



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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SUMMARY REPORT
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANT HEALTH
HELD ON 3 & 4 JULY 2008

Chairman: Mr. H. Arijs

All Member States (MS) present except IT (absent on 3-4/07), LU (absent on 4/07), HU, DK and PL were absent at the moment of the vote. All absent MS were represented.

1. MISCELLANEOUS.

LT informed the Committee that it withdrew its request, raised during its accession negotiations, for listing of *Ambrosia* spp. in Directive 2000/29/EC.

UK pleaded for a discussion in the Committee on the forestry related organisms *Chalara fraxinea* (ash dieback causal organism), *Gibberella circinata* (follow-up to the finding in PT) and *Scirrhia pini* (denomination recently changed into two distinctive species of *Dothistroma* with a different geographical distribution).

SE notified a finding of PSTVd in seeds and plants of *Physalis peruviana*.

FI notified the first findings on its territory of *Scirrhia pini* (*Dothistroma septospora*) in pine trees, *Chalara fraxinea* in amenity ash trees in south Finland and of Tomato apical stunt viroid in plants of *Solanum jasminoides*.

NL notified two findings of *Anoplophora glabripennis* in a wood packaging material of stoneware from China.

DK notified a finding of *Anoplophora glabripennis* in a wood packaging material of granite from China.

EL notified a finding on its territory of *Paysandisia archon* in palm trees.

2. PRESENTATION BY THE COMMISSION (FVO) OF THE REPORT OF A MISSION IN PORTUGAL FROM 2 TO 6 JUNE 2008 IN ORDER TO ASSESS THE

IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMISSION DECISION 2006/133/EC AND THE NATIONAL ERADICATION PROGRAMME FOR *BURSAPHELENCHUS XYLOPHILUS* (PINE WOOD NEMATODE).

The provisional conclusions of the most recent FVO mission concerning pine wood nematode (PWN) in Portugal were presented.

3. PRESENTATION BY PORTUGAL AND DISCUSSION OF THE ADDITIONAL MONITORING PLAN FOR PINE WOOD NEMATODE IN PORTUGAL, IN LINE WITH THE RECENT AMENDMENT OF DECISION 2006/133/EC.

Portugal gave an overview of the additional monitoring results and presented a plan on how to manage the PWN situation. PWN has been detected in a number of locations, most of them situated in the Coimbra region, where it was so far not known to occur.

4. PRESENTATION BY THE COMMISSION OF RECENTLY ADOPTED INTERIM EMERGENCY MEASURES AGAINST THE DISSEMINATION OF *BURSAPHELENCHUS XYLOPHILUS* (STEINER ET BUHRER) NICKLE *ET AL.* (THE PINE WOOD NEMATODE) IN PORTUGAL, AND DISCUSSION THEREON.

The Commission presented the interim emergency measures that were adopted in advance of the Committee meeting in order to deal with the urgent need to secure the safe movement of PWN susceptible wood material from Portugal. Decision 2008/489/EC lays down that all susceptible wood needs to be duly treated and the relevant plants need appropriate inspection before being moved from Portugal to other Member States or third countries.

5. DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE COMMUNITY ACTIONS TO CONTROL *ANOPILOPHORA SP.* IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

NL informed the Committee of the outcome of a recent mission of the NL Plant Protection Service to China, to assess the growing conditions of *Acer* plants destined for export to the EU, and the measures to control *Anoplophora chinensis*. Then a discussion on possible Community measures to control *Anoplophora sp.* in the EU was started. It focused on *Anoplophora chinensis* and will be continued in the forthcoming meeting of the SCPH.

6. PRESENTATION OF SE REQUEST FOR A DEROGATION REGARDING THE IMPORT OF WOOD CHIPS FOR ENERGY PRODUCTION.

Sweden made a presentation of the proposal authorizing the MS to provide derogations from certain provisions of Council Directive 2000/29/EC, in respect of the importation of wood chips to be used as biofuel. Several Member States made comments on the possible establishment of a fully protected system of handling the wood chips until burned. The Committee agreed with Commission's proposal to convene an *ad hoc* technical working group meeting which will elaborate the phytosanitary risks deriving from such provision.

7. PRESENTATION BY THE FOOD AND VETERINARY OFFICE OF THE RESULTS OF SURVEYS AND INSPECTIONS/TESTS CARRIED OUT BY MS ON THE PRESENCE OF PEPINO MOSAIC VIRUS AND REVIEW OF COMMISSION DECISION 2004/200/EC

ON MEASURES TO PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION INTO AND THE SPREAD WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF PEPINO MOSAIC VIRUS.

Postponed.

8. PRESENTATION BY THE COMMISSION (SANCO E.1) OF, AND DISCUSSION ON, THE COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM THIRD COUNTRIES ON WTO NOTIFICATION G/SPS/N/EEC/327 RELATED TO DRAFT DIRECTIVE AMENDING ANNEXES I, II, IV AND V TO COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2000/29/EC.

The comments received from three Members to the SPS Agreement (USA, Canada and Taiwan) on the draft Commission Directive amending Annexes I, II, IV and V to Council Directive 2000/29/EC were presented. The following discussion was centered on the comments related to *Agrilus planipennis* (Emerald Ash Borer – EAB). In order to define a common position on how to best react to these comments, it was decided that Member States would consult their experts and they would provide the Commission with a written opinion with supporting technical elements on the third-country EAB comments.

9. REPORT OF WORKING GROUP "REDUCED FREQUENCY OF PLANT HEALTH CHECKS".

The Commission (SANCO E.1) presented a report on results of the latest Expert Working Group (WG), which had taken place on 6 June 2008. *Citrus* fruits from Honduras and *Dianthus* cut flowers from Kenya were accepted as two new "trades" (commodity / country of origin combination) eligible for a reduced plant health checks frequency as of 1 July 2008.

The WG also evaluated 51 "trades" which had been approved previously. The WG proposed to take out of the reduced frequency system 1 "trade" (because of its non-compliance with Article 5 par.3 of Regulation 1756/2004); for 2 "trades" to increase the minimum level up to 100% (because of the interceptions); and for further 5 "trades" to increase the minimum percentages (in 1 case for to reach a minimum of 200 consignments inspected per year; in 4 remaining cases because of the interceptions made in 2007). For 7 "trades" the WG proposed a reduction in their minimum percentages. The changes shall take effect as of 1 January 2009.

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

The Committee also supported the WG's decision to hold its additional meeting in November 2008 to address some general issues linked to the implementation of the Regulation.

10. COMMISSION DECISION ON MEASURES AGAINST THE DISSEMINATION OF *BURSAPHELENCHUS XYLOPHILUS* (STEINER ET BUHRER) NICKLE ET AL. (THE PINE WOOD NEMATODE) (SANCO/2041/2008).

The contents of the interim measures was confirmed for the draft Decision amending the existing emergency measures laid down in Decision

2006/133/EC and with a similar contents as the interim measures. However, the treatment obligations for wood packaging material is only applicable to newly produced material, originating from Portuguese wood.

Vote: favourable opinion by unanimity.

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE OPINION ON DRAFT COMMISSION DECISION AMENDING DECISION 2007/365/EC ON EMERGENCY MEASURES TO PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION INTO AND SPREAD WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF *RHYNCHOPHORUS FERRUGINEUS* (OLIVIER) (SANCO/1298/2008).

Postponed.

Signed
Harry Arijs
Sector "Harmful Organisms"

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