



MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT,
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Phytosanitary activities - MALTA

Marica Gatt

IPPC High-level Symposium on Cooperation of the
Phytosanitary Measures among the Chinese
Initiative “One Belt” Countries

27-30 May 2019

Xi-An, Shaanxi, China

Outline



- Introduction
- Veterinary and Phytosanitary Regulation Division - Malta
- Plant Protection Directorate
- Legal Framework: including changes
- Role as NPPO/ Facilities
- Challenges
- Conclusion



Capital: Valletta

Area: 316 km²

Population: 465,292 (2017)

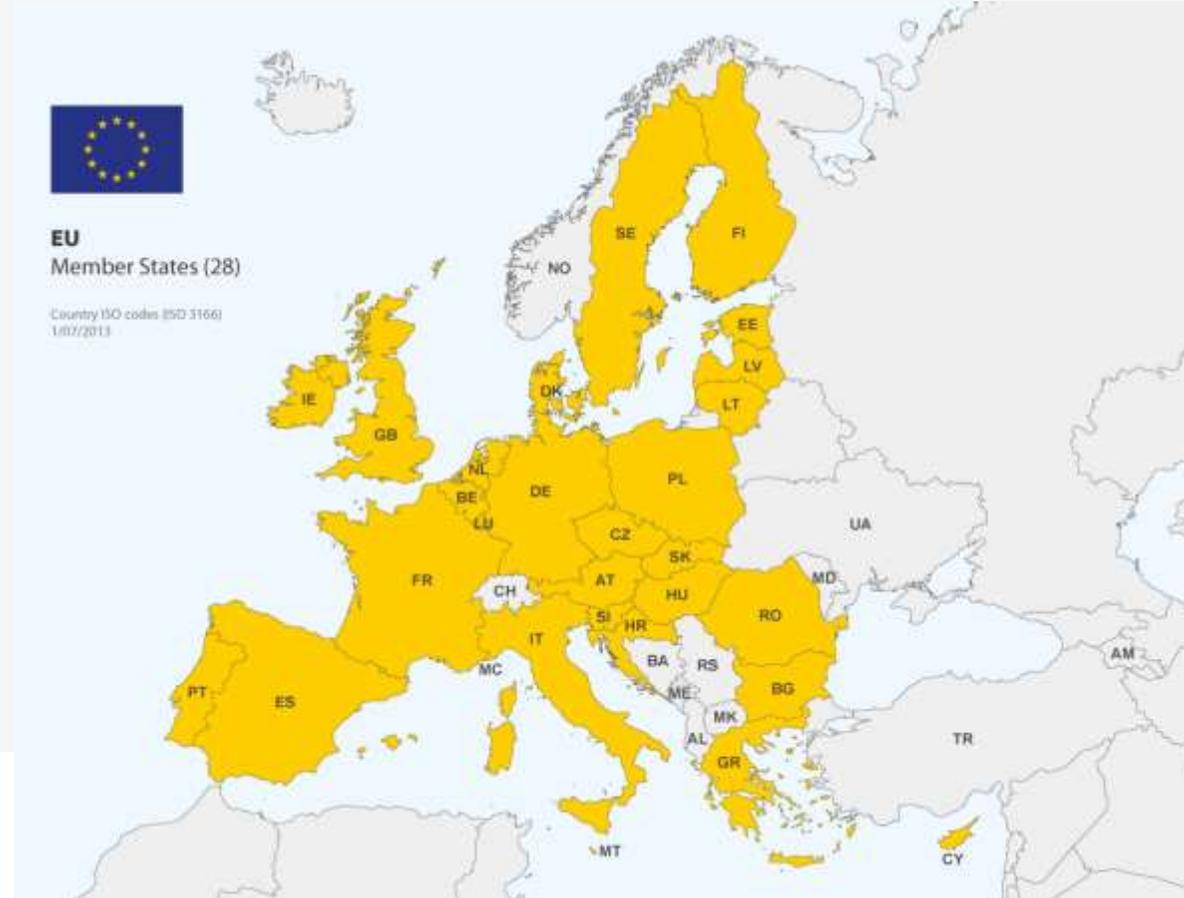
Agriculture: 1.3% of total GDP



EUROPEAN UNION



MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT,
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an EU Member State



