



EU coordination in IPPC affairs



Corné van Alphen
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
Netherlands



the Earth.
To
the Earth.



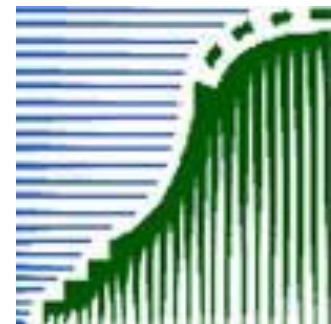
Introduction

Plant Health Affairs in NL:

- Ministry responsible for policy affairs IPPC, EU, national level
- NPPO: Plant Protection Service responsible for authorisation and supervision of implementation of regulations; national reference laboratory (centre of knowledge)
- General Inspection Bodies: responsible for implementation of EU and national legislation

NL is member state of European Union (EU27)

For IPPC affairs: **EU acts as a whole**





Importance international harmonization

Volume of trade plant products has increased:

	Export		Import	
	1997 (EU15)	2007 (EU27)	1997 (EU15)	2007 (EU27)
Total (bln €)	195.0	339.2	205.6	353.1
Plants	117	206.9	125.4	215.4
% plant	60%	61%	61%	61%



Importance international cooperation

Trade: Continuous growth international trade of plant products

New phytosanitary risks: Increased risk of spread of harmful organisms through trade and other pathways (climate change, environmental developments)

Science/technology: New techniques are being developed

Resources: constant pressure on organizations (staff, budgets) to implement work

IPPC is standard setting body in **WTO-framework**: standards are important as basis for harmonized approach

- **Coordination of EC positions is essential**



Coordination is essential

Why

- Make efficient use of resources
- To take into account different opinions/situations in EU
- To increase influence
- Legal reasons: both EC and EU-Member States are contracting party in IPPC so coordination has to be effected (decision by Council of Ministers and EU Commission)

On what

- Personnel issues: nominations for experts in various panels, expert groups, subsidiary bodies etc
- Common positions on standards and strategic issues in framework of IPPC



Building EU Position in IPPC: who is involved

European Community

- 27 Member States
- European Commission



EPPO

- 50 Members
- EU27 and non EU-members





European Community

European Council

- Member States (27 Member States)
- Decision making body
- on ministerial level and on administrative level
- EU Presidency rotates every six months

European Commission

- Independent body
- Protection interests of EU
- Makes proposals for EU decisions
- Implementation: executive arm of the EU





EPPO: European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization



- intergovernmental organization
- RPPO as mentioned in IPPC
- 50 Member countries including 27 EU Member States but also Russia, Turkey, Israel, Jordan, Norway etc.
- Aims: protection of plant health in region and develop strategies and promotion of cooperation between members
- Structure: Council, Executive committee, working parties, panels, secretariat

=> EPPO PANEL on CPM AFFAIRS



European cooperation in IPPC affairs

Cooperation in

- ISPMs (call for topics, draft specifications, draft ISPMs in member consultation, draft ISPMs on CPM Agenda)
- Strategic matters IPPC as budget issues, dispute settlement, capacity building etc.
- Personnel affairs

Defining **who is competent**: EU Commission or EU Member States
Most cases: shared competence

Who has right to speak and to vote at CPM

- Commission on standards
- MS on policy and financial matters



4th Session of FAO COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Rome, 30 March - 3 April 2009

9. Goal 1 : A robust international standard setting and implementation programme

Shared Competence - EC Vote → for items : 9.1 – 9.6, 9.8

Shared Competence - MS Vote → for items : 9.7, 9.9

9.1 Report by the Standards Committee Chairperson

9.2 Adoption of international standards – under the regular process

9.3 Adoption of international standards – under the special process

9.4 IPPC standard setting work programme

9.5 Issues associated with technical standards (diagnostic protocols and phytosanitary treatments)

9.6 ISPM No. 15 symbol – status of registration

9.7 Amendment to the standard setting procedure

9.8 Consistency in the use of terminology in International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures

9.9 Translation of terms used in International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures into Spanish



EC Common position

EC and Member States always strive to achieve a common position on CPM items

EU statement at CPM Meetings by Commission or by EU Presidency

Preparation of statements by Commission expert working group (experts from EC, Presidency and MS such as Germany, UK, Netherlands, France, Poland, Latvia, Denmark).

