

# Plant health legislation

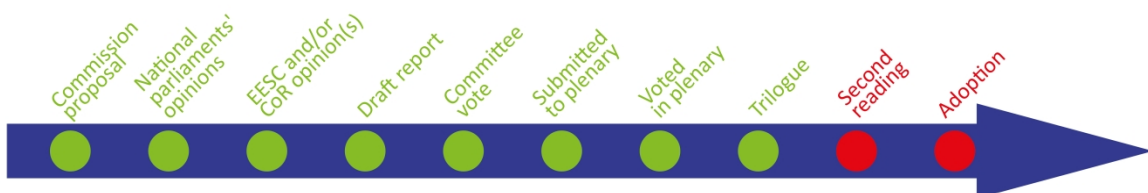
## Protective measures against plant pests

### SUMMARY

Following an evaluation of the European Union's plant health regime, on 6 May 2013 the European Commission proposed a new regulation on protective measures against plant pests. These include regulating pests on the basis of established criteria for risk assessment and prioritising those pests with the most serious consequences. More focus is being placed on high-risk trade coming from third countries. The proposal provides for better surveillance and the early eradication of outbreaks of new pests. On 15 April 2014, the outgoing European Parliament adopted its first-reading position. Seven trilogue meetings were held, concluding on 16 December 2015, when the representatives of the Council and Parliament finalised an overall compromise text. The Council's position at first reading adopted on 18 July 2016 confirmed the agreement reached with the European Parliament in December 2015. To conclude the procedure, the legal act must now be adopted by the European Parliament at second reading.

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

<i>Committee responsible:</i>	Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)	COM(2013) 267 of 6.5.2013
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Anthea McIntyre (ECR, UK)	<i>procedure ref.:</i> 2013/0141(COD)
<i>Next steps expected:</i>	Second reading in Parliament	Ordinary legislative procedure



This briefing updates an earlier edition, of March 2016: [PE 580.870](#).

<b>In this briefing:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• Context</li> <li>• Existing situation</li> <li>• The changes the proposal would bring</li> <li>• Preparation of the proposal</li> <li>• Stakeholders' views</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advisory committees</li> <li>• Council</li> <li>• National parliaments</li> <li>• Parliamentary analysis</li> <li>• Legislative process</li> <li>• References</li> </ul>
--	---

## Introduction

On 6 May 2013, the European Commission announced a [package](#) of measures to strengthen the enforcement of health and safety standards for the whole agri-food chain, covering animal health, plant health, plant reproductive material, official controls and a common financial framework. The package included a legislative proposal for a [regulation](#) to put in place a robust, transparent and sustainable regulatory framework for plant health. The proposed regulation, which would replace the current [Council Directive 2000/29/EC](#) lays down a series of protective measures against plant pests. The Commission's proposal followed a request from the [Council](#)<sup>1</sup> on 21 November 2008 for an evaluation of the EU's plant health rules, including their possible modification.

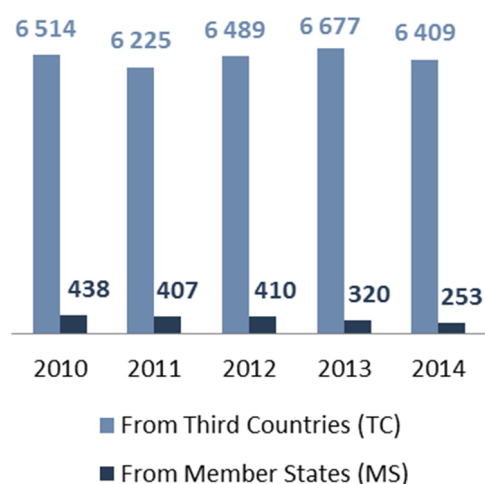
## Context

Plant health is a key factor in the promotion of sustainable and competitive agricultural, horticultural and forestry sectors. As a consequence, the EU's phytosanitary (plant health) regime (PHR) is essential for protecting the health, economy and competitiveness of the EU's plant production sector. Considering that the value of [crop output](#) in the EU in 2014 amounted to €201 billion, without the protection afforded by plant health rules, EU agriculture, horticulture and forestry would suffer severe economic damage. It is crucial therefore to protect European agriculture and forestry by preventing the entry and spread of non-native harmful pests, organisms and diseases. Plant pests or harmful organisms (HOs), such as insects, fungi, bacteria and viruses can cause serious damage to plants, especially when they come from other continents, as they can spread rapidly if generic resistance within the EU is absent.