Veterinary and Phytosanitary Regulation Division

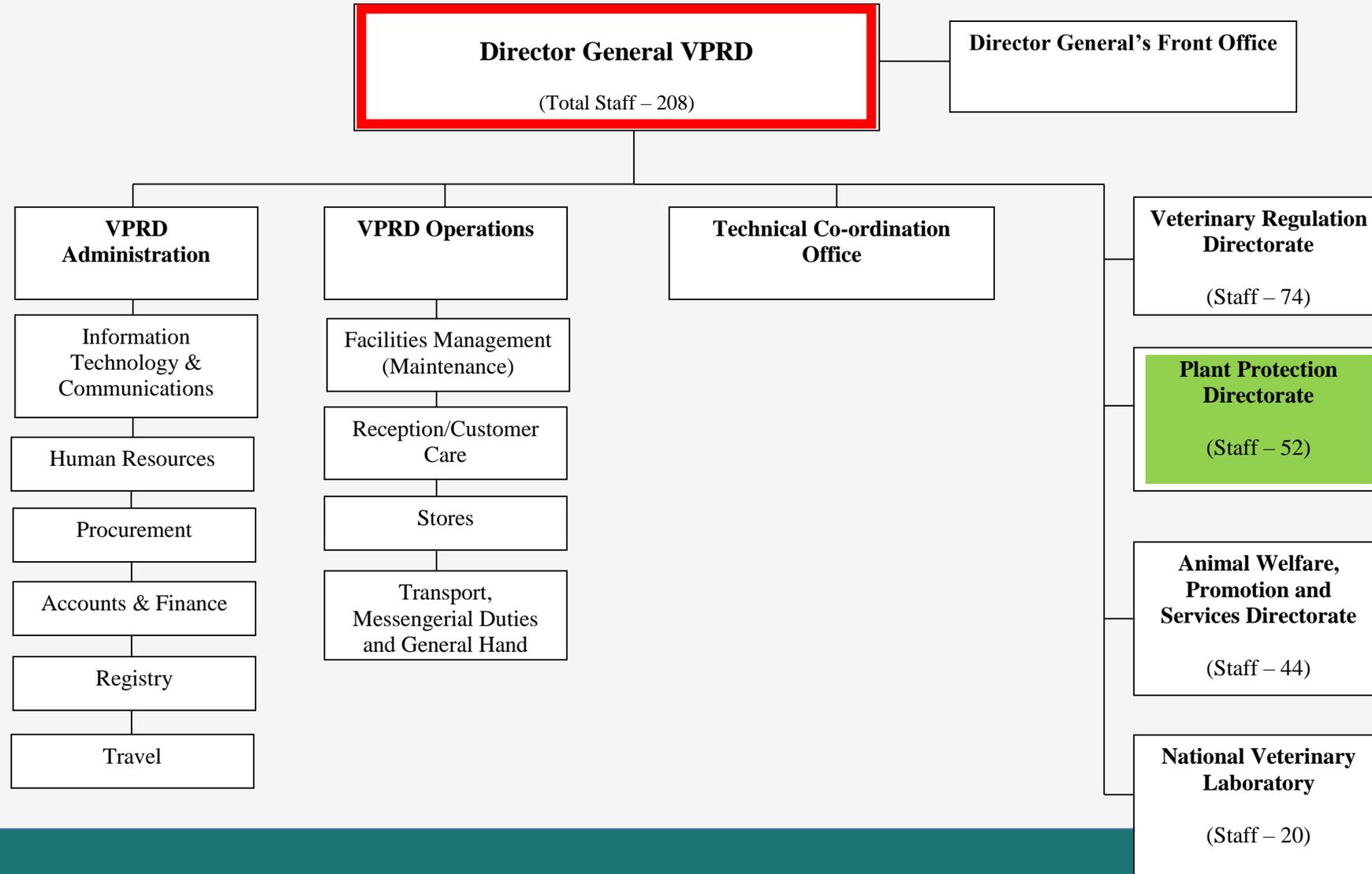
Mission Statement

The Veterinary and Phytosanitary Regulation Division (VPRD) co-ordinates and regulates activities to ensure compliancy with requirements of animal health, animal welfare, plant protection, feed and food law. VPRD aims at protecting local agriculture and contributes to its sustainability by preventing the introduction and spreading of pests and diseases in Malta.

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VETERINARY AND PHYTOSANITARY REGULATION DIVISION (VPRD)



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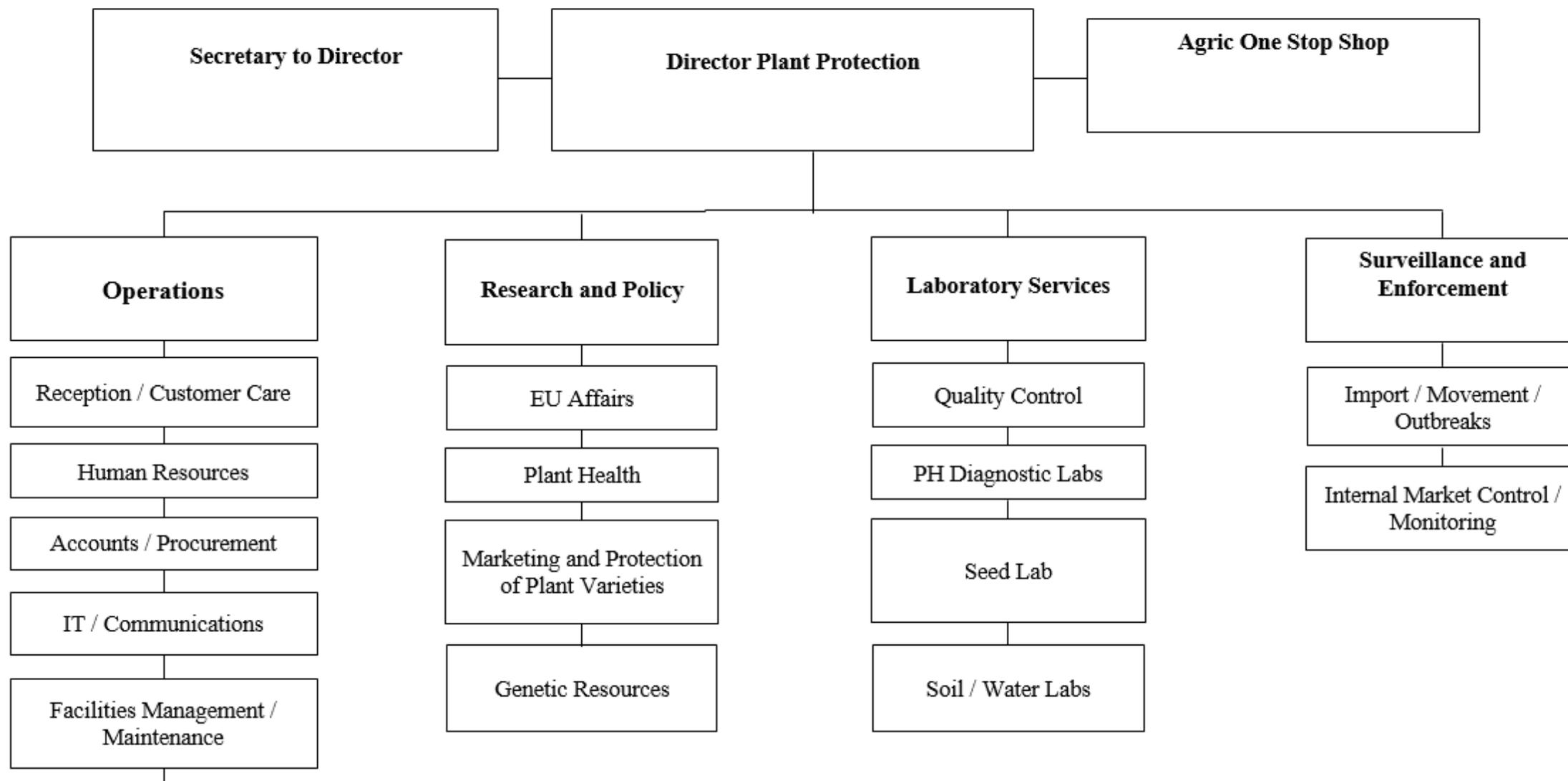


