



EU written statements on agenda items 6.2, 9.1.1, 9.2, 13.2, 13.3, 13.5, 13.6, 13.9, 14.3, 15.2, 17.1 and 18.1

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

TWENTIETH SESSION

EU WRITTEN STATEMENTS

AGENDA ITEMS 6.2, 9.1.1, 9.2, 13.2, 13.3, 13.5, 13.6, 13.9, 14.3, 15.2, 17.1 AND 18.1

AGENDA ITEM 6.2 – Future status of the IPPC Financial Committee (CPM 2026/04)

- [1] The EU and its 27 Member States welcome the proposal to disestablish the FC and transfer its responsibility to the Bureau.
- [2] Considering that the whole bureau has been successfully serving as the FC during the last two years, we believe that the disestablishment of the FC would reduce administrative burden while maintaining transparency and efficacy in managing IPPC's financial resources.
- [3] However, to ensure that all the prerogatives of the Financial Committee are transferred to the CPM Bureau, we propose two additional decision points:
 - (2) Agree to transfer the responsibilities of the Financial Committee to the CPM Bureau to guarantee both financial transparency and oversight.
 - (3) Agree to add a standing item to the agenda of each CPM Bureau meeting concerning financial planning, financial reporting, resource solicitation and the development of procedures with regard of financial transparency and resource mobilization.

AGENDA ITEM 9.1.1 - List of topics for IPPC Standards (CPM 2026/07)

- [\[4\]](#) The EU and its 27 Member States support the proposed amendments of the LOT. We do not object to the removal of the pending status of the topic Minimizing pest movement by air containers and aircraft (2008-002), however we would like to strongly underscore the critical importance of obtaining and incorporating the lessons learned from the experience on the topic of sea containers prior to further discussions.

AGENDA ITEM 9.2 - Report from the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) (CPM 2026/36)

- [5] The EU and its 27 Member States welcome the work of the IC in 2025 and take note of the activities of its subgroups and teams, including on the IPPC Observatory, e-commerce, POARS, PCE, NROs, third-party entities, and the development of guides and training materials. The EU appreciates the progress achieved across these areas, which are essential for strengthening implementation and capacity development under the IPPC.
- [6] The EU recalls the CPM-19 (2025) decisions and stresses the need for their effective implementation, including consideration of the establishment of three additional regularly funded positions within the Implementation and Facilitation Unit and the provision of adequate and predictable financial resources for core and priority IPPC activities.
- [7] The EU and its 27 Member States encourage close cooperation between the IPPC Secretary and the CPM Bureau to prioritise these actions in 2026, invites contracting parties and partners to provide financial and in-kind support, and thanks the experts and partners for their valuable contributions to the development and translation of IPPC guides and training materials.

AGENDA ITEM 13.2 - Commodity- and Pathway- Specific ISPMs (CPM 2026/14)

- [8] The EU and its 27 Member States note the updates provided by the Secretariat and express our appreciation to the TPCS and the SC for the huge work on the novel product, commodity standards. The discussions in the TPCS and SC on criteria for excluding pests and measures in commodity standards and resolving ambiguities in certain terminologies is testament to the devotion of the SC and TPCS to address the difficulties/challenges faced during the development of the standards.
- [9] We believe that users of the standards also require a clear understanding of the concept of commodity-specific standards to ensure their appropriate use. Initiatives such as the side session at CMP-20, and an IPPC workshop are crucial to provide understanding of the concept of commodity-Specific standards and the benefits that would be obtained. Finally, the EU and its Member States would like to call on the IPPC community and the standards committee to devote more time in the development of these first set of standards to build a solid basis for the subsequent standards.
- [10] We acknowledge the concerns raised by COSAVE in CPM 2026/INF/22 and would like to encourage contracting parties to provide technical justification when proposing pests to be added to commodity standards.

