

Conclusions of the

"International Conference on Red Palm Weevil Control Strategy for Europe"

Valencia, ES, 5-6 May 2010

1. The conference acknowledged the current serious situation regarding Red Palm Weevil in the European Union, where Red Palm Weevil has been found in all Mediterranean Member States and in Portugal, and the apparently continuing spread of the insect in the EU, as shown by the results of intensive targeted surveys in all Member States since 2007.
2. The conference agreed on keeping eradication of red palm weevil as a general long term strategy. However, it stressed that the priority should be given to keeping the current status of those areas that are not infested yet. Therefore, strict compulsory eradication measures for first outbreaks in those areas should be maintained.
3. The conference agreed on considering containment as an objective in areas where surveys data, over several years, have shown that eradication is unlikely to be achieved.
4. The conference discussed experiences and best practices in Member States regarding detection and control methods.
5. The conference supported the revision of Decision 2007/365/EC whereby more detailed provisions for eradication shall be included in the action plans.
6. The conference agreed on the necessary coordination at European Union level allowing access, treatment, sanitation or destruction of infested palms regardless their location (also on private properties) and encouraged Member States to apply appropriate measures in line with the provisions of the legislation in force.
7. The conference acknowledged the risk of movements of asymptomatic palm trees (but infested by the red palm weevil) as a way of transmission and recommends to better enforce the current European Union legislation for the intra-community trade and to better control the imports from third countries.
8. The conference agreed on the necessity to foster and coordinate research and development of programs focused on the early detection and on the control and eradication of the pest.
9. The conference recommends that the Spanish Presidency presents the conclusions of that seminar to the Chief Officers for Plant Health and then propose their inclusion in the Agricultural Council for further action.