Plant Protection Directorate

Mission Statement

The Plant Protection Directorate, as the Maltese **National Plant Protection Organization** (NPPO), is to co-ordinate and regulate activities to control the introduction and dispersion of major pests and diseases harmful to plant production while encouraging the production of good quality and healthy plants, as foreseen in the **International Plant Protection Convention** (IPPC) and the **European Union's legislative provisions**.

VETERINARY AND PHYTOSANITARY REGULATION DIVISION (VPRD)
PLANT PROTECTION DIRECTORATE (PPD)





Official controls in Malta are coordinated by the Food Safety Commission

The Food Safety Commission is a Government coordinating body established under the Food Safety Act of 2002 to **coordinate food safety** related matters. The FSC reports to and advises the Minister for Health, Elderly and Community Care.

- Plant Health is part of the Food Safety Commission



Legal framework



The basic legislation is **Plant Quarantine Act, 2001** which transposes Council Directive 2000/29/EC.

Council Directive 2000/29/EC of 8 May 2000 on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community.

- Legislation is applicable to **all EU Member States**
- EU Member States decide on the type of national legislation and implementing measures to achieve the aim of the EC Directive.



New EU Plant Health Regime: (“Plant Health Law”)

Directive 2000/29/EC, as last amended by Imp Directive (EU) 2017/1279 , will be repealed on **14 December 2019** and will be replaced by Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament of the Council of 26 October 2016 on **protective measures against pests of plants**

The new Regulation focuses particularly on the **prevention** of entry or spread of plant pests within the EU. It takes a **more proactive approach involving surveillance, eradication, import rules, and financing.**



Provisions are based on:

- WTO/SPS principles
- FAO International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)
- International standards of Phytosanitary measures 'ISPMs'

Malta has been a
member of WTO
since 1 January 1995



Plant Protection Directorate - Role



MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT,
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Is the official body responsible for carrying out surveys and checks on plant diseases and seeds.

is composed of different functions covering:

- a) Surveillance and Inspectorate,
- b) Plant Health Diagnostic,
- c) Seeds and Other Propagation Material,
- d) Research and Services,
- e) Plant Conservation

Plant Protection Directorate - Role



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Import/ Export

Plant Protection Directorate - Role



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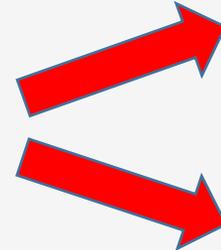
a) **Surveillance and Inspectorate**,

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Import/ Export

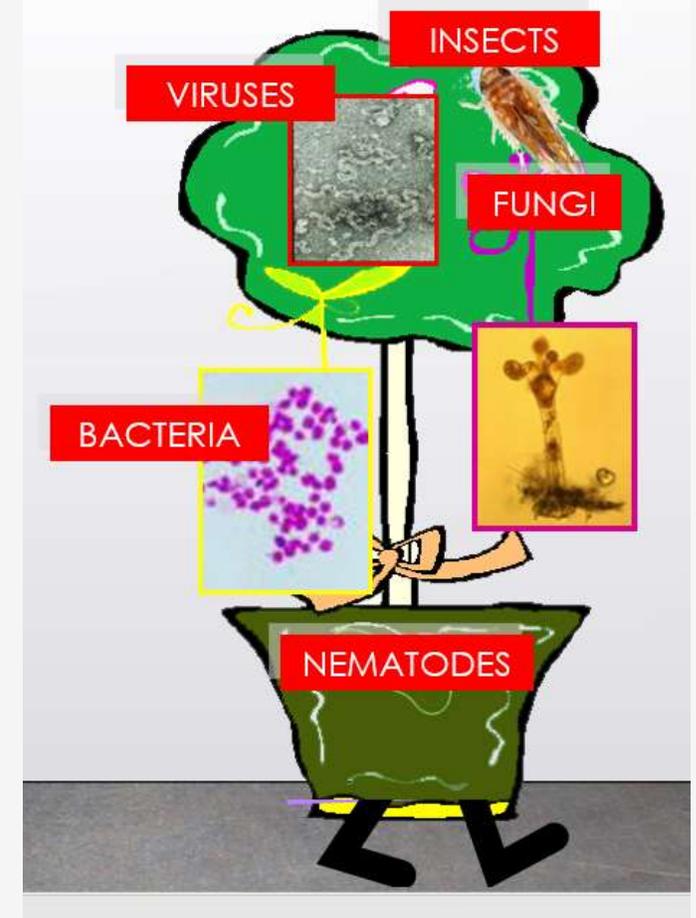
Internal movement

Plant Protection Directorate- Role



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PLANTS CAN CARRY:



➤ **import** and **export** controls of plants, plant products and their growing media at the **points of entry** into the Maltese Islands.