**AGENDA ITEM 13.3 - Management of e-commerce and postal and courier pathways
(CPM 2026/15)**

- [11] The EU and its 27 Member States are happy to note the report on The Strategic Development Agenda Item of Management of e-commerce and postal and courier Pathways. We would like to compliment the secretariat and the IC on the quality of the survey on this topic. Furthermore, we agree with the recommendations in the report and we request that financial resources be made available for the commencement of Phase 2 of the workplan of this DAI as described in the roadmap.

AGENDA ITEM 13.5 - Strengthening pest outbreak alert and response systems (CPM 2026/17)

- [\[12\]](#) The EU and its 27 Member States thank the POARS Steering group for the update and for the tremendous progress it has made on this very important DAI, which the EU supports financially.

AGENDA ITEM 13.6 - Update from the CPM focus group: assessment and management on climate change impacts on plant health (CPM 2026/18)

- [13] The EU and its 27 Member States thank the focus group for their outstanding work. We also thank Canada, Ireland and the UK for their financial support.
- [14] The topic plant health and climate change will remain highly valid for the future work of IPPC. Therefore, the EU and its 27 member states support the proposal of the focus group to integrate the remaining climate-related activities into IPPC's ongoing programmes and work.
- [15] In addition, we strongly encourage the IPPC Secretariate to complete the landing page "*The impacts of climate change on plant health*" with missing documents and amend it with as many information as possible collected and developed by the focus group. To be able to use this information in a long lasting and sustainable way, the landing page regularly should be amended and updated. In addition, we request the IPPC Secretariat and the CPM Bureau to provide the SPG and CPM 21 with a clear and comprehensive plan outlining how the issues of climate change will be integrated into the existing areas of work of the IPPC.

AGENDA ITEM 13.9 - IPPC observatory: Progress report on 2025 activities and workplan for 2026 (CPM 2026/21_Rev1)

- [16] The EU and its 27 Member States thank the secretariat for the progress report and 2026 work plan of the IPPC observatory. We recognise the importance of the observatory to the IPPC and believe that for it to effectively serve its purpose, it must be provided with sufficient financial and human resources. The work plan of the observatory for 2026 includes the conduct of the third general survey, final review and evaluation of the current SF as well as resource mobilisation for improving the sustainability of the observatory. We do believe that establishing a position of programme manager will greatly boost the outcome from those activities. We therefore agree that the final review and evaluation of the IPPC SF 2020-2030 be undertaken by the observatory in accordance with the proposed ToR and the necessary funds be allocated in 2026.
- [17] In addition, drawing from experience of the e-commerce survey, we strongly request that a survey specialist is hired to ensure consistent high quality survey design across observatory surveys.

AGENDA ITEM 14.3 - Report from the CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health (CPM 2026/24)

