

## Timeline of EU's actions against *Xylella fastidiosa*<sup>1</sup>

- Since 1992** *Xylella fastidiosa* is regulated at EU level as harmful organism with quarantine status (Directive 2000/29/EC);
- 2013** On 21 October 2013, the Italian authorities notified to the Commission the first confirmed outbreak of *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *pauca* (strain CoDiRO) in the Apulia region, on olive trees;
- On 26 November 2013, EFSA published a [statement](#) on host plants, entry and spread pathways and risk reduction options for *Xylella fastidiosa* Wells et al.;
- 2014** On 13 February 2014, the Commission adopted the first EU emergency measures to prevent the spread of *Xylella Fastidiosa* within the Union ([Decision 2014/87/EU](#));
- From 10 to 14 February 2014, a first Food and Veterinary Office [audit](#) was carried out in Italy to evaluate the situation and official controls in place for *Xylella fastidiosa*, confirming the rapid spread of the bacterium in the province of Lecce;
- On 23 July 2014, the Commission adopted more detailed EU emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of *Xylella fastidiosa* ([Decision 2014/497/EU](#));
- From 18 to 25 November 2014, a second Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) [audit](#) was carried out in Italy, confirming the dramatic deterioration of the situation since the previous audit conducted in February the same year<sup>2</sup>;
- 2015** On 6 January 2015, EFSA published a full [pest risk assessment](#) on the risks to plant health posed by *Xylella fastidiosa* in the EU territory, with the identification and evaluation of risk reduction options;
- On 10 February 2015, the Commission organised an expert working group with Member States' representatives in order to bring together a group of technical and regulatory experts for reviewing the EU emergency measures;
- On 25 February 2015, the Commission held a high level meeting with the Head of the Phytosanitary Service of the Italian Authorities to discuss the recent developments of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Apulia and actions foreseen;
- On 9 March 2015, the Italian Authorities notified to the Commission new outbreaks in the northern part of the province of Lecce, and a new outbreak in the municipality of Oria, in the neighbouring province of Brindisi, outside the demarcated area of Lecce which was currently in place;

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<sup>1</sup> The topic has been regularly addressed within the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed - Section Plant Health - but not reported in this timeline. The report and agenda of the Committee meetings can be found on the following webpage [http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/standing\\_committees/sc\\_plant\\_health/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/standing_committees/sc_plant_health/index_en.htm)

<sup>2</sup> The report of the FVO audits can be found on the following webpage [http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/audit\\_reports/index.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/audit_reports/index.cfm)

On 11 March 2015, the Commission held a high level meeting with the Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the European Union to discuss the recent developments of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Apulia and actions foreseen;

On 16 March 2015, the Commission presented, under AOB point, the state of play of *Xylella fastidiosa* in the EU territory at the AGRIFISH Council;

On 20 March 2015, EFSA published a [categorisation](#) of plants for planting, excluding seeds, according to the risk of introduction of *Xylella fastidiosa*;

On 27 March 2015, the Commission presented, in the relevant Standing Committee, the annual survey results from all Member States on the presence of *Xylella fastidiosa* in the EU territory;

On 17 April 2015, EFSA published a [statement](#) as response to scientific and technical information provided claiming that *Xylella fastidiosa* is not the cause of olive tree decline in Lecce Province in Southern Italy, but only an endogenous element present in the trees that is not active or aggressive unless a series of fungi infect the plants and create the right conditions for the development of *Xylella fastidiosa*;

On 23 April 2015, the Commission held a high level meeting with the Delegate Commissioner on *Xylella fastidiosa* appointed by the Italian Authorities with the aim to discuss recent developments of the outbreak and actions foreseen;

On 30 April 2015, the Commission addressed in the Plenary of the European Parliament an oral question on *Xylella fastidiosa* requested by COMAGRI;

On 18 May 2015, the Commission adopted EU strengthened measures to prevent further introduction into and spread within the EU territory of *Xylella fastidiosa* ([Decision 789/2015/EU](#));

On 20 May 2015, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the outbreak of *Xylella fastidiosa* affecting olive trees.

From 8 to 19 June 2015, a third Food and Veterinary Office [audit](#) was carried out in Italy, specifically in the Liguria and Tuscany regions, as well as in the Apulia region.

On 19/20 July 2015, Vytenis Andriukaitis, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, visited the concerned area in Apulia (Italy).

On 27 July 2015, the French Authorities notified the Commission with the first outbreak of *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* in Corsica, on plants of myrtle-leaf milkwort (*Polygala myrtifolia*);

On 2 September 2015, EFSA published a [scientific opinion](#) on hot water treatment of grapevine planting material against *Xylella fastidiosa*;

On 18 September 2015, the French Authorities notified the Commission with the first outbreak of *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* in France mainland, in the region of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur;

On 14 October 2015, a specific [research call](#) on *Xylella fastidiosa* was published under the forthcoming 2016/2017 Work Programme of Horizon 2020, aiming at promoting a comprehensive package of activities to increase the knowledge of the

bacterium and develop options for its prevention and control along with tools for risk assessment and plant health policies

On 1 November 2015, a EU project entitled Pest Organisms Threatening Europe ([POnTE](#)) was funded by the Commission addressing among other pests also *Xylella fastidiosa*.

From 9 to 20 November 2015, a fourth Food and Veterinary Office audit was carried out in Italy, specifically in Sicily and Apulia. The official report available in due course;

On 12/13 November 2015, EFSA, jointly with the Commission, organised a [workshop](#) in Bruxelles with scientists from the EU and third countries to address knowledge gaps and research priorities for the EU on *Xylella fastidiosa*;

On 19 November 2015, EFSA published a [scientific opinion](#) concluding that grapevine cannot be ruled out, at this stage, as a potential host plant for the Apulian strain (CoDiRO) of *Xylella fastidiosa*;

On 23 November 2015, Member States endorsed additional measures, proposed by the Commission, against *Xylella fastidiosa*. Commission's adoption on 17 December 2015;

On 16/17 December 2015, Member States endorsed EU guidelines, proposed by the Commission, aiming at enhanced coordination and harmonisation of survey programmes on *Xylella fastidiosa* to be carried across Member States in 2016.