 (29.05), - (30.05) 1 |
| BG | National Service for Plant Protection | 1 |
| CZ | State Phytosanitary Administration | 2 |
| DK | Plant Directorate | 1 |
| DE | Biologische Bundesanstalt für Land- und Forstwirtschaft | 1 |
| EE | Ministry of Agriculture | 1 |
| EI | Department of Agriculture and Food | 2 (29.05), 1 (30.05) |
| EL | | - |
| ES | Sanidad vegetal – Mapya | 1 |
| FR | Sous direction de la qualité et de la protection des végétaux - MAP | 1 |
| IT | | - |
| CY | Department of Agriculture | 1 |
| LV | State Plant Protection Service | 1 |
| LT | State Plant Protection Service | 1 |
| LU | Ministère de l'Agriculture | 1 (29.05), - (30.05) |
| 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 | 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 | | - |
| UK | DEFRA – Plant Health Division Central Science Laboratory Forestry Commission | 1 1 1 |
| DG SANCO E.1 SANCO F4 SANCO 04 | | 4(29.05), 2 (30.05) 1 1 |