Evidence on the scale of the threat posed by plant pests can be obtained from statistics on notifications in respect of plant health interceptions found during import controls and in respect of intra-EU trade. These are recorded by EUROPHYT, an online web-based notification and rapid alert system for plant health interceptions in the EU. Its [annual report](#) for 2014 showed that there were 6 662 notifications covering all non-conformities, of which 96% originated from third-country consignments. The remaining 4% represented interceptions recorded within the EU. Figure 1 provides an overview of the number of interceptions for third countries and Member States over the reference period 2010-2014. The principal trigger for notifications in 2014 was the detection of harmful organisms in 37% of all interceptions from third countries. Over this period, fruit and vegetable interceptions constituted the largest number of notifications in 2014, followed by wood packaging material. For interceptions due to the presence of harmful organisms (see Figure 2), the main commodities intercepted were fruit and vegetables (73%), wood packaging material (11.5%), cut flowers (7.6%) and planting material (4%).

Evidence on the potential impacts of harmful organisms, including the costs associated with plant diseases, can be drawn from previous studies and experiences within the EU.

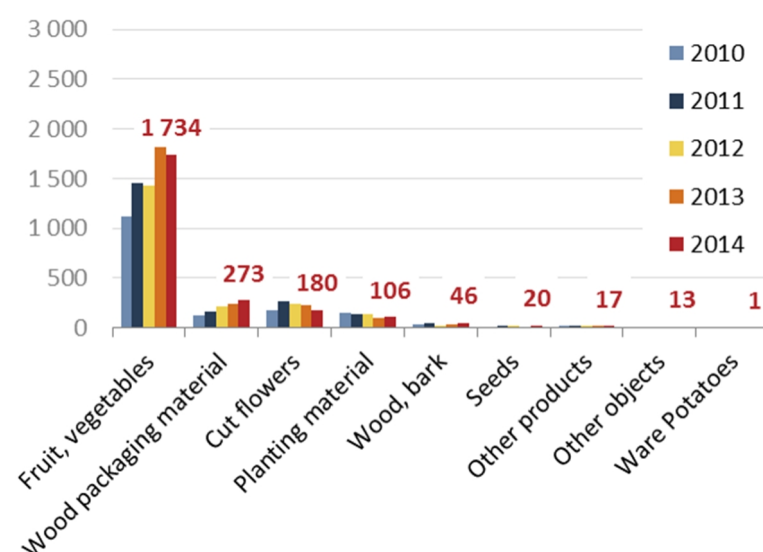
**Figure 1 – Number of notifications of interceptions to EUROPHYT showing non-conformities attributable to Third Countries (TCs) or Member States**



Source: EUROPHYT.

**Figure 2– Type of intercepted consignments with Harmful Organisms from Third Countries (2010-2014)**

(Numbers shown for 2014)



Source: EUROPHYT - EU Notification System for Plant Health Interceptions [Annual Report](#) 2014.

For example, in the case of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*, (a species of nematode or roundworm that infects pine trees), the control costs of the disease in Portugal reached some €40 million in the period 1999-2008. It is estimated that the potential economic impact of failure to act could have reached some €5 billion per year. Another example is the case of the potato sector in the EU. Given its significance, any case of outbreak of brown rot or ring rot would have serious financial consequences for growers. These diseases are a particular threat to the seed potato industry, where affected farms would have to give up seed production. Another example is the case of the plant pathogen [Xylella fastidiosa](#) which already devastated close to 30,000 hectares of olive groves in the Italian region of Apulia in 2014. This caused significant economic losses for growers.

