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# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

<b>Eighth Session</b>
<b>Rome, 8 - 12 April 2013</b>
<b>ePhyto</b>
<b>Agenda item 8.2.2</b>
<b>Prepared by the European Union and its 27 Member States</b>

1. National Plant Protection Organizations are currently developing national systems for the transmission of electronic phytosanitary certificates. In order to ensure global harmonized development of compatible systems and to offer all contracting parties the possibility to join, the IPPC should take prompt action to fulfill its role of harmonization in the implementation of this aspect of ISPM 12. Implementation on a global basis will avoid duplication of efforts that would result from numerous bilateral agreements.
2. The implementation of ePhyto provisions laid down in ISPM 12 (when adopted) might be difficult for NPPOs to do on their own. Awareness raising and subsequent activities for implementation require considerable capacity building activities to enable countries to participate in and benefit fully from a globally harmonized exchange mechanism for electronic certificate data. To this effect considerations should already now be given for possible future capacity building activities.
3. Over the recent year the “Steering Committee” has been advising and assisting the IPPC Secretariat in its undertakings on ePhyto.
4. The European Union and its Member States suggest the following elements be considered by the CPM 8:
  - a) the progress made to date on draft Appendix 1 to ISPM 12: 2011 which refers to the the transmission of electronic certificates;
  - b) a need for an active support the move towards global implementation of the transmission of electronic certificates, for those contracting parties wishing to use this technology;
  - c) a need for a continued support to the Steering Committee, and for broadening its membership to include all FAO regions, to coordinate and assist global development and implementation of ePhyto;
  - d) ePhyto as an activity cutting across all areas of IPPC work, and including awareness raising, capacity development as well as technology requirements;

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- e) a role of the Secretariat and the Steering Committee, in taking forward the actions proposed in Annex 1 to this statement.

**Annex 1****Activities suggested for a harmonized approach to the implementation of Appendix 1 to ISPM 12: 2011, once adopted.**

- 1) Propose a process for the administration and updating of and centralized access to the harmonized lists of terms, such as the scientific names (EPPO Thesaurus) by 1 June 2013 which would facilitate use of the lists by interested countries.
- 2) Formalize the contents of the introductory awareness raising workshop - Global Electronic Transfer of Phytosanitary Certificate Data - An introduction to the IPPC “ePhyto” (similar to the Brazil workshop in November 2012).
- 3) Propose how a global ePhyto hub could play a role in the global implementation of ePhyto based on the outcome of the feasibility study approved by the CPM Bureau on the possible establishment of a global ePhyto hub which is expected to be completed by end August 2013.
- 4) Prepare an introductory course - a brief presentation that can be used to introduce managers and other interested parties to the topic of electronic phytosanitary certificates.
- 5) Finalise the list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on ePhyto.
- 6) Prepare a guide to using the ePhyto XML Schema and exchange mechanisms (ePhyto "Toolkit").
- 7) Prepare contents of a workshop on implementation of ePhyto for those regions/countries that want to move forward with implementation of ePhyto.
- 8) Develop a schedule for a global programme to offer such workshops in the different FAO regions in cooperation with RPPOs.