➔ to prevent the spread and introduction primarily of quarantine pests of plant material and plant products but also of pests and diseases affecting quality and to promote appropriate measures for their control.

Legal Framework: **Plant Quarantine Act, 2001**

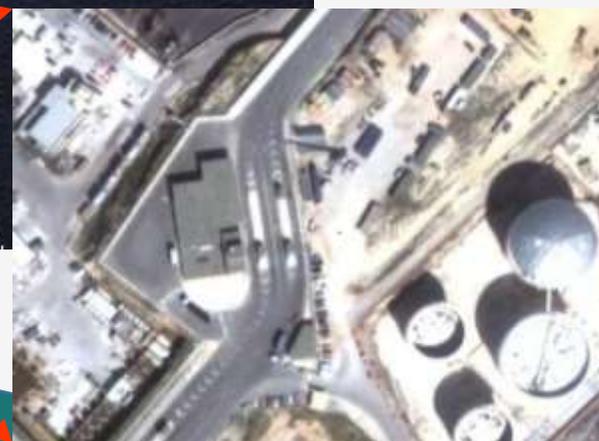


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SEA Port

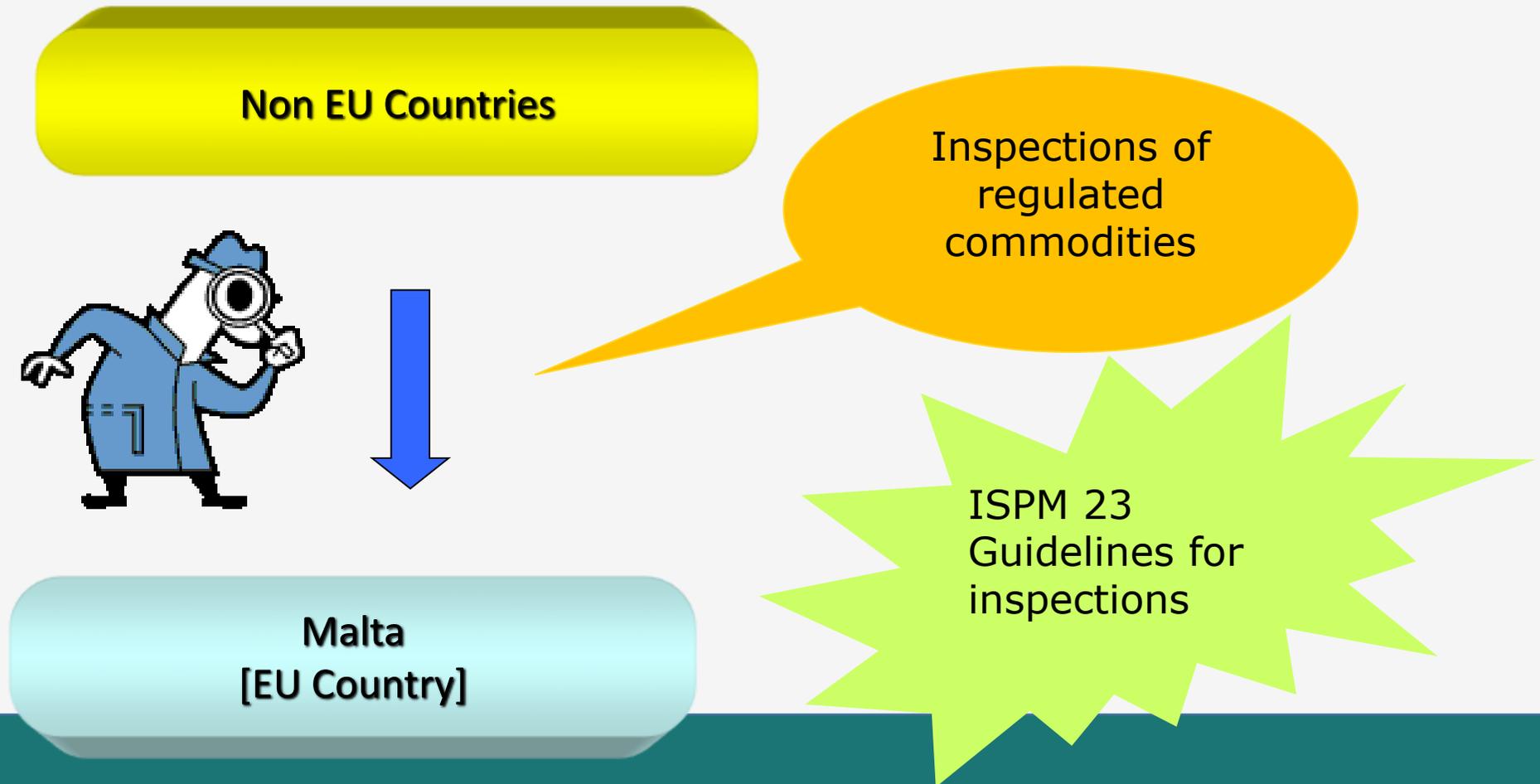
Malta Free Port -
Marsaxlokk



Import/ export controls



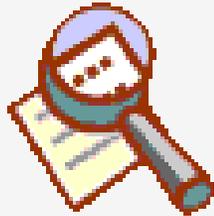
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Types of Checks (applies also for export controls)



