

# Relevance of the EU plant health regime to trade

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of



## Modernising the plant health regime of the European Union in view of globalisation and climate change

*Conference combining a meeting of the Working Group on Plant Health of the Advisory Group on the Food Chain, Animal and Plant Health and an ad-hoc Working Group of Chief Plant Health Officers*

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# Who we are

European umbrella organisation representing assemblers, storers exporters and importers of agri-produce

## 12 FULL MEMBER ORGANISATIONS



**EUWEP**

European Union of Wholesale with Eggs, Egg Products, Poultry and Game



**SACAR**  
representing :



## 3 AFFILIATED MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

**BUD HOLDING BV**



**FETRATAB**  
Fédération Européenne des Transformateurs de Tabac

- **Positive effect on Plant Health**
- **Positive effect on intracommunity trade**
- **Import controls at border level are considered to be effective in preventing introduction of HOs**
- **Reduced frequency of checks are an effective measure to target resources from areas of a reduced or no risk to areas of greater risk. It also reduces unnecessary bureaucracy and costs.**
- **EU emergency measures are considered to be effective in eradication of the targeted pests and in containing and/or reducing the respective pests**
- **The plant passport system provides sufficient guarantees that plant and products thereof are safe to move within the EU and the system allows sufficient traceability for plants and plant products within EU**
- **Reliable information is more or less available:**
  - on scientific data for the biological impact of currently listed HO, their presence and their distribution
  - on scientific data for the biological impact of HOs recently considered for listing, their presence and their distribution

## ➤ **Improve the level of surveillance of HOs at EU/MS level**

- ✓ reduce number of listed Hos
- ✓ change the approach for structuring annexes I and II
- ✓ focus surveillance on priority HOs
- ✓ improve staff resources and training for national authorities
- ✓ enhance capacity building at MS level
- ✓ involve persons/organisations not belonging to competent authorities in surveillance and rapid alert/early warning systems
- ✓ develop a notification system similar to or within the RASFF
- ✓ Develop communication to combat the potential risk of a spread and greater consistency in the application of the CPHR
- ✓ Make up-to-date contingency plans available by MS

## ➤ **Improve transparency of the notification system**

## ➤ **Improve prevention of introduction of HOs**

- More risk based imports inspection system focussing on certain pathways and high risk products
- Prevention at the source through education in and exchange of information with third countries. This might eventually lead to the recognition of control systems in third countries and, thus leading to fewer import controls.

## ➤ **Delegate tasks and duties to various bodies in order :**

- ✓ To provide incentives for timely reporting for outbreaks
- ✓ provide incentives for effective implementation of control measures
- ✓ improve the rapid alert
- ✓ improve training provided and funds available for training

## ➤ **Fostering investment in Research & Development and innovation**

- Development of testing methods (rapid tests for bulk commodities, alternatives to the eggplant test needed after a positive IF/PCR test on bacterial disease on seed potatoes)

## ➤ Further trade facilitation

- ✓ Introduction of electronic phytosanitary certificates for imports as provided by the IPPC
- ✓ Communication and information on EU import requirements to third countries
- ✓ Further extension of products eligible for reduced frequency of checks with the operators taking over further responsibility via the approved trader scheme and self-checking systems based on a risk analysis
- Involve and cooperate with stakeholders
- Improve training, communication and consultation of stakeholders
- Improve stakeholder accessibility to aspects of [EUROPHYT](#)
- decrease the number of official checks on intra-Community trade on low risk crops (certain fruit and vegetables) and for products requiring phytosanitary certificates from the importing country
- harmonise the plant passport document by having a standard form covering all HOs in the country of origin
- simplify documentation requirements

## ➤ Protected zones and regionalisation

The EU regionalisation approach involving primarily protected zones is not adequate. With the increasing size of the EU a regionalised approach for certain import controls would be appropriate

## ➤ Fumigation of wood packaging material

[ISPM N° 15](#) approved measures are limited to heat treatment and methyl bromide fumigation (an ozone depleting substance phased out under the Montreal protocol and banned in the EU from 18 March 2010 onwards).

Alternatives need to be developed

## ➤ International aspects

Internationally there is a lack of reciprocity and recognition of the EU CPHR by third countries, resulting in Non-Tariff barriers for trade. The EU should take a lead in the IPPC to generate more harmonisation of protective measures at international level.

## ➤ Costs

Application of fees under the CPHR results in a distortion of competition between MS given the different options provided by Directive 2000/29. Traders request fully harmonised fee systems and a level-playing field.

## Basic decisions to be made

### ➤ **Objectives and scope of the CPHR**

- ✓ More focus on prevention and early action
- ✓ Include laboratory and science support issues
- ✓ Improve communication and transparency
- ✓ Improve R&D and training

### ➤ **Prioritisation of HOs**

- ✓ Prioritisation of HOs need to be based on a pest risk analysis to determine the potential risk of the HO

### ➤ **Co-ordination with other common policies**

- ✓ Marketing directives for seeds and propagating material
- ✓ Environmental policy
  - Convention on Biodiversity, EU and national non-native species strategies
- ✓ Community Customs provisions
- ✓ Plant protection policy

## Basic decisions to be made

### ➤ **Relationship between the EU and the IPPC**

- ✓ International harmonisation should be the final objective as it would mean transparency and would prevent setting up of trade barriers
- ✓ Stronger engagement of the EU in the formulation of international standards.
- ✓ A reform should reinforce the EU approach internationally and validate the efforts undertaken with a view to facilitate exports to third countries

### ➤ **Structure of collaboration, responsibilities and delegation of tasks between European and national authorities and operators**

- ✓ Clarification which authority is in charge of the responsibilities listed under article 4 of the IPPC Convention
- ✓ Distribution of work between European Commission, EFSA and EPPO
- ✓ Delegation of tasks and duties between authorities and operators

**Thank you for your attention**

