



Diagnostic Protocol Notification Period : 01 July – 15 August 2015
Draft diagnostic protocol for Phytoplasmas (2004-018)
Formal Objection

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the European Commission and the EU Member States, I would like to inform you that, in response to the notification period for the draft diagnostic protocol for *Phytoplasmas*, the EU has a formal objection against this diagnostic protocol in particular on paragraph 70 of the protocol on “Negative extraction control”. The objective of this objection is to strengthen in the protocol that a requirement for a negative extraction control is most valid when large number of positive samples are expected.

Therefore the EU proposes that paragraph 70 of the draft protocol is amended in the following way:

Negative extraction control. This control is used to monitor contamination during nucleic acid extraction and/or cross-reaction with the host tissue. The control **is buffer or** comprises nucleic acid that is extracted from uninfected host tissue and subsequently amplified. ~~Multiple controls are recommended to be included when large numbers of positive samples are expected.~~ **In cases where large numbers of positive samples are expected, it is recommended that negative extraction controls are included between the samples for test.**

Since this objection is part of the standard setting procedure normally this would have been sent by the European Commission on behalf of the EU. But because of the holiday season and the workload at the Commission side the Commission has requested the EU Presidency to send this objection to the IPPC Secretariat before the deadline of 15 August. For IPPC matters the Netherlands has taken over the EU Presidency from Luxembourg, so that is why I am sending you this message.

Best regards

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