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Documentary checks



Identity Control



Phytosanitary checks

Facilities for sampling/ inspection



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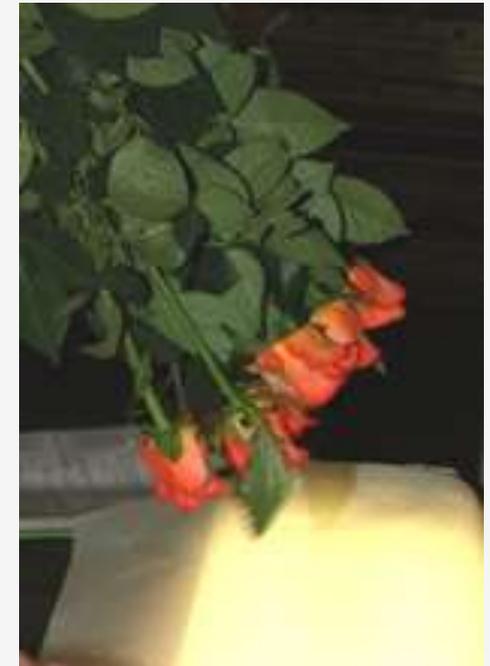
- ⇒ suitable areas for inspection,
- ⇒ inspection tables
- ⇒ tools and equipment
- ⇒ supporting laboratory facilities



Facilities for sampling/ inspection



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Sampling in line with : **ISPM 31**
Methodologies of sampling of
consignments

Facilities for sampling/ inspection



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Tools and equipment



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Plant Health Department

Plant Protection Directorate - Role



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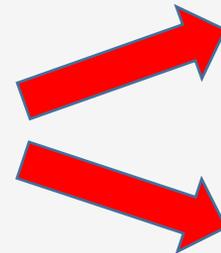
a) **Surveillance and Inspectorate**,

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c) Seeds and Other Propagation Material,

d) Research and Services,

e) Plant Conservation



Import/ Export

Internal movement



Port -



Boxes & Parcels



Plant Protection Directorate- Role



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➤ Monitoring & Surveillance





EU Plant Health Regime: Emergency Measures

Measures are also applied to non-listed harmful organisms in case of emergency



**Emergency
Decisions**

Rapid and temporary reinforcement of the protection against sudden phytosanitary threats of import and/or outbreaks within EU

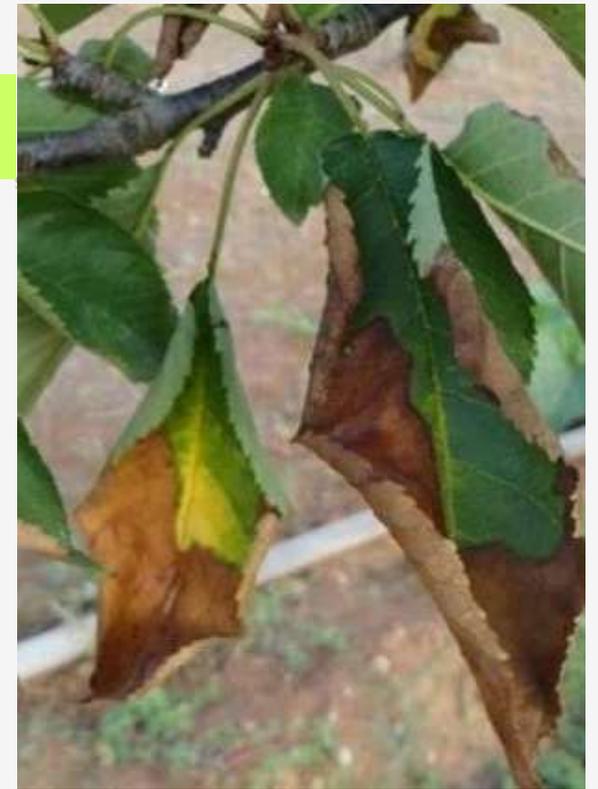
**with extra
phytosanitary
requirements for import
and/or internal
movements**



Emergency Measures - Examples

Commission Decision 98/109/EC provides for emergency measures against the Dissemination of *Thrips palmi* Karny as regards Thailand.

- *Anoplophora chinensis*
- *Anoplophora glabripennis*
- *Epitrix spp*
- *Gibberella circinata*
- *Pepino mosaic virus*
- *Phytophthora ramorum*
- *Pinewood nematode*
- *Spodoptera frugiperda*
- ***Xylella fastidiosa***



X. fastidiosa: A wide host range



Pearce's disease
on grapevine
X. f. subsp. fastidiosa



Almond Leaf Scorch
X. f. subsp. multiplex



Oleander Leaf Schorch
X. f. subsp. sandyi



(Photo : Michael J. Plagens – Source :
Wikipédia)

