

Plant Health Directorate

I. BACKGROUND

The Plant Health Directorate is the National Plant Protection Organisation set up within the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs to prevent the introduction into the community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products or their spread within the Community, in line with the Community's plant health regime. In March 2010, the nomenclature of the Plant Health Department was changed to that of Directorate as empowered by the Public Administration Act.

The Community plant health regime is established by 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. The general principles are based upon provisions laid down in the International Plant Protection Convention concluded at the United Nation Food and Agriculture Organisation and, in the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

Harmful organisms are defined as any species, strain or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent injurious to plants or plants products.

The Plant Health Directorate is also responsible to monitor the market of propagation material in the Maltese territory with the aim of having available in circulation high quality propagation and planting material. The Directorate also deals with plant variety rights and the conservation of plant genetic resources.

In order to meet the above aim, rights and obligations are placed upon Member States to regulate the movement of plants or plant products within their territory and to regulate the introduction of plants or plant products into the Community from third countries. Obligations are placed upon third countries which want to export plants or plant products to the Community.

2. INTRODUCTION

In 2010, the Plant Health Directorate (PHD) continued to implement measures with the aim to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful organisms in the community.

During this year, the Directorate continued the fight against the Red Palm Weevil. This included issuance of guidelines, inspections and eradication of the pest through palm feeling, and information dissemination to stakeholders on the prevention and control of this pest.

Following the negative effect caused by the Leaf miner Moth (*Tuta Absoluta*) reported pest in 2009, and to prevent the reoccurrence of a similar effect, the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs initiated the *Tuta Absoluta* Scheme (Plant Quarantine Act of 2001, LN 26 of 2010, GN 232, 233 and 234 of 2010). The main objective of the Scheme was to provide assistance to tomato growers and thus soliciting all the tomato growers to use trap pheromones, so as to enable mass trapping of the insect at national level. The PHD issued vouchers covering part of the costs for the use of pheromone traps to all tomato growers who registered with the PHD. Furthermore, technical assistance was also provided

for the control of this pest and following various inspections, enforcement letters for the eradication of tomato plantlets were issued and areas of tomato plantlets were destroyed. Finally, the PHD continued with information and awareness campaigns re-enforcing the multi-faceted approach being adopted.

In 2010, the Directorate also continued the monitoring of Citrus Tristeza Virus (CTV) in the contingency area of San Blas and Dahlet Qorrot Valley in Gozo. These areas were put under contingency in March 2009 after a number of citrus trees were confirmed infected with CTV. As part of the CTV compensation plan, citrus trees were given to citrus growers in the area under contingency, which were effected by the uprooting of citrus trees infected by CTV.

3. LEGISLATION

A number of directives, regulations and decisions that have been adopted during this year were either transposed or adopted directly. The following legal notices and government notices were issued in 2010.

