Written statements from the European Union and its Member States regarding the CPM-17 agenda items

Item 11. 1 Revision of CPM Recommendation 06 on sea containers

CPM 2023/12_01

The EU and its Member States do not object to this recommendation being sent for country consultation. We are of the opinion that some parts of the text should be rephrased but we are happy to provide our comments during the consultation process.

Agenda item 12.1: Overarching Report on the Implementation of IPPC SF – Development Agenda Themes (DAIS)

CPM 2023/13; CPM 2023/13/01

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Focus Group for this comprehensive, detailed and well-structured overarching implementation plan for the Strategic Framework, and for the informative update on the actual state-of-play. In particular, we appreciate the inclusion of the financial and resource plan. It is an impressive piece of work. We are also satisfied with and can therefore support the recommendations that are formulated in paras [25] and [52] of the document CPM 22023/13.

We would like, however, to make the following additional observations or proposals:

1. In relation to the POARS DAI, we agree with the implementation plan including proposed sequencing, apart from the inclusion of a phase ‘CPM Go or Stop Decision’ in 2024, which we find confusing. We do appreciate that CPM-18 will consider the revised workplan prepared by the Steering Group, which may be a ‘non-straightforward’ exercise. We nevertheless hope and believe that the reviewed workplan will be accepted, thus allowing the DAI to progress to its ‘Delivery’ phase. To avoid such confusion, we suggest the stage ‘Scope & Plan’ be extended from 2023 also to 2024.

2. Also in relation to POARS DAI, we would like to point out that the tentative budget of this DAI was calculated in 2022 assuming the involvement of some dedicated professional staff. However, up to date there is still no clarity on the structure of the system and therefore the planned resources may prove to be inadequate to achieve the objective in the future. We therefore consider the work, which is to be done by the steering group in order to further develop the plan to implement this DAI, as highly important, and we wish the Focus Group could start working on the workplan revision as soon as possible.

3. In relation to the Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination DAI: we have observed a potential discrepancy between the sequencing of the DAI that will start only in 2025, and the implementation of the EUPHRESCO III project proposal submitted by EPPO to the EU, which if approved, will start in September 2023. The EUPHRESCO III project proposal aims to explore opportunities for global phytosanitary research coordination, and so addresses some of the DAI objectives; and gathers 40 NPPOs, research funders, research institutes and international initiative from all over the world. The IPPC Secretariat and the RPPOs have been invited to contribute to the project in an advisory position. Given the difference in timing of the two exercises, and their apparently overlapping scope, we suggest that the IPPC Secretariat plays an active role in the EUPHRESCO III project so as to ensure the EUPHRESCO III project results contribute to the implementation of the 'Research' DAI.

4. In relation to the recommendation No.9, concerning the role of RPPOs, we suggest to add the following sentence or a separate point as follows:

"Recommends to the TCs RPPOs to discuss the relevant annual, overarching report on the SF implementation, with the aim of identifying topics that the RPPOs could start addressing, within the RPPOs respective mandate, at the regional level."

Agenda item 12.2: Update from CPM Focus Group on sustainable funding of the ePhyto Solution

CPM 2023/14

The EU and its MSs would like to thank the Focus Group for their excellent work. We find the document highly useful for our discussions over the future sustainable funding of the IPPC ePhyto Solution.

With regard to the respective recommendations listed in para [75] of the document CPM 2023/14, I would like to inform you as follows:

1. We strongly support the recommendation No.7, to continue exploring the viability of funding the ePhyto solution from the FAO Regular Programme.
2. To strengthen this recommendation, we suggest adding an additional one, or modifying the existing No,7, as follows:
"Request the FAO DG to explore the possibility of FAO regular programme funding to cover the ePhyto Solution costs."
3. With regard to recommendation No.8 (the scope of costs), the EU suggests to follow option (a), i.e. "Scope 1: All costs".
4. Regarding the recommendation No.9 (the allocation method), we opt for option (c) and suggest that before the final choice is made by the CPM, the Focus Group explores a possibility of a combined methods 1 and 2, and reports on its considerations to the SPG 2023.
5. Concerning the recommendation No.10, we suggest a payment mechanism, whereby the FAO would invoice Contracting Parties exchanging PCs through Hub.
6. In principle, we support recommendations No. 1 – 6., but would like to see a final version of the proposed system, including the detailed overview of the expected financial contributions from individual CPs exchanging ePhytos through the Hub, before giving our final consent to the future funding mechanism.
7. And, finally, regarding the recommendation No.11, we suggest a modification as follows:
"(11) Agree that the Secretariat and Bureau will work together to develop a detailed final proposal on the system for the funding mechanism, including the detailed overview of the expected financial contributions from individual CPs exchanging ePhytos through the Hub, to be adopted in CPM-18."

Item 13 Update from other CPM Focus Groups

13.2. Sean Containers

CPM 2023/17

The EU and its Member States Would like to thank the Focus Group on Sea Containers for the update.
Furthermore, we would like to thank the Focus Group and the organisers and participants of the First International Sea Container Workshop for their work. Indeed valuable elements have been identified. We agree that a layered approach is preferable where items like:

- Container design,
- Basic good Sanitary Practices and
- Visual examination and more thorough cleaning at practical points in the containers logistical cycle

should be organised and carried out by and under responsibility of industry actors.
A remaining Plant Pest problem could be dealt with via a targeted approach which should be risk and science based, fall within the scope of the IPPC and should not burden NPPOs disproportionally.