Citrus Variegated
Chlorosis
X. f. subsp. pauca



Photo : Joao Roberto Spotti
Lopes



Photo : F.
VALENTINI



Source : Anses LSV

Plant Protection Directorate- Role



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Pests of concern

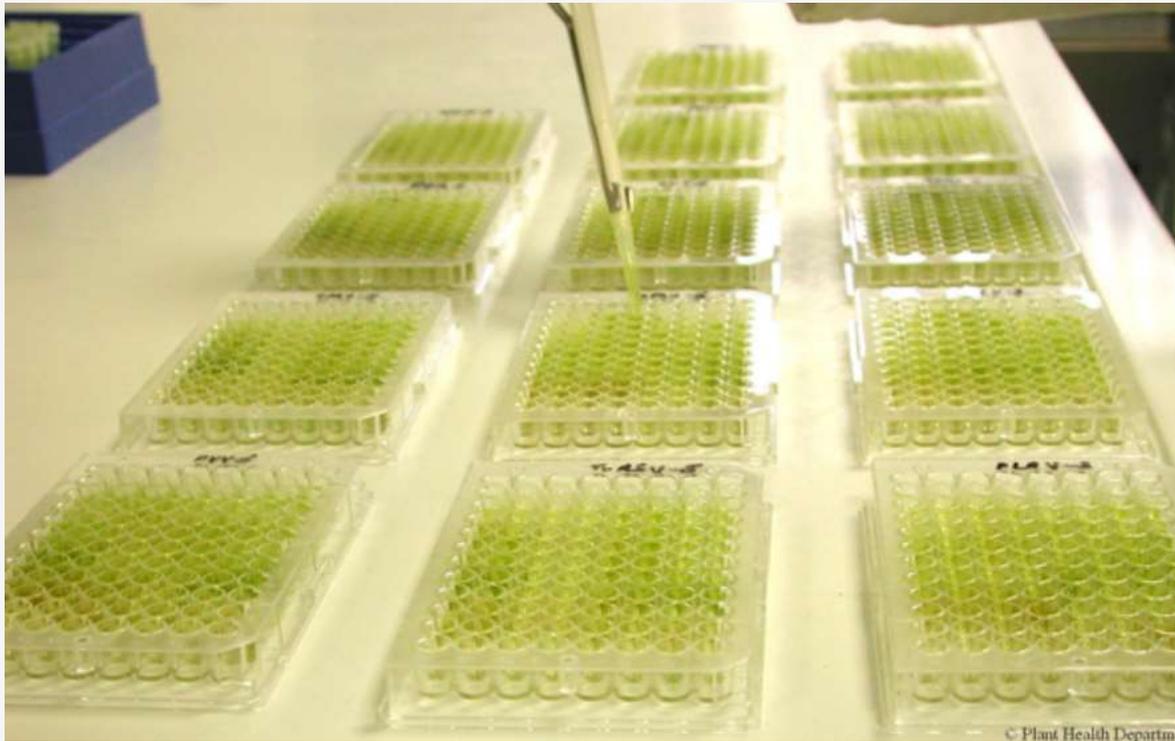
- *Tuta absoluta*
- Red Pam Weevil
- **CTV** [protected zone]



Diagnostic laboratory



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Diagnostic laboratory



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© Plant Health Department

Plant Protection Directorate - Activities



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- provides **services** to clients and farmers such as chemical analysis on soil and water; seed purity tests.
- provide **customer support** to clients, the farming community and stakeholders.
- organise **seminars and information campaigns** as part of our dissemination of information in relation to Plant Health and Seeds and Other Plant Propagation material.
- participate in workshops, seminars, conferences, working parties and training programmes which are organised by International Organisations such as EPPO, BTSF, COST and EU.
- involved in **projects** in relation to the conservation of plant genetic resources.

X'qed iur f'pajjizna?

Id-Direttorat ghas-Sabha tal-Pjanti qed ievvja spezzjonijiet ta' monitoragg fuq is-sigra kontinwa, spezzjonijiet ta' sigra oħra suscettibbli f'forom tal-ġeneri *Quercus*, *Glauca*, *Citrus*, *Prunus* u oħrajn. Dawn is-sigra huma kolliha ta' importanza għal Malta, u allura huwa meħtieġ li jiru dawn l-ispezzjonijiet għal din il-marda biex jekk nsewta pjanetti li-ġenieri Malin u/jew kkontrollati mill-ewwel. Spezzjonijiet qed iuru f'piani pubbliċi, ġenera, għelejg kif ukoll fuq is-sigra li se jinstemgħu b'għajnejh, b'entusi partikolari fuq il-kamrieri u jigi mill-Italja. Id-Direttorat qed jagħmel ukoll spezzjonijiet fil-por minn fejn jidher pjanetti u kamrieri tal-Kamrieri dirett mill-Italja biex jidher li-materjal u pjanetti u wickel jura' jidher miegħu.

Prekawzjonijiet

Il-pubbliku huwa mitlub li jikkonferma li dan id-Direttorat fuq in-natura li jidher fuq wata tal-falun jekk jidher ma' sementa li huma simli ta' dawk in-natura u kif mutja il-utenti. Huwa importanti hekk li jkun hekkom il-konferenza ta' kullidni sabiex ma jidher li-materjal u kamrieri tal-ġenieri Malin.



1. **QDPA** jingħad lura spezzjonijiet ta' sigra kontinwa u ta' sigra oħra suscettibbli f'forom tal-ġeneri *Quercus*, *Glauca*, *Citrus*, *Prunus* u oħrajn. <http://www.qdpa.gov.mt>

2. **Programma ta' Spezzjonijiet ta' Sigra** (jigħad lura spezzjonijiet ta' sigra kontinwa u ta' sigra oħra suscettibbli f'forom tal-ġeneri *Quercus*, *Glauca*, *Citrus*, *Prunus* u oħrajn). <http://www.qdpa.gov.mt>

Direttorat ghas-Sabha tal-Pjanti

Centru għall-Idrokarbonat tal-Pjanti
108, Triq Santhol Fenech,
Taq 324 100

Phone: 8007 2310
Telephone: +356 2201 6214
Email: ghas@qdpa.gov.mt
Website: www.qdpa.gov.mt



Direttorat ghas-Sabha tal-Pjanti

Il-Xylella fastidiosa

INFORMAZZJONI



INFORMAZZJONI TAL-DEPARTIMENT GĦAS-SABHA TAL-PJANTI

DIPARTIMENT GĦAS-SABHA TAL-PJANTI

**IL-MARDA TAT-TRISTEZA TAČ-ĊITRU
Citrus Tristeza Virus - CTV**

Il-CTV huwa *virus* li jattakkja sigra tač-ċitru. Dan il-*virus* huwa meqjus bħala *virus* ta' kwasiżantna, minhabba li hu ġenerali. Hekk jidher li-*virus* ta' kwasiżantna fuq il-*virus* ta' kwasiżantna. Fuq il-Mediterran dan il-*virus* jinstemgħu f'diversi pjanetti bħall-Italja, Tunisi, Finanza, eċc., u b'hekk wickel jura' jidher kemm hu f'fieri li dan il-*virus* jidher f'pajjizna. Dan il-*virus* għaliq nstab lokalment u l-pjanti nfezzjati għew meqjuda.



