

Brussels, 14 January 2015
(OR. en)

16940/14

LIMITE

AGRI 807
AGRILEG 267
PHYTOSAN 70
CODEC 2519

Interinstitutional File:
2013/0141 (COD)

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: Working Party on Chief Plant Health Officers (COPHS)
On: 10 and 11 December 2014
To: Delegations
Subject: Plant Health matters

I. INTRODUCTION

At its meeting on 10 and 11 December 2014, the COPHS Working Party focused on a number of issues related to the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on protective measures against pests of plants. It also discussed matters related to the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) and to research activities in the plant health sector, in relation with the EUPHRESKO network.

II. MAIN RESULTS

A. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on protective measures against pests of plants

Transit – Art. 45

The Chair presented the revised Presidency proposal¹, emphasizing that it aims at setting out rules to gather information on transit and allow checks only where needed.

¹ Doc. 16297/14.

Delegations welcomed the principles of the revised Presidency proposal. They stressed that provisions on transit should not entail additional administrative burdens and ways of cooperation with customs, notably through IT systems, should be explored.

The Commission supported the proposal, stressing that it is important to clarify how information should be entered into an IT system and to whom it should be forwarded.

Plant passports – Annex VI

Delegations welcomed the principles of the revised Presidency proposal², concerning a single format for plant passports.

While some delegations maintained that the indication of a serial number could greatly help traceability, several delegation pointed out that this information should be optional, since it may imply additional administrative burdens.

On the presence of the EU flag on the label, mixed views were expressed; several delegations pointed out that a specific phytosanitary logo could be an important element.

Phytosanitary certificates for export and re-export – Annex VIII

Several delegations welcomed the principles of the revised Presidency proposal³, regarding a single format for phytosanitary certificates for export and re-export. They pointed out that it is important to ensure a degree of harmonization; however, they clarified that concerning the combinations of numbers or numbers/letters identifying provinces and districts, the choice should be left to Member States .

As regards the languages, flexibility should be maintained; concerning the logo, national elements could be joined to EU elements.

A delegation reiterated its opposition to harmonization in this area.

The Commission reiterated its support, stressing the importance of having the EU clearly recognised as a single entity for phytosanitary purposes. They also noted that the provisions should also cover future e-certificates.

² Doc. 16297/14.

³ Doc. 16297/14.

Plant health protection system at import

The French delegation presented a document⁴ on plant health risks linked to different categories of commodities, emphasizing that also fruits and vegetables may present a high risk.

Several delegations welcomed the approach contained in the Presidency report⁵, based on categorisation of commodities; some delegations stressed that data on trade flows is very important and that tools to tackle different risks should be carefully chosen.

Some delegations maintained their opposition to the introduction of positive lists and supported the original Commission proposal.

The Commission emphasised that compatibility with the sanitary and phytosanitary measures agreement of the World Trade Organisation is paramount. They also noted that the new system should take into account resource constraints. As for risks which stem from new trade, the burden could be put on Third Countries, requiring phytosanitary certificates and the TRACES system could be fruitfully used to gather and share data.

B. EUPHRESKO

The Working Party agreed on the statements contained in the Presidency note⁶. The Presidency, on behalf of the Working Party, sent a letter to the Director General for Research and Innovation Research Programmes of the European Commission, confirming the role of EUPHRESKO in fostering research in the plant health sector⁷.

C. TRACES

The Commission presented the system and its functioning. They encouraged Member States to participate to the plant health pilot projects.

Delegations welcomed the high potential of TRACES and stressed that compatibility and interoperability with existing national systems should be ensured. They also noted that convening a technical working group on the integration of IT systems would be useful.

⁴ Doc. 16962/13 ADD 22.

⁵ Doc. 16298/14.

⁶ Doc. 16299/14.

⁷ See Annex I.

III. FUTURE WORK

The Working Party took note of a presentation made by the Latvian delegation whereby the work programme⁸ for their incoming Presidency was outlined.

Accordingly, the Chair indicated that the next Working Party is tentatively scheduled to be held on 3 March 2015, whilst the informal COPHS meeting is foreseen to take place in Riga, from 27 to 28 May 2015.

⁸ The electronic version of this presentation was distributed to delegations.

DG DISR - DISR 05 - Prot. Uscita N.0029968 del 23/12/2014



*Ministero delle politiche agricole
alimentari e forestali*

DIPARTIMENTO DELLE POLITICHE EUROPEE ED INTERNAZIONALI E
DELLO SVILUPPO RURALE
DIREZIONE GENERALE DELLO SVILUPPO RURALE
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Oggetto: **Identification of phytosanitary research priorities and topics; collaboration of the Chief Plant Health Officers with the European phytosanitary research coordination network (Euphresco).**

The Council Working Party of Chief Plant Health Officers (COPHS) discussed at their meeting on 10-11th December of 2014, the necessity to continue to propose topics and priorities for European research in the field of plant health.

Since 2007 the COPHS closely collaborated with the ERA-NET EUPHRESCO in the identification of phytosanitary research priorities and topics and indicated to DG Research such priorities and topics and the role COPHS have given to EUPHRESCO in this regard (see attached letter 2007). This ERA-NET financed by Commission mechanisms came to an end in spring 2014, however the network has managed to continue its work in the framework of EPPO (European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation).

Noting these developments the COPHS at their meeting on the 24-25th June 2014 confirmed the very successful outcomes and impacts of the EUPHRESCO 1 and 2 activities and noted that the Commission consulted EUPHRESCO 1 and 2 as a competent forum to identify research priorities in the 6th and 7th EU Framework Research Program and also for the future HORIZON 2020. The COPHS also recognized Euphresco as the competent network to identify phytosanitary research priorities and topics and to advise COPHS accordingly.

Based on this the COPHS at their meeting on the 10-11th of December 2014 concluded that the collaboration mechanism related to the identification of phytosanitary research priorities and topics established since 2007 should continue and the mandate of Euphresco be renewed and updated.

The COPHS therefore agreed among others that the COPHS will continue to propose phytosanitary research priorities and topics of EU concern to the Commission, DG Research, based on priorities and topics identified by Euphresco and that the COPHS invite DG Research to acknowledge and cooperate with Euphresco in this framework.

The Presidency on behalf of the COPHS hereby invites DG Research to note these conclusions and to acknowledge and cooperate with Euphresco in this framework.

The Central Phytosanitary Service Director
(Bruno Caio Faraglia)

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