- L.N. 26 of 2010 PLANT QUARANTINE ACT (CAP. 433), *Tuta absoluta* (Control) Regulations, 2010 Government Gazette of Malta No. 18,532 - 12.01.2010
- L.N. 76 of 2010 PLANT QUARANTINE ACT (CAP. 433) Examination of Varieties of Agricultural Plant Species (Amendment) Regulations, 2009 Government Gazette of Malta No. 18,548 - 12.02.2010
- L.N. 77 of 2010 PLANT QUARANTINE ACT (CAP. 433) Plant Quarantine (Harmful Organisms) (Amendment) Regulations, 2010 Government Gazette of Malta No. 18,548 - 12.02.2010
- L.N. 78 of 2010 PLANT QUARANTINE ACT (CAP. 433) Examination of Varieties of Vegetable Species (Amendment) Regulations, 2010 Government Gazette of Malta No. 18,548 - 12.02.2010
- L.N. 91 of 2010 PLANT QUARANTINE ACT (CAP. 433) Plant Quarantine (Fees) Regulations, 2010 Government Gazette of Malta No. 18,554 - 19.02.2010
- L.N. 119 of 2010 PLANT QUARANTINE ACT (CAP. 433) Plant Quarantine (Harmful Organisms) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 2010 Government Gazette of Malta No. 18,562 - 12.03.2010
- L.N. 223 of 2010 PLANT QUARANTINE ACT (CAP. 433) Fruit Trees Propagation Material Regulations, 2010 Government Gazette of Malta No. 18,578 - 13.04.2010.
- L.N. 331 of 2010 PLANT QUARANTINE ACT (CAP. 433) Seeds of Agricultural Plants and Vegetables Regulations, 2010 Government Gazette of Malta No. 18,610 - 18.06.2010
- L.N. 332 of 2010 PLANT QUARANTINE ACT (CAP. 433) Control of Potato Cyst Nematodes Regulations, 2010 Government Gazette of Malta No. 18,610 - 18.06.2010
- G.N. No. 79 of 2010 PLANT QUARANTINE ACT (CAP. 433), Registration of Tomato Plants for the Control of the Tomato Leafminer Moth (*Tuta absoluta*) Government Gazette of Malta No. 18,537 - 22.01.2010
- G.N. No. 232 of 2010 PLANT QUARANTINE ACT (CAP. 433) *Tuta absoluta* (Control) Regulations, 2010 Guidelines/instructions for growers for the control and containment of *Tuta*

absoluta Government Gazette of Malta No. 18,560 - 05.03.2010

- G.N. No. 233 of 2010 PLANT QUARANTINE ACT (CAP. 433) *Tuta Absoluta* (Control) Regulations, 2010 Enforcement measures laid down on areas cultivated with tomatoes for the control of *Tuta absoluta* Government Gazette of Malta No. 18,560 - 05.03.2010
- G.N. No. 234 of 2010 PLANT QUARANTINE ACT (CAP. 433) Guidelines for Grower Representatives on Control of *Tuta absoluta* Government Gazette of Malta No. 18,560 - 05.03.2010
- G.N. No. 286 of 2010 PLANT QUARANTINE ACT (CAP. 433) Registration of Tomato Plants for the Control of the Tomato Leafminer Moth (*Tuta absoluta*) Government Gazette of Malta No. 18,567 - 23.03.2010
- G.N. No. 627 of 2010 PLANT QUARANTINE ACT (CAP. 433) Tomato Leafminer Moth (*Tuta absoluta*) Control Scheme Government Gazette of Malta No. 18,611 - 22.06.2010
- G.N. No. 830 of 2010; Tomato Leafminer Moth (*Tuta absoluta*) Control Scheme Government Gazette of Malta No. 18,630 - 10.08.2010
- G.N. No. 831 of 2010; Tomato Leafminer Moth (*Tuta absoluta*) Control Scheme Government Gazette of Malta No. 18,630 - 10.08.2010
- G.N. No. 879 of 2010; Registration of Tomato Plants for the Control of the Tomato Leafminer Moth (*Tuta absoluta*) Government Gazette of Malta No. 18,637 - 27.08.2010

4. EU AFFAIRS

The Plant Health Directorate continued to participate in EU-related meetings for discussion of new proposals. Instructions notes and justification of country positions were drawn up. A number of officials attended the meetings organised by the EU Commission and other EU structures.

Communications

The following information concerning various issues that fall under the remit of the Plant Health Directorate was sent to the Commission throughout the year:

- Information on forest reproductive material namely on any prohibitions of marketing in Malta, importation, authorisations for the marketing of material that does not satisfy the stated conditions and draft document on supplier's documents;
- Comments on derogations by various Member States and EEA countries for authorisation to market seeds of agricultural plants that do not satisfy the established minimum germination capacity;
- Comments on the complete editions of the Common Catalogues of varieties of agricultural plant and vegetable species especially in view of the inclusion of varieties on the Swiss national catalogues and varieties of new species that have been added to the list of agricultural plants;
- Comments on the retention by Malta of the exemptions that have been granted to date by the European Commission for a number of species of cereals, fodder plants, oil/fibre plants and forest trees that are not normally reproduced or are not economically important in Malta;