Dan il-*virus* jidher l-*virus* permezz ta' nliqin b'material infettat b'dan il-*virus*, jerr permezz ta' spezi ta' afidjati. *Toxoptera citricola*, *Aphis gossypii*, *Aphis spiraecola* u *Toxoptera aurantii*, *Aphis gossypii*, u *Aphis spiraecola* huma preżenti fil-ġenieri Malin, f'oweg li *Toxoptera citricola* (jigħad lura *virus* ta' kwasiżantna), li hu l-*virus* spezi li jattakkja dan il-*virus* ta' kwasiżantna preżenti f'Malta.

Prekawzjonijiet li qed jittieghdu sabiex jinstemgħu dan il-*virus* milli jinfexx f'Malta

Sabiex nikkontrollaw milli ninfexx dan il-*virus* fil-ġenieri Malin, kollu sewa jura' *virus* mid-Dipartiment ghas-Sabha tal-Pjanti, kemm għal *virus* kif ukoll għal vetturi (afidjati) f'għelejg u għanna meqjuda Malta u Għawden, kif ukoll *virus* għadju *virus* ta' kwasiżantna u sigra.

Is-Sintomi tal-*Virus* jidher b'hekk

- il-*virus* ta' kwasiżantna nfezzjati,
- l-*virus* ta' kwasiżantna,
- fuq l-*virus* ta' kwasiżantna u nliqina ta' kwasiżantna.

Kif jigi kkontrollat il-*virus*



Black Citrus Aphid *Toxoptera aurantii*, Spiraea Aphid, *Aphis spiraecola*, vetturi ta' CTV li jattakkja il-*virus* ta' kwasiżantna u sigra.

Minister ghas-Risorse u Affarijiet Riżorti
Tel: +356 2339 7100/223 Freephone: 8007 2310 www.qdpa.gov.mt www.mta.gov.mt



Fuq ta' l-*virus* ta' kwasiżantna għadju *virus* ta' kwasiżantna u sigra. www.qdpa.gov.mt

DIPARTIMENT GĦAS-SABHA TAL-PJANTI

**BUMUNQAR AHMAR TAL-PALM
Rhynchophorus ferrugineus (Olivier)**



Adult: Hantusa ta' daqq bejn 3cm - 5cm. Minqas pjanetti u għelejg. Kullu hantusa jura' *virus* ta' kwasiżantna. Tind minn 200 ta 300 bajda.

Larva: Kullu bajda u b'hekk. Ras jidher fil-kamrieri. Bis'ispezzjonijiet. Jidher il-palm minn għawden.

Fruq: Magħnula minn hant. Tapponegħ il-larva waqt li tura' qd tinfexx f'adju.



Il-palm li jigi attakkat mill-Bumunqar l-ahmar tal-palm

- *Phoenix dactylifera*, (tat-Tamal)
- *Phoenix canariensis*, (tat-Sajjeda)
- *Phoenix glauca*, (Silwer date palm),
- *Chamaerops humilis*, (tal-Gummar),
- *Coccothraupis*, (tal-Cocconut)
- *Washingtonia* spp. (ta' l-Imrewha)
- *Areca catechu* (Betel nut palm)

F'Malta l-*virus* ta' kwasiżantna tal-palm li huwa infettat: l-*virus* ta' kwasiżantna, *Phoenix dactylifera*, u *Washingtonia*.

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Tel: +356 2339 7100/223 Freephone: 8007 2310 www.qdpa.gov.mt www.mta.gov.mt

- Leaflets
- Posters
- Press Notices
- Media

Xylella fastidiosa





“Plant Health Law”: Regulation (EU) 2016/2031

Unlike Council Directive 2000/29/EC this Regulation only provides for a limited number of provisions on official controls since those rules are provided for in the framework of the horizontal legislation on official controls : **Regulation (EU) 2017/625**.

Example

- Official controls at BCPs
- Accreditation of laboratories
- Establishing of EURLs





Priority pests

These are the Union quarantine pests with the **most severe potential impacts on the economy, environment and/or society** of the EU.

They will be subject to **enhanced measures** concerning:

- surveys,
- eradication action plans,
- contingency plans and
- simulation exercises

 Enhanced EU co-financing

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➔ Enhanced EU co-financing

High risk plants



EU LEGISLATION ON OFFICIAL CONTROLS



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General Food Law

Regulation (EC) N°178/2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and laying down procedures in matters of food safety

Official Food and Feed Controls

Regulation (EC) N°882/2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules



Regulation (EC) 882/2004 was recently reviewed and will be replaced by the:

- Official Controls Regulation (EU) 2017/625

Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products



Regulation (EC) 882/2004 was recently reviewed and will be replaced by the:

- Official Controls Regulation (EU) 2017/625

Main date of application

14 December 2019

(the scope, definitions, competent authorities' obligations, financing of official controls, administrative assistance, etc.)

In some cases: 27 April 2018, 27 April 2022, 14 Dec 2022

Entered in force: 27 April 2017



Regulation (EC) 882/2004 was recently reviewed and will be replaced by the:

- Official Controls Regulation (EU) 2017/625

Main Title III on

Reference Laboratories and reference Centres

(the scope, definitions of official control, obligations, financing of official control, etc.)