Draft statements are discussed in EU Council Working Party Plant Health in which all 27 MS and Commission are represented.

All items on CPM-Agenda: statements and fall back positions are adopted by Council Working Party

During CPM: EC Coordination meetings before and between CPM sessions



EPPO CPM Panel

Cooperation between EU and EPPO is necessary in case of

- technical issues (such as standards)
- nominations of EPPO representatives in CPM bodies (such as Standards Committee, Dispute Settlement Body, Expert Working, Technical Panels)

CPM Panel has a key role in coordination EPPO position

- Prepares EPPO view on CPM issues, especially on ISPMs
- Prepares nominations of representatives in various CPM bodies
- Discusses implementation problems with adopted ISPMs
- Discusses strategic issues regarding IPPC and standard development
- Informal contact with other RPPOs, especially with NAPPO and COSAVE
- Personnel union with EU Commission Expert Group and Council Working Party
- EPPO Steward responsible for preparation of EPPO position



EPPO Stewardship

Panel consists of experts from EU-27 (e.g. Germany, UK, NL, FRA, Poland, Latvia, Italy, EU Commission, Presidency) and non EU-27 (e.g. Russia, Norway, Israel)

Meets 4 times per year (January with NAPPO, March/April with COSAVE, April before Meeting Standards Committee in May and September to prepare EPPO advise on draft ISPMs in Member Consultation)

EPPO Stewards: key role in preparation EPPO position AND EC positions: experts and experienced in who process works



EU Council Working Party

Representatives of all EU Member States and European Commission under EU Presidency (rotates every 6 months)

For ISPMs: basis for discussion is EPPO position

Meetings in February-March to prepare EU position and statements on CPM Agenda Items and

September to finalize EU position on draft ISPMs in Member Consultation

Coordination of EU positions takes also place on other CPM Items such as draft specifications, calls for topics for new standards, calls for nominations etc.

Working Party has final vote on EC positions



Key elements

- Role of EPPO stewards is crucial in EPPO and EU coordination
- EC coordination starts at the very beginning of standard setting (call for topics, specification, selection of experts, draft texts until final decisions in CPM)
- Strong linkage between EPPO coordination and EC coordination (especially for ISPMs)
- Preparation of (fall back) positions before CPM and during CPM



Example: Revision of ISPM15

- 2007 – 2008: Revision discussed in **TP Forest Quarantine**
- April 2008: First round EPPO CPM Panel: ready for Member consultation?
- May 2008: Standards Committee
- June – Augustus 2008: consultation in Member States
- 1st week September 2008: EPPO CPM Panel: preparation of EPPO position and draft EC position
- 3rd week September 2008: Council Working Party EU prepares final EC position => IPPC Secretariat
- November/December 2008: new draft ISPM text (SC)
- January 2009: informal discussion with NAPPO
- February-March 2009: Commission WG and Council Working Party
- April 2009: input EC in CPM and final decision in CPM



Example: revision of ISPM

Focus on major EU items:

- Arrangement of debarking / bark fee wood
- Remanufacturing and repair
- Environmental paragraph

Informal meeting and contacts with NAPPO also during CPM

Constant EC coordination during CPM

Role of EPPO Steward and other experts: division of work between EU countries



Challenges/difficulties

Diverse situations in EU27 and EPPO countries (e.g. climate, geographical situations, legal systems, economic development)

Coordination between EPPO and EU

Time and resources available for people

Small pool of experts available for preparation of meetings and positions (e.g. EPPO stewards, European Commission)

Timing and workload in short periods

Language problems



Conclusion

Cooperation and coordination is necessary to prepare positions and statements at IPPC meetings

Importance of standards is growing

Coordination mechanism need to take into account system in the regions and available resources (staffing, money etc.)

Look forward to collaborate also with other regions of the world to improve the work of IPPC and its successes!!



THANK YOU!



Corné van Alphen

c.a.m.van.alphen@minInv.nl