### Existing situation

The current regulatory framework for plant health within the EU is based on [Council Directive 2000/29/EC](#). This sets out the plant health regime (PHR) which aims to protect the EU against the harm caused by the entry, establishment and spread of harmful organisms injurious to plants and plant products. The general principles of Council Directive 2000/29/EC are based upon provisions laid down in the [International Plant Protection Convention](#) (IPPC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Trade Organization's Sanitary and Phytosanitary (WTO SPS) measures agreements. The Directive is supported by [further legislation](#) in the form of a number of Control Directives and Emergency Measures. Through Council Directive 2000/29/EC, the EU is able to regulate the introduction of plants and plant products into the EU from countries outside its territory, impose eradication and containment measures in cases of outbreaks and place obligations on countries outside the EU that want to export plants or plant products to the EU.

### The changes the proposal would bring

The Commission published an [evaluation](#) of the EU plant health regime on 31 May 2010. This study concluded that although the EU's regulatory framework had made a significant contribution in terms of preventing the introduction of pests affecting plant health across

the EU, the objectives of the plant health regime as set out in Directive 2000/29/EC had only been partially met. A number of weaknesses were identified, as follows:

- an insufficient focus on **prevention** in relation to the increased imports of high-risk commodities;
- the need for **better instruments** for controlling the presence and natural spread of pests in case they eventually reach the EU's territory;
- the need for modernising and upgrading the instruments concerning **intra-EU movements** (plant passports and protected zones);<sup>2</sup> and
- the need to provide additional resources.

Overall, the existing plant health regime was seen as being the product of a series of 'ad hoc rather than strategic or systemic adjustments to the various developments in the contexts within which the regime has operated'<sup>3</sup>, such as the completion of the Single Market in 1993; successive EU enlargements in 1995, 2004 and 2007; the accession of the European Union to the International Plant Protection Convention; global warming or climate change and changed expectations from society. Several underlying factors were identified which contributed to this assessment. They included a lack of harmonisation in terms of implementation across Member States as well as variability in terms of knowledge training, administrative structures and in resources. Constraints on the availability of staff and resources devoted to plant health were also cited. Public awareness of plant health issues was generally limited. The evaluation noted a lack of incentives to report and notify findings in a timely manner.<sup>4</sup>

A key deficiency of the current system identified in the evaluation was that it only acted *a posteriori* – and did not cover measures or activities taken on a preventive basis before or as soon as outbreaks or new findings occurred. The evaluation noted that a larger EU meant there was a more diverse range of climatic and pest situations to address than ever before. Looking to the future, the evaluation pointed to the evolving nature of risks in the context of climate change, increasing trade and the potential far-reaching impacts these will have on both commercial agriculture and forestry. A number of key recommendations are contained in the evaluation report. At their core they concern the need to modernise the system through a greater focus on prevention, better risk targeting, and more solidarity in terms of moving from a Member State-based to an EU approach for more joint action to tackle those risks of EU significance. These recommendations are reflected in the main changes proposed which can be summarised under three headings, namely: scope, prevention and early action, and plant passports.

### Scope

In terms of geographical scope, the proposed regulation is limited to the territories of Member States in Europe, excluding overseas countries and territories and outermost regions. In Directive 2000/29/EC, pests are listed in specific Annexes. In the legislative proposal, the Commission sets out the conceptual nature of **quarantine pests**<sup>5</sup> and subsequently lists them in implementing acts either as **Union quarantine pests** or **Protected Zone quarantine pests**. The former require eradication measures in the entire Union territory, while for the latter, this is only the case within specified protected zones where certain pests are absent.

The proposal empowers the Commission to list certain quarantine pests as **priority pests**<sup>6</sup> for the Union, up to a maximum of 10% of the listed Union quarantine pests. These pests would be subject to an enhanced level of obligations concerning preparedness and eradication, supplemented by enhanced financial support from the Union for the

required action. Criteria to decide whether a pest qualifies as a quarantine pest, a Union or Protected Zone quarantine pest are included in an annex to the proposed regulation. Currently, pests that affect the intended use of plants for planting, but do not require eradication are regulated under the Marketing Directives for seed and plant propagating material and partly in Annex II to Directive 2000/29/EC. The Commission's proposal categorises them all as **Union quality pests**. The proposal provides for their listing through implementing acts.