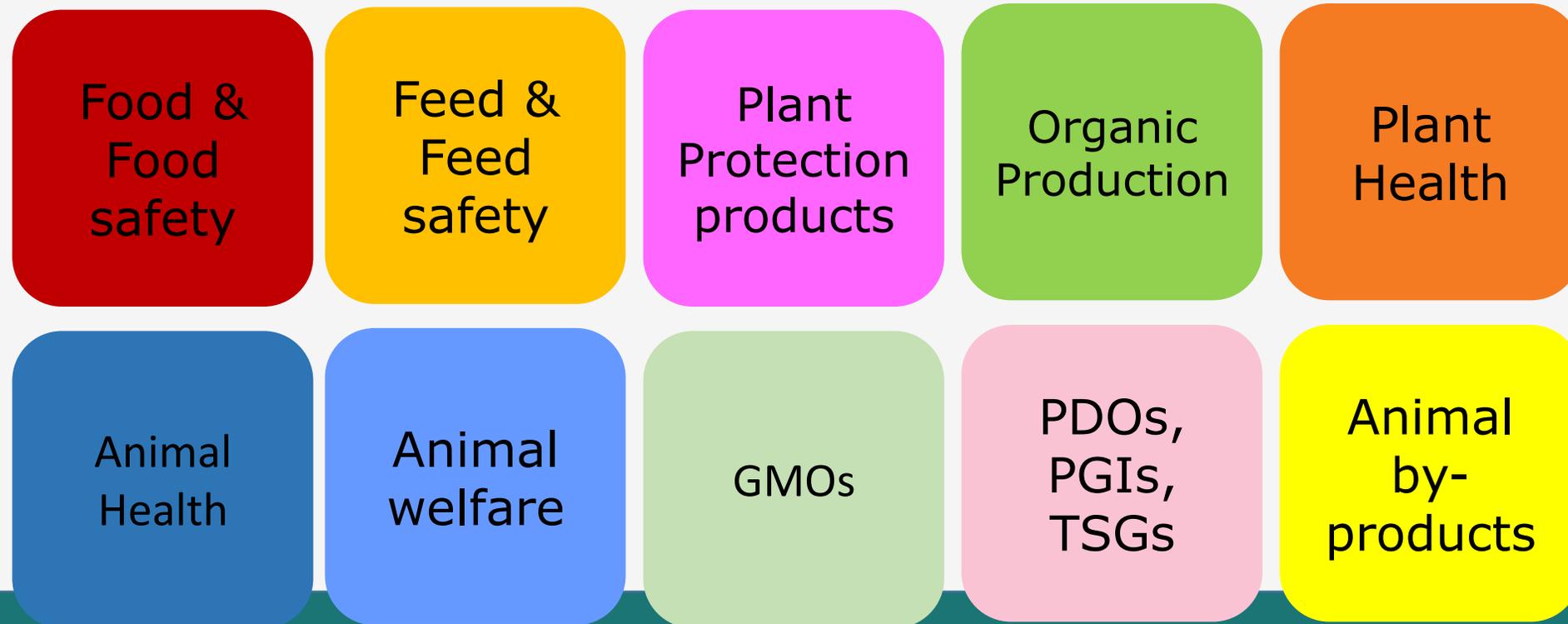
In some cases: **27 April 2018**, 27 April 2022, 14 Dec 2022

Entered in force: 27 April 2017



Regulation (EU) 2017/625: Why?

The new rules extend the scope of the previous Regulation to also cover **animal-by product** rules and **plant health**





Regulation (EU) 2017/625: Key Principles

simplification

scope has been extended to cover the whole agri-food chain and thus OCs integrated in a single regulation; CHED

transparency

Increased transparency and greater accountability through the publication of information (incl fees calculation)

harmonisation

Extending the scope ensures a more harmonised and coherent approach along the entire agri-food chain

efficiency

Facilitates exchange of information; supported by an integrated information management system (IMSOC)

The **risk based approach** is maintained



New elements for import controls [Art 43-76]

A common framework for import controls with **risk adjusted frequencies** for all import checks.

Border Control Posts (BCPs) will replace current Border Inspection Posts (BIPs), Designated Points of Entry (DPEs), etc.

All BCPs will have to fulfil minimum requirements for facilities, equipment; similar staff qualifications etc.

Use of single standard document Common Health Entry Document (CHED) for notification of consignments from non EU countries.

An integrated information management system (IMSOC) to link all existing (and future) computer systems, e.g. TRACES1 , RASFF2 and Europhyt3 to ensure optimal exchange of information between MS.



Regulation (EU) 2017/625: Import Control

OCR introduces a **common set of rules** for controls carried out at EU borders on animals and goods

Controls (such as documentary, identity and physical checks) will be **risk-based** and carried out with **appropriate frequency** (Article 44).

The **import control system will be more risk-based** and targeted. Hence it will be less burdensome for Competent Authorities and businesses alike.



Regulation (EU) 2017/625: Official laboratories

The OCR sets out the requirements to be met to **designate official laboratories**

Example:

- accurate description of the tasks that can be carried in laboratory,
- the laboratory must have the necessary equipment and expertise,
- accreditation to ISO standards, etc. (Article 37).

Plant health laboratories have been given a 5-year transitional period to comply with accreditation requirements (article 167(2)).

The OCR provides procedures to establish EU Reference Laboratories (**EURLs**)

Challenges



- Net importers
- Small NPPO
- ‘free’ movement within EU: *Xylella fastidiosa*
- island (200km circumference)
- e commerce
- Globalisation: tourists (c.2.5 million/year)
- Foreign residents
- New updates in EU legislation: Official controls, Border Control Posts; accreditation of PH labs

Conclusion



- Phytosanitary activities in Malta fall primarily under the Plant Protection Directorate within the Veterinary and Regulation Division (VPRD)
- The Maltese NPPO is continually investing to ensure that it has the necessary legal framework and infrastructure
- Training and Continuous support/ collaboration are seen to be an important aspect for continuous development



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Thank you for your attention
Xie Xie

environment.gov.mt