- Information on the standards and conditions that are in force under the Maltese legislation on all categories of seed potatoes in view of Directives 2002/56/EC and 93/17/EC;
- Comments on the review of the Community *Acquis* on the marketing of seeds and other propagation material and the proposals being suggested by the CION such as plant groupings, listing of plant species, simple rules on inspection fees, niche markets, etc;
- Comments on the need for extension of Commission Decision 2010/468/EU on the temporary marketing of not yet listed varieties of the black/bristle oat (*Avena strigosa*) and the need for extension of Commission Decision 2010/468/EU for the next production season;;
- Replies to a number of questionnaires and other documents on the certification and marketing of seeds and other propagation material of agricultural plants (cereals, fodder plants and potatoes), vegetables, fruit trees, vines and ornamentals in Malta as part of the evaluation of the Community *Acquis* on the marketing of seeds and other propagation material;
- Replies to the questionnaire on the testing and listing of varieties of seeds and other plant propagation material in the EU Member States as part of the above mentioned evaluation;
- Comments on the implementing measures foreseen by Council Directive 2008/90/EC with regards to the marketing of fruit plant propagating material and fruit plants intended for fruit production, such as those on the specific requirements for genus/species, labelling, official inspections, requirements to be met by suppliers, variety registration and lists of pests and diseases;
- Comments on the revision of the requirement (glucosinolate content) in the case of 00 varieties of oilseed rape in the Common Catalogue of varieties of agricultural plants;
- Replies to the questionnaire regarding the evaluation on the Community plant variety right system;
- Comments on the draft supplements to the complete editions of the Common Catalogues of varieties of agricultural plant and vegetable species before publication in the Official Journal;
- Comments on the draft EU comments on international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPM) specifications;
- Comments on the draft document amending Commission Decision 2007/365/EC on emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Community of *Rynchophorus ferrugineus* (Oliver), Red palm Weevil;
- Comments on the definition of a field as stipulated locally for the implementation of Council Directive 2007/33/EC for the control of potato cyst nematodes (PCN);
- Comments and compilation of the test case scenarios for EUROPHYT Multilingual extension project: Language Regression Testing;
- Compilation of Questionnaire on pest risk analysis issues raised by the PRATIQUE project (EC funded 7th Framework research project);
- Comments on draft Plum Pox virus pest risk analysis document;

- Comments with respect to the extension of the temporary derogation from certain provisions of Council Directive 2000/29/EC in respect of strawberry intended for planting, other than seeds, originating in the Republic of South Africa.
- Information on the plant variety rights situation in Malta in view of the evaluation of the Community plant variety right system.
- Information submitted on the request for information by European Food safety Authority (EFSA) to determine the presence and distribution if any of *Anoplophora glabripennis*, *Candidatus Phytoplasma mali*, *Candidatus Phytoplasma pyri*, *Candidatus Phytoplasma prunorum*, *Meloidogyne chitwoodi*, *Meloidogyne fallax*, *Mycosphaerella dearnessii*, *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *Citrulli*, *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *Citri*, *Guignardia citricarpa*.
- Information submitted in respect to list of surveys that are carried out by DCU on various afforested sites around Malta. This information was needed as part of the preparation for the Commission's Green Paper.
- Comments requested by the Belgian authorities on a draft analysis procedure of *Clavibacter michiganensis* ssp. *Sepedonicus* (Cms) and of *Ralstonia solanacearum* (Raso) which may lead to a modification of the present analysis procedure as established in the present Council Directive.
- Request for Community financial contribution to cover the costs of measures taken to control and eradicate the Red Palm Weevil was forwarded to the Commission as per Commission Decision 2009/996/EU.C

Reporting Obligations

The following is a list of reporting obligations that Malta reported upon in 2010:

1. Commission Regulation 1756/2004/EC on reduced frequency inspections for certain products originating from specific third countries;
2. Commission Decision 2008/840/EC on emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Community of *Anoplophora chinensis* (Forster);
3. Commission Decision 2007/365/EC and its amendments, Malta forwarded the results of the official survey on *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* in Malta during 2009;
4. 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 – Malta presented the monitoring surveys carried out on Citrus Tirsteza Virus and Colorado beetle (*Leptinotarsa decemlineata*) for which a protected zone had been assigned;
5. Commission Decision 2003/61/EC, and its amendments, authorizing certain Member States to provide for temporary derogations from certain provisions of Council Directive 2000/29/EC in respect of seed potatoes originating in certain provinces of Canada;
6. Council Directives 93/85/EEC and 98/57/EC, and their amendments, on the control of Potato Ring Rot and Brown Rot respectively;

7. Directive 2002/499/EC and Directive 2002/887/EC and amendments on authorizing derogations from certain provisions of Council Directive 2000/29/EC in respect of naturally or artificially dwarfed plants of *Chamaecyparis* Spach, *Juniperus* L. and *Pinus* L., originating in the Republic of Korea and Japan respectively;
8. Commission Decision 2004/4/EC as amended by Commission Decision 2006/749/EC authorizing Member States temporarily to take necessary measures against the dissemination of *Pseudomonas solanacearum* (Smith) as regards Egypt;
9. Commission Decision 2003/63/EC and amendments (potatoes from Cuba);
10. Commission Directive 95/44/EC and amendments (material for research);
11. Commission Decision 2007/847/EC providing a derogation from certain provisions of Council Directive 2000/29/EC in respect of plants of *Vitis* L., other than fruits, originating in Croatia of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;
12. Commission Decision 2004/200/EC of 27 February 2004 and its amendments on measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Community of Pepino mosaic virus;
13. Commission Decision 2002/757/EC of 19 September 2002 and its amendments on provisional emergency phytosanitary measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Community of *Phytophthora ramorum* Werres,;
14. Commission Decision 2003/248, 2003/249 and 2003/250 and subsequent amendments;
15. Commission Decision 2004/96/EC authorising Member States temporarily to provide for derogations from certain provisions of Council Directive 2000/29/EC in respect of plants of *Vitis* L., other than fruits, originating in Switzerland;
16. Commission Decision 2003/766/EC of 24 October 2003 on emergency measures to prevent the spread within the community of *Diabrotica virgifera* Le Conte;
17. Commission Decision 2006/464/EC of 27 June 2006, on provisional emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Community of *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* Yasumatsu;
18. Commission Decision 2006/133/EC of 13 February 2006, requiring member States temporarily to take additional measures against the dissemination of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (Steiner et Buhner) Nickle *et al.* (the pine wood nematode) as regards areas in Portugal, other than those in which it is known not to occur;
19. Commission decision 2007/433/EC of 18 June 2007, on provisional emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Community of *Giberella circinata* Nirenberg & O'Donnell;
20. Commission Decision 2005/51/EC authorising Member States temporarily to provide for derogations from certain provisions of Council Directive 2000/29/EC in respect of the importation of soil contaminated by pesticides or persistent organic pollutants for decontamination purposes;
21. Commission Decision 2004/416/EC of 29 April 2004 on temporary emergency measures in respect of certain citrus fruits originating in Argentina or Brazil;

22. Commission Decision 2007/410/EC of 12 June 2007, on measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Community of Potato spindle tuber viroid.

Notifications

During this year eight (8) notifications were sent to the European Commission. Five (5) were sent through the online EUROPHYT database, whereas three (3) notifications were sent by letter. These notifications were related to infringements of wood packaging material, which were not stamped in accordance with ISPM No. 15 Standard; finding of PepMV and CTV, and missing information on the phytosanitary certificates and plant passports.

Notifications from other Member States on the modifications to the status of already listed varieties of seeds of agricultural plants and vegetables that are authorised for marketing at EU level and new varieties accepted at national level and which eventually will be marketed in the EU were reviewed daily