### **Prevention and early action**

The proposal also includes an article which would empower the Commission to adopt implementing acts to address emerging risks from certain plants for planting from certain third countries which require precautionary measures. Listed plant materials would require intensified visual examination and testing, or be subject to a quarantine period or temporary prohibition of introduction to the Union. The proposed regulation obliges Member States to carry out surveillance in their territory for the presence of pests in areas where they were not previously known to occur. If pests are detected, Member States would be expected to carry out eradication measures.

### **Plant passports**

In the Commission's proposal, the introduction of regulated plants into the EU by passengers in their luggage would no longer be exempted from the respective requirements and prohibitions. Where plant material is to be moved within the EU, the proposed regulation provides for the mandatory use of a plant passport issued by operators under the supervision of the competent authorities. Other key elements of the legislative proposal would require the relevant professional operators to be registered. All plants for planting, other than certain seeds, would require a phytosanitary certificate for introduction into the Union as well as a plant passport. Plant passports would be required for all nursery stock but not for sales to final non-professional users.

### **Preparation of the proposal**

The Commission undertook consultations with stakeholders at the start of the review process, during the evaluation and again during the preparation of an impact assessment. A conference was held in February 2010 to inform stakeholders and Member States on the progress of the evaluation. The report of the evaluation was presented at a second conference on 28 September 2010 which included stakeholders, the general public and representatives of Member States and third countries. A public consultation exercise was undertaken on the evaluation reports, with a final consultation on strategic options launched on 13 May 2011.

An [impact assessment](#) was undertaken by the Commission which involved four policy options developed to improve the plant health regime. In the first option the legislation would be converted from a directive into a regulation. In addition to this first option, the second option included the modernisation and upgrading of the plant passport and protected zone systems. Prevention would be reinforced by introducing a new provision concerning high-risk plant reproductive materials that are not authorised for entry into the Union or subject to specific enhanced physical controls until completion of a risk analysis, and by removing exemptions for passenger luggage. The third option, while incorporating Option 2, included obligations for surveillance and contingency planning where EU co-financing would be available for surveillance and in certain cases for financial compensation of direct losses of professional operators. In the case of the fourth option, in addition to Option 3, the regime would cover invasive plants. The assessment

concluded that Option 3 provided the best way forward to improve the effectiveness of the EU's plant health regime.

### Stakeholders' views

Detailed responses to the public consultations undertaken on this legislative proposal are available on the [European Commission's](#) website. While there are a wide range of points in relation to the proposals, there is recognition that although the current Plant Health Regime has partly prevented the introduction, establishment and spread of harmful organisms in the EU, any revision of the regime should be targeted towards increased focus on prevention and early action. There was general support for Option 3 identified in the Commission's impact assessment, which included provision for EU co-financing for surveillance of new harmful organisms and compensation for financial losses incurred by operators for EU priority pests. [COPA-COGECA](#) (representative body of European farmers) considered it particularly important to address the threats and economic risks posed to the agricultural sector by Invasive Alien Species (IAS).<sup>7</sup> It highlighted the need for prompt crisis management measures to be at the heart of the new plant health regime and was supportive of efforts to improve and harmonise surveillance methods at EU level. The [International Association of Horticultural Producers](#) was not against the inclusion of invasive plants in the plant health regime (PHR), but only for those plants that pose a threat to the agricultural sector based on pest risk assessment. [The Horticultural Trades Association](#) did not support expanding the scope of the regime to include Invasive Alien Species (IAS) plants. This, in its view, risked losing the focus of the PHR on its primary purpose, namely to protect the plant health status of the EU against pests and diseases. The [European Seed Association](#) (ESA), while generally welcoming the scope of the Commission's proposals including its main elements and approaches, argued for further improvements. It considered that public-private partnership governance was essential for the successful implementation of future plant health legislation.

