



T.C.
MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK
General Directorate of Food and Control



Date: 06.10.2016

Subject : Declaration of Turkey on *Xylella fastidiosa*.

Please find the phytosanitary status declaration of Turkey on *Xylella fastidiosa* as follows:

The presence of *Xylella fastidiosa* was first reported on the Journal of Plant Pathology (2005), 87 (3), p. 246 in Turkey and argued that the disease detected on almond trees (*Prunus amygdalus* L.) on seven different orchards. The diagnose was carried out by DAS-ELISA using commercial kits (Loewe Phyto Diagnostica Biochemica, Germany) and as a conclusion in the report it is written that "These data seem to substantiate the likelihood that *Xylella fastidiosa* is associated with scorched almond trees in southern Turkey".

Upon the publication mentioned above, the situation has been intensively investigated. Then it has been considered by the Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock that the publication on the finding of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Turkey is not reflecting the reality and can not be accepted due to the following points:

- 1- The diagnosis was carried out by only DAS-ELISA. It is admitted in the publication that "These data seem to substantiate the likelihood that *Xylella fastidiosa* is associated with scorched almond trees in southern Turkey" but it is not a certain result scientifically. To confirm the results PCR methods have to be also done but the researchers didn't carry out PCR methods to find out the exact result. For scientific confirmation, it is definitely necessary to do diagnosis by also PCR methods.
- 2- We contacted with the researchers and learned the location of orchards which they collected the samples. It was stated by the researcher that the infected trees were all destroyed at that time and the following years they couldn't find any symptoms of the disease. Even so, intensive surveys were carried out and samples were analysed from the mentioned areas and the vicinity by plant health officers of the Ministry. But *Xylella fastidiosa* has not been found.
- 3- Although it has been passed more than 10 years from the publication of the report, there is no any detection of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Turkey.
- 4- In 2012, experts from Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock were trained on diagnosis and sampling in Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, Italy. Then trainings were provided to the laboratory experts in the country in 2013. Survey instructions and information documents were prepared and disseminated in Turkey. Annual survey program for *Xylella fastidiosa* across the country was included into the Plant Health Implementation Program and since 2014 the annual surveys on *Xylella fastidiosa* have been conducted throughout the country. Surveys have been carried out meticulously and samples were analysed and up to now there has not been any finding

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of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Turkey. The survey program for 2016 is still ongoing and no positive sample has been found.

- 5- On 30 May-01 June 2016, "TAIEX Workshop on Managing the *Xylella fastidiosa*" was conducted in Turkey in co-operation with European Union and Turkey. The latest developments on sampling methods and management strategies were all covered in the workshop. 50 participants working in the Ministry on plant health were participated. This workshop provided Turkey to strengten and promote the technical and managerial capacity.
- 6- These information were provided to EPPO and after their evaluation it is accepted that the report is not reflecting the reality and *Xylella fastidiosa* is not present in Turkey. This conclusion is available on PQR database and EPPO Global database.

Turkey considers *Xylella fastidiosa* as a high risk for national production of many plants and therefore implements strict measures and takes all necessary actions to prevent introduction to Turkey. The import measures were defined in the Regulation on Plant Quarantine for the countries which *Xylella fastidiosa* is present. Since Turkey is in the accession period of European Union (EU), the regulations on plant health are mainly in line with EU regulations and a harmonized regulation on *Xylella fastidiosa* is under preparation.

Consequently, Turkey declares that *Xylella fastidiosa* is not present in Turkey and do not confirm the aforementioned publication.

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