A NEW STATUS FOR QUARANTINE PESTS, PRIORITY PESTS AND RNQPs IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Harry Arijs
DG Health and Food Safety – Unit Plant Health
1957  EEC created  (6 Member States)

1977  First Common plant health legislation (9 MS)

1993  Internal common market  (12 MS)


2019  New + fully harmonized regime:

Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and the Council

applicable from 14 December 2019
Why?
As international trade continues to expand, so does the number of pests that becomes established outside their native range.
OBJECTIVE:

PROTECT EUROPE'S AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, FORESTRY AND THE ENVIRONMENT FROM NEW PESTS

• by horizon scanning

• by early detection at import or in the field when eradication is still achievable

• by increasing the % of successful eradication campaigns

IPPC + ISPMS BASED
Scope
QUARANTINE PESTS

PEST  IPPC definition

REGULATED  250 pests listed
➢ not present
➢ not widely distributed + under official control

• Union quarantine pests
• Protected zone quarantine pest

INTRODUCTION AND SPREAD PROHIBITED

NB: harmful plants  >  IAS Regulation
**PRIORIT PESTS**

- Subdivision of Union quarantine pests
- Listing of most dangerous QP for the EU
- Extra requirements:
  - Stricter import control
  - Annual surveillance of the EU territory
  - More information
  - Contingency plan for action in case of outbreak
  - Simulation exercises
REGULATED NON-QUARANTINE PESTS

- RNQPs for specific plants for planting
- Based on IPPC definition & ISPM 21
  - Pests known to be present in EU
  - Causing important economic impact on the quality of propagating material

- No introduction or internal movement of plants for planting with RNQP above the tolerance level
- Not new: today regulated as quality pests or QP
REGULATED MATERIAL

✓ Plants for planting, including seeds
✓ Plants (all live plant material: fruits & vegetables, cut flowers, scions, ...)
✓ Listed plant products (e.g. coniferous wood)
✓ Listed other products (e.g. WPM)

IMPORT + MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS AGAINST REGULATED PESTS (except for high risk plants)
REGULATED AREA

✓ The Union territory (European part)

✓ Protected zones

  – Equivalent to Pest Free Areas
  – EU legal status

  – Regular surveys
  – Restrictions for movements into the PZ
Basis for regulation
TECHNICAL JUSTIFICATION

- Reports from import inspections (EUROPHYT Interceptions)
- Reports from outbreaks (EUROPHYT Outbreaks)
- Horizon scanning for emerging risks (EFSA)
- Alert list EPPO
- Reporting third countries
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION FOR QP

• For new regulation
  - Emergency measures on basis of preliminary PRA
  - Permanent listing of QP on basis of full PRA
  - PRA by EFSA / EPPO / MS with EU reference

• For review of existing regulation
  - Pest categorisation by EFSA
  - Full PRA for difficult cases
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION FOR RNQP

- Review of existing regulation
  - As QP known to be present in EU but under control
  - As quality pest in Marketing Directives for propagating material

- EPPO project
DECISION MAKING PROCESS

1. Draft Commission Implementing Act
2. Discussion with all Member States in Standing Committee
3. Stakeholder consultation
4. Vote by qualified majority of Member States
5. Adoption and publication by Commission
6. WTO notification
Quarantine pest management
NOTIFICATION OF FINDINGS

• For Q-pest + potential Q-pest

• by professional operators

• + competent authorities

• where needed: assistance by EU Reference Labs
INFORMATION

- Relevant professional operators must be informed by the competent authority

- Outbreak notifications public

- Citizens must be informed in case of priority pests
IMPORT CHECKS

- systematic documentary, identity and physical check of regulated material
- Reduced frequency for fruits/cut flowers/wood
SURVEILLANCE OF THE TERRITORY

- Multi-annual survey programme
- EU co-financing

*Epitrix* (potato flea beetle):
OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT

• Eradication approach = standard obligation against QP

• Demarcated areas
  • Infested zone
  • Buffer zone

• Containment = only if agreed at EU level

• EU co-financing
CRISIS PREPAREDNESS

• Contingency plans for all priority pests
• Simulation exercises
• Awareness campaigns

Pests and diseases can hide on plants. Please do not bring home plants, seeds, fruit, vegetables or flowers.
For further information:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosafety/legislation_en

THANK YOU