Brussels, 27 November 2015

EU CRISIS PREPAREDNESS AND MANAGEMENT IN PLANT HEALTH

Harry Arijs
DG Health and Food Safety – Unit Plant Health
EU crisis preparedness and management in plant health

- Problem?
- Plant health law
- Crisis prevention and preparedness
- Crisis management
Problem?
What's "new":

- globalisation of trade
- first effects of climate change

Result: introduction of pests in non-native environment, disturbing natural balances
Pine Wood Nematode (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*)
Red palm weevil
(Rhynchophorus ferrugineus)
Xylella fastidiosa
EU principles and legal framework

on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community

Based on International Plant Protection Convention
**Future EU Plant Health Regime:**

Based on:
- Plant Health Regulation
- Official Controls Regulation

- Commission legal proposals, adopted in 2013
- Notified to WTO-SPS Secretariat
- Co-decision is now taking place; entry into force three years after adoption

*Current legislation remains in force in meanwhile*
Novelties for plant health:

- Surveillance
- Contingency plans
- Updated import regime
- Integrated IT system for imports/interceptions/outbreaks
- Diagnostic reference laboratories
- Principles for outbreak management
- ...
Financial Regulation (EU) 652/2014:

- Co-financing for surveillance
- Co-financing of awareness raising campaigns
- Compensation for the value of destroyed plants for operators/farmers
Crisis prevention and preparedness
As international trade continues to expand, so does the number of pests that becomes established outside their native range.
1. **Intensified surveillance programs**

   - development of surveillance guidelines
   - annual analysis of the results
2. **Awareness raising campaigns**

- Linked to surveillance campaigns
- EU guidance could be envisaged
3. **Early warning systems**

- Horizon scanning
- EFSA and EPPO
- Resulting in regular updates of import / movement requirements for plants through dedicated working group
4. **Regular monitoring and follow-up of notifications of pest outbreaks in the Union**

- Standardised electronic EU reporting system
- Assessment of national reports
- Annual publication of overview reports
5. **Regular monitoring and follow-up of import interceptions**

- EUROPHYT interceptions database
- TRACES import database for plants
- Regular assessment of interceptions
- Actions towards third countries based on Standard operating procedures
6. **Contingency plans**

- General principles for contingency planning in plant health
- Specific contingency plans for priority pests
- Stakeholder consultation
7. **Pest risk analysis**

- Standard for all new regulated pests
- New / updated PRA information needed for already regulated pests
- Fast track procedure in case of emergency
8. **EU reference laboratories**

- Diagnostic protocols
- Ensuring high quality pest identification EU wide
- Start preparatory works in advance of regulatory framework?
8. **Capacity building in Member States**

- Human resources
- Financial resources
• Lessons learned from animal health and food safety on how to assist Member States in an efficient way

• Development of standard operating procedures
- **Elements:**
  - Criteria for triggering a 'plant health crisis'
  - When to resort on EFSA?
  - When / how to perform a (rapid) audit?
  - Use of national / EU emergency measures
• Use of a 'technical experts team'

• Creation of ad-hoc Commission Task force

• How to organize short time applied research in support of risk management?

• Communication guidelines

• Staff related issues
Final objective:

Increase the % of successful eradication campaigns in plant health to safeguard Europe's agriculture, horticulture, forestry and the environment.