### Advisory committees

On 10 December 2013, the **European Economic and Social Committee** (EESC) adopted its [opinion](#) on the Commission's proposal. Drawn up by rapporteur Armand Krauz, it noted that the Commission is authorised to adopt, by means of implementing acts, lists of specific plants, plant products and other items that are subject to prohibitions and specific rules regarding their import into and circulation within the EU. The EESC expressed reservations about the Commission's proposed power to adopt delegated acts and implementing acts. Its concerns related to sensitive issues for Member States in that they will not be able, in the case of delegated acts, to ensure that specific national or regional circumstances are taken into account.

The EESC welcomed the new possibility of compensation to those operators concerned for the value of destroyed plants, plant products or other objects subject to eradication or containment measures. It expressed reservations about the changes to the requirements relating to the implementation of the plant passport for plants and plant products intended for planting in protected areas, as the proposal states that this will no longer be a requirement for end-users. (The proposal explains that plant passports shall be required for all movements between professional operators but not for sales to final non-professional users). The EESC considered that the risk of dissemination of new plants that constitute quarantine pests would be increased as a result. The EESC was unable to support the proposal to require operators, and particularly farmers, in the event of quarantine pests being detected, to apply the plant quarantine measures necessary to



remove these pests. In its view, the task of quarantining long term plant health was a task for the competent authority.

The EESC expressed concern that the criteria to be used for defining pests were not in line with the principles of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). Such discrepancies, it felt, could lead to misunderstandings with third countries and as a result create difficulties for exports of plants and plant products.

On 13 January 2014, the **Committee of the Regions** informed the Council that it would not adopt an opinion.

## Council

Technical examination of the legislative proposal was undertaken by the Council's Working Party on Plant Health over the period July 2013 to June 2015, through 23 meetings spanning five Council Presidencies. Four versions of suggestions for redrafting on the text were discussed. A progress report on their work was discussed in the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in June 2014. The text addressed a number of technical issues raised by Member States, including the use of terminology consistent with the IPPC; the scope of the register of professional operators; the fine-tuning of reporting obligations; and the approach to the import of potentially infected plants.

A further progress report on the proposal was presented in a meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 15 December 2014. This indicated that a revised compromise text covering articles 1-61 presented by the Italian Presidency in November 2014 was largely supported by Member States. The Presidency also presented proposals on transit, plant passports and phytosanitary certificates for export and re-export.

The most sensitive issue remained the plant health system at import, with some delegations proposing to reverse the system from an 'open' one involving a negative list (i.e. all plants not on the list can be imported) to a 'closed' system with a positive list (i.e. only plants on the list can be freely imported). Proposals in between those two extremes have been formulated in order to ensure the new system is focused on prevention.<sup>8</sup> Following the work carried out under the Greek Presidency, the Italian Presidency prepared a revised compromise text. It also promoted discussions on a number of issues at the working party of Chief Plant Health Officers (CPHOs), presenting Presidency proposals on transit, plant passports and phytosanitary certificates for export and re-export. It is reported that these proposals were generally supported by delegations<sup>9</sup> with the rest of the technical examination being taken forward.

On 30 June 2015 the Council's Committee of Permanent Representatives (Coreper) approved a [negotiating mandate](#) for the proposal under the Latvian Presidency. This mandate allowed the Council to enter into informal trilogues with the representatives of the European Parliament.

## National parliaments

A number of [national parliaments](#) considered the proposal. In the case of [Austria](#), the Austrian Federal Council sent a reasoned opinion to the institutions indicating that the draft proposals were incompatible with the principle of subsidiarity. While welcoming the objectives behind the proposed legislation, the Federal Council rejected them. It felt the number of delegated acts in the present proposal should be reduced along with the scope of the regulation, with plant protection measures remaining within the remit of the Member States. The [Polish Senate](#) indicated support for the Commission's proposals. This was conditional on the removal of ambiguity, clarification of wording and an

explanation of why a number of issues are to be regulated by way of delegated acts. It felt it was vital to include lists of pests, plants, plant products and objects which are the subject of: prohibitions on entering into the EU; a requirement to have a phytosanitary certificate and a plant passport.