- [18] The EU and its 27 Member States are acknowledging the work performed by the Focus Group in such a limited time period. They also want to thank all Focus Group members and the IPPC Secretariat for all the work provided and the different papers or plans that were published and are about to be published.
- [19] The EU and its 27 Member States also want to highlight the efforts made by the IPPC Secretariat to build bridges with other Working Groups such as the FAO Technical Working Group on One Health and want to underline the need to nurture collaboration and communication.
- [20] With respect to the preliminary study that was presented during SPG25, it seems that the **study does not consistently align with IPPC terminology**. For example, the use of the term biosecurity is ambiguous and is for instance not a term that is used by all contracting Parties.
- [21] While the first part of the report highlights multiple potential linkages between plant health and the other health pillars, the second part appears to focus almost exclusively on AMR. This was done despite the preliminary report pointing out limited country implementation, scarce data on use, and few documented cases of resistance. As a consequence, the **recommendations formulated at the end of the study remain very broad, making it difficult to understand how they could be operationalized**.
- [22] We can therefore express that key expectations outlined in the Terms of Reference were not fully met. For us, the mandate was sufficiently clear to allow the Focus Group to develop a comprehensive overview of the situation and to formulate concrete, broad-ranging actions and communication strategies.
- [23] The original intention was to convene diverse experts and allow them to freely explore why plant health is insufficiently recognized within the One Health framework.
- [24] **The emphasis placed on AMR, driven by guidance that diverted attention away from core plant-health priorities, limited the Group's ability to deliver a genuinely plant-health-centred analysis.** We find regrettable that comments and concerns raised during multiple Friends of the Chair meetings during CPM-18 and CPM-19 were not integrated to avoid such a shift.
- [25] The EU and its 27 Member States believe that this Focus Group represents at this stage a potentially missed opportunity. The **resulting recommendations are still too general to be actionable and are centred on a topic (AMR) for which the plant health sector lacks both sufficient data and a clear comparative advantage**. As such, the current outcomes do not provide meaningful guidance for the future.
- [26] However, we believe that the IPPC is facing a broader, strategic challenge: strengthening its communication on plant health, irrespective of its alignment with the One Health framework. This development of a communication plan is foreseen in the tasks of the Focus Group. We think that this warrants deeper consideration within the IPPC community, with a view to identifying how this communication challenge can be addressed more effectively in the future and how an enhanced communication strategy could be embedded into the standard operations of the IPPC Secretariat.
- [27] In our view, the development of a **communication strategy** is urgent, especially given the number of high-level events scheduled for this year, including the forthcoming One Health Summit in France and the FAO International Conference on One Health. It is therefore important for the IPPC community to articulate a well-defined position and a clear way forward.
- [28] We would strongly recommend that this communication strategy provides practical guidance for future implementation, along with clear action and communication plans.

AGENDA ITEM 15.2 - Update on the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (CPM 2026/30)

- [29] The EU and its 27 Member States welcome the progress made in advancing Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCE) as a core IPPC implementation mechanism.
- [30] We recognize the tangible results achieved since CPM-19, including strengthened national phytosanitary strategies, increased access to training through multilingual e-learning, and the successful mobilization of resources in several countries. These outcomes clearly demonstrate the added value of the PCE in translating assessments into concrete capacity-building activities and enhancing national phytosanitary systems.
- [31] At the same time, the EU and its 27 Member States underlines the importance of ensuring the long-term sustainability of the PCE. Continued modernization of the PCE modules and online platform, together with the strengthening of the facilitator network and follow-up mechanisms, is essential to maintain the effectiveness and credibility of this tool.
- [32] While the request made by CPM-19 to consider allocating resources from the regular programme has not yet been realized, we encourage contracting parties and donors to continue supporting IPPC activities related to PCE, in line with our shared objectives on plant health, food security, and safe trade.

AGENDA ITEM 17.1 - Update on the Africa Phytosanitary Programme (APP) (CPM 2026/31)

- [33] The EU and its 27 Member states thank the IPPC secretariat for the update and commends the successful implementation of the APP thus far. The inter-linkages between APP and other initiatives such as the POARS and the NROs demonstrates that the APP is beneficial not only to the African continent, but to the global plant health community. The main factor limiting the implementation of the APP is the lack of funding. We strongly believe that with the establishment of a stable governance structure, resource mobilisation will be greatly improved. We therefore support the establishment of the ASG with the proposed ToR, with one suggestion to include representative of the IC. However, to ensure continuity of the technical and operational functions of APP, we believe a hybrid governance model combining the APP Steering Group with selected existing working groups would be most appropriate. Furthermore, we emphasize the need for the governance of the APP to be progressively transferred to the African region.

AGENDA ITEM 18.1 - Update on the IPPC global workshop on systems approaches (CPM 2026/37)

- [34] The EU and its 27 Member States would like to thank all contributors and co-organizers IICA, COSAVE and SAG-Chile, the governments of Australia (DAFF) and Canada and the USDA, CSIRO for their financial and technical support; to the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean (FAO-RLC) for its in-kind assistance; and to all in-kind staff and technical experts whose dedicated efforts and expertise instrumental in the development and delivery of this workshop.
- [35] The EU and its Member States look forward to engaging and collaborating on the outcomes and action points of this workshop, that helps build knowledge and understanding towards effective development and implementation of system approaches.