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PHYTOSAN 67

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB item for the meeting of the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council of 13 July 2026: The appearance of the emerald ash borer (<i>Agrilus planipennis</i>) in Hungary - <i>Information from Hungary</i>

The purpose of the proposed agenda item is to share information and ensure transparency in connection with the first occurrence of *Agrilus planipennis* in Hungary and, consequently, in the EU.

The emerald ash borer is one of the world's most serious invasive forest pests, and is therefore included in the EU's list of priority quarantine pests from a phytosanitary perspective. It has caused the destruction of tens of millions of ash trees in North America over the past few decades, causing significant ecological and economic damage. If the pest establishes itself in the European Union, it could endanger the long-term survival of the continent's ash populations.

The appearance of the emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) in Hungary is a phytosanitary event whose significance goes beyond national borders. As the first affected EU Member State, Hungary plays a decisive role in preventing the spread of the pest within the European Union.

If the infection of the priority quarantine pest is confirmed, the prerequisite for its successful eradication will be the coordinated action of domestic and international organizations, as well as the rapid and consistent implementation of the necessary phytosanitary measures.