### Parliamentary analysis

In April 2015, EPRS published a briefing on [Food and feed expenditure](#). This set out how the EU budget through its Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) contributes to financing measures to ensure a high level of health for humans, animals and plants along the food chain. It explains that in the field of phytosanitary measures, both emergency measures against organisms harmful to plants and regular survey programmes concerning the presence of such pests are eligible for funding.

### Legislative process

Following publication of the legislative proposal, the **Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development** (AGRI) was announced in plenary on 23 May 2013 as the Committee responsible for this matter. Hynek Fajmon (ECR, Czech Republic) was appointed rapporteur and presented his [draft report](#) to the AGRI Committee on 25 October 2013. Further amendments were tabled on 11 December 2013. The Committee also received an [opinion](#) on the proposal from the **Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety** (ENVI) on 28 January 2014, containing some 108 amendments. Welcoming the proposal, the latter Committee's amendments included provision for awareness-raising to inform the public of the risks involved with imports of plants from third countries as well as the need for sustainable pest control methods where possible.

The AGRI Committee's [report](#) was debated in Parliament on 14 April 2014, followed by a vote the next day in favour of the [legislative resolution](#) amending the proposal (478 votes in favour to 46 against, 24 abstentions). This position was subsequently confirmed by the newly elected Parliament. Anthea McIntyre (ECR, United Kingdom) was appointed as rapporteur. The text adopted in the Parliament also took account of the [opinion](#) received from the **Committee on Legal Affairs** (JURI) regarding the proposed legal basis for the regulation, namely Article 43(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) which provides the general legal basis for the CAP.

The [legislative resolution](#) adopted on 15 April 2014 consisted of 136 amendments. These reflected issues raised in committee as well as the Parliament's concerns over the risks presented by plant pests arising from globalisation and climate change, including the risks associated with plants imported from third countries. The resolution stressed it was essential to raise awareness of plant pests amongst stakeholders and citizens. The importance of preventive measures and the early detection of the presence of plant pests were also emphasised. The resolution asked the Commission to maintain and make publicly available an updated list of emerging plant pests in third countries which may pose a risk to plant health within the EU. The amendments reflected Parliament's preference for delegated acts where power is delegated to the Commission to amend or supplement the lists of Union quarantine pests, priority pests as well as Union quality pests.

On 9 July 2014, the European Commission submitted a [response](#) to the European Parliament's amendments. The Commission was not in favour of those amendments which made provision for phytosanitary inspections and the inclusion of invasive alien species. The Commission favoured the listing of pests in implementing acts (as opposed to annexes to the regulation) reflecting the dynamic nature of pest listing. It also sought



quantitative limits for the determination and listing of priority pests, arguing that the concept of priority pests only made sense if restricted to the Union quarantine pests with truly major importance for the Union. Without such a limit, it felt Member States would push to list all Union quarantine pests as priority pests as this would extend EU co-financing to those pests once they are established in the Union.

Trilogue meetings commenced on 22 September 2015 under the Luxembourg Presidency, and concluded on 16 December 2015 after six further meetings. Issues which had been contentious related to the identification of priority pests; how pests should be listed; the import regime; and the issue of delegated acts and implementing acts. In the case of priority pests, the Commission's proposal would allow it to list certain quarantine pests as priority pests up to a maximum of 10% of the listed Union quarantine pests. This proposal was supported by the Council. The European Parliament wanted this proposal removed as it was considered to be unjustified and arbitrary. The Council subsequently accepted deletion of the 10% limit.

On 16 December 2015, the Council and Parliament representatives [finalised](#) an overall compromise text in a concluding trilogue meeting. A new article was inserted introducing the possibility of a preliminary assessment, on the basis of which high-risk plants, products or other objects shall not be introduced into the Union territory. These high-risk plants would be listed provisionally pending a full risk assessment. The new rules make provision for:

- the imposition of temporary bans for products likely to pose newly identified pest risks or other suspected phytosanitary risks;
- a requirement that professional operators importing plants and plant products as well as clients of postal services, internet clients and passengers importing risky plants in their luggage will be required to hold a phytosanitary certificate;
- a plant passport system to cover all movements of plants for the purposes of planting within EU territory; and
- the creation and update by Member States of contingency plans for potential pests, as well as the establishment of 'multi-annual' survey programmes to ensure timely detection of dangerous pests.