Regarding the concerns raised by several NPPOs about the lack of risk-based data, the EU and its Member States acknowledge that although there is enough evidence for risks of the dispersal of invasive alien species other than plant pests via Sea Containers, we do support the notion of lack of evidence for the Plant Pest risk of Sea Containers.
We do, however, suggest to the focus group to collect information from contracting parties on outbreaks of plant pests actually caused by spreading via sea container transport but explicitly not related to the cargo.

Regarding the engagement of the secretariat with WOAH, the EU and its Member States would like to inquire whether any update is available. Furthermore we would like to suggest to also liaise with the CBD and especially the Biodiversity Liaison Group, after all, the purpose of the latter is to discuss cross-cutting issues like Sea Containers.

We furthermore note and welcome the preparations for the second International Sea Container Workshop

Agenda Item 13.3: Update from the CPM Focus group on communications

CPM 2023/18

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the CPM Focus Group for the global communications strategy and the 8-year Communications workplan. Mr. Chairman, we would like to use the opportunity and suggest to aligning the text to the terminology used in IPPC documents and to the glossary ISPM 5. The EU and its Member States would like to propose the replacement of a few terms in the key messages number 3, 4 and 6. See Annex 1

Finally, considering the strong link between plant health, climate change and biodiversity, the EU and its Member States would like to advocate joint communication initiatives with the Convention for Biological Diversity that would allow IPPC's messages to reach a wider audience.

Annex 1

Key messages:

3. Protecting plant health helps adapt to the devastating impacts of climate change.
Global warming and extreme changes in the weather may likely increase the spread of plant pests. Increased pest risks can affect food security and livelihoods and contribute to economic crises, forced migration and conflicts. Implementing international plant health standards helps countries prevent the introduction and spread of pests and to preserve biodiversity. Preserving biodiversity helps to improve plant resilience and adapt to the impact of climate change on plant health.

4. The introduction and spread of plant pests can be prevented through safe trade of plants, plant products and regulated articles.
4.1. Complying with international plant health standards makes trade safe.
Many countries depend on trading plants and plant products to sustain their economies. Yet trade can increase the risk of plant pests spreading, and seriously damage plants and biodiversity. To make trade safe, it is important to implement international standards for phytosanitary measures, such as those developed under the auspices of the IPPC Secretariat. This reduces the negative

impact of pests and pesticides on human health, economies and the environment. It also makes it easier to prevent and control the spread of pests without setting up unnecessary barriers to trade. Complying with international plant health standards helps boost trade and achieve SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth.

6. Strengthen surveillance and early warning and response systems to protect plants and plant health.

Carrying out surveys and receiving early warning information about emerging threats helps governments, agricultural officers and farmers take critical preventive and adaptive measures to keep plants healthy.

Policymakers and governments that utilize surveillance and early warning and response systems can make sound decisions when faced with new or emerging pests and minimize potentially costly or disruptive pest impacts.

Agenda item 15.1: One Health and AMR Issues

CPM 2023/23

Mr Chairman, The EU and its Member States would like to thank you for the CPM document No. CPM 2023/23. It provides a very good overview of the developments in One Health that are relevant for plant health. We especially welcome the COAG and the FAO Council decisions whereby the FAO is recommended to strengthen cooperation between Quadripartite and the IPPC to consider plant health. We do acknowledge the resource constraints for the IPPC Secretariat, that limit the intensity of the Secretariat's involvement in the FAO One Health discussions. We would, however, encourage the Secretariat to use their possibilities to a maximum possible, so as to help improve the profile of plant health within One Health, and within the FAO One Health arrangements in particular. Mr Chairman, the EU also agrees on a need for a continued research that would fill up the knowledge gaps and help to better inform and orient the IPPC activities within One Health. In that respect, we would like to refer to the side event that took place yesterday, in which EFSA presented its PLANTIBIO project, and suggest the following additional decision point to be added to para [29] of the CPM document No.23:

"(5) Encourage Contracting Parties to respond to the call from the EFSA/UCC Louvain project PLANTIBIO through the collection and exchange of data on:

- use of antibiotics for controlling plant pathogenic bacteria;
- antibiotic resistance in plant pathogenic bacteria; and
- alternative measures for controlling plant pathogenic bacteria, with an emphasis on data gaps and key questions for improving risk assessment."

Let me also inform you, Mr Chairman, that we also do agree on the other points 1-4 that are already included in para [29] of the CPM document.

Agenda item 15.3: Promoting Strategic and Effective Partnerships towards the IPPC Implementation / IPPC Partnership Framework CPM 2023/25

Mr Chairman,
The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the paper proposing the IPPC Partnership Framework. We do concur that developing the framework will help conclude partnerships with the relevant international organisations, which should enhance synergies, complementary impact, and co-operation.

We do, however, Mr Chairman, have a concern over possible consequences for the limited resources of the Secretariat. It is due to the impression we have that the apparent abundance of potential partners, and the intention – albeit a correct one – to conclude the partnership agreements in a tailored mode on a case-by-case basis may bring over a rather substantive workload the Secretariat will have to cope with.
So, while we do support the recommendations on this point, we want to raise a point of caution to the Secretariat to be careful in considering which partners do, and which do not, merit a development of a partnership agreement according to the principles and rules embodied in the framework.

We do also suggest two drafting changes, which are the following:

- Para [27], the penultimate line: insert the word ‘international’ in front of the word ‘industry’ [“… particularly with international industry associations …”];
- Para [28], the penultimate line: insert the word ‘international’ in front of the term ‘CSOs’ [“… Partnering with international CSOs should aim …”];
- Para [30]: replace the word ‘All’ in the beginning of the sentence with the words ‘Highly defined’ [“Highly defined All partnership agreements …”] (to bring it in line with para [16]).