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General Secretariat

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MEETING DOCUMENT

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Working Party on Plants and Plant Health Questions (Chief Plant Health Officers)

Subject: Working Party on Plants and Plant Health Questions (Chief Plant Health Officers)
25/11/2023 - Presidency Flash

In view of the meeting of Working Party on Plants and Plant Health Questions (Chief Plant Health Officers) to be held in Brussels on 25 January 2024, delegations will find the Presidency Flash in the Annex.

Meeting of the Working Party on Plants and Plant Health question (Chief Plant Health Officers)

Brussels, 25 January 2024

25 January 2024	10:00 – 13:00	F 19	BRUXELLES JUSTUS LIPSIUS JL – 35.4
	14:30 – 18:30		

Dear colleagues,

We are delighted to invite you to the first meeting under the Belgian Presidency of the Working Party on Plants and Plant Health Questions (Chief Plant Health Officers) on 25 January 2024 (10:00 – 13:00; 14:30 – 18:30). The meeting agenda is in document CM 1234 / 24

We look forward to seeing you in Brussels, your valuable inputs and useful discussion at the meeting.

Our agenda for the meeting includes the following topics:

1 – Belgian Presidency Programme

The Presidency will provide a brief overview of the Belgian Presidency programme, its overall priorities and the activities planned in the field of plant health for the first half of 2024.

2 - Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards multiannual survey programmes, notifications concerning the presence of regulated non-quarantine pests, temporary derogations from import prohibitions and special import requirements and establishment of procedures for granting them, temporary import requirements for high risk plants, plant products and other objects, the establishment of procedures for the listing of high risk plants, the content of phytosanitary certificates, the use of plant passports and as regards certain reporting requirements for demarcated areas and surveys of pest

On 20 December 2023, the Belgian and outgoing Spanish Presidency submitted a compromise text for consideration by delegations, inviting those having major difficulties with the Presidency text to communicate their concerns by 12 January 2024 (17016/23).

The Presidency will clarify the proposed changes included in the new compromise text ST 5593/24 dd 18/1/2024. Delegations will be invited to present their positions and address any outstanding matters. The Presidency aims to reach an agreement during this meeting with a view to submit the text to COREPER as a “T” item as the basis for a mandate to enter into negotiations with the current European Parliament.

3 – AOB: Any other business

3.1. Ongoing legislative files - States of play



The Presidency will provide an update about the current state of play and schedule of other legislative files related to PRM /FRM/SUR/NGT, which are connected to the PHL and are subjects of discussion in other Council Working Parties.

3.2. CPM18 agenda

The Presidency will share more information about the next Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM18) which will take place in Rome from 15 to 19 April 2024.

3.3. Questionnaire on the impact of the reduced co-financing of the phytosanitary work programs .

The Presidency will present a proposal to distribute a questionnaire among the Member States, aiming to assess how the decrease in co-financing has impacted and will continue to affect the phytosanitary work programmes in the Member States. The collected data will be used to highlight the importance of these programmes.

This initiative is organised in parallel with the Chief Veterinary Officers, who will conduct similar exercise.

3.4. Exploration of possibilities to organise detection surveys in climatic/agricultural regions

Resources for the organisation of detection surveys are limited. The Presidency will introduce a proposal to explore the possibility of organising detection surveys in climatic/agricultural zones aligned with the relevant pests. These regions may encompass multiple Member States or parts of Member States.

A background note on this topic will be circulated before the next COPHS meeting, allowing delegations to prepare their positions.

Delegations wishing to raise any points under AOB are kindly invited to notify the Presidency [REDACTED] and the Council Secretariat [REDACTED] in advance.

Thank you.