In respect of the issue of financial compensation to growers whose plants have to be eradicated to wipe out certain pests from the EU, it should be noted that Directive 2000/29/EC was amended by [Regulation \(EU\) No 652/2014](#). This makes provision for EU financing towards the costs incurred by Member States for compensation to owners for the value of destroyed plants, plant products and other objects.

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development voted on the text agreed during the inter-institutional negotiations on 26 April 2016, [approving](#) the text as amended (by 35 for, 4 votes against and 4 abstentions). Subsequently, on 26 May 2016, the Council reached a [political agreement](#) on the position of the Council at first reading on the new Regulation. The Netherlands abstained as it considered that the measures regarding the import system were 'disproportional' in relation to the actual risks involved. On 18 July 2016, the Council formally adopted its position at first reading, confirming the agreement reached with Parliament in December 2015. To conclude the legislative procedure, the legal act must still be adopted by the European Parliament at second reading. It is expected that the new Regulation will enter into force at the beginning of 2017; the regulation would apply 36 months after entry into force.

## References

[Protective measures against pests of plants 2013/0141](#) (COD), European Parliament, Legislative Observatory (OEIL).

Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament '[Healthier Animals and Plants and a Safer AgriFood Chain, A modernised legal framework for a more competitive EU](#)', COM(2013) 264 final, European Commission, 2013.

[Evaluation of the Community Plant Health Regime Final Report](#) submitted by the Food Chain Evaluation Consortium (FCEC), European Commission, DG SANCO, 2010.

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Council Conclusions on the Review of the EU Plant Health Regime, Council of the EU, 2906th Economic and Financial Affairs – Budget, 21 November 2008.
- <sup>2</sup> A **Plant passport** (PP) is an official label for the movement of plants and plant products which certifies or provides evidence that the provisions relating to plant health standards and requirements in Directive 2000/29/EC are satisfied, i.e. that the material originates from a registered and officially inspected place of production. A **Protected Zone** is an area in which one or more harmful organisms are not endemic or established despite favourable conditions for them to establish themselves there. Each protected zone is defined in relation to a particular harmful organism.
- <sup>3</sup> [Evaluation of the Community Plant Health Regime: Final Report](#), European Commission, 2010.
- <sup>4</sup> In emergency situations, the evaluation felt that limited support and lengthy decision-making processes resulted in measures being taken 'too slowly, too late' (op cit p XV).
- <sup>5</sup> A **Quarantine pest** is defined as a pest not present within a defined territory or if present only to a limited extent and is capable of entering that territory and whose entry, establishment and spread would have unacceptable economic, environmental or social impact.
- <sup>6</sup> A **Priority pest** is a new pest category in the legislative proposal. A Union quarantine pest is classified as a priority pest if its potential economic, environmental or social impact is most severe for the EU's territory.
- <sup>7</sup> **Invasive Alien Species** (IAS) plants are those plants introduced accidentally or deliberately into a natural environment where they are not normally found, with serious consequences for the new environment. EPRS published a [briefing](#) on IAS in December 2015.
- <sup>8</sup> [Progress report on Animal, Plant and Control Package: smarter rules for safer food](#), Council of the EU, 12 June 2014.
- <sup>9</sup> [Progress Report for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on protective measures against pests of plants](#), Council of the EU, 5 December 2014.

## Disclaimer and Copyright

The content of this document is the sole responsibility of the author and any opinions expressed therein do not necessarily represent the official position of the European Parliament. It is addressed to the Members and staff of the EP for their parliamentary work. Reproduction and translation for non-commercial purposes are authorised, provided the source is acknowledged and the European Parliament is given prior notice and sent a copy.

© European Union, 2016.

[epers@ep.europa.eu](mailto:epers@ep.europa.eu)

<http://www.eprs.ep.parl.union.eu> (intranet)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank> (internet)

<http://epthinktank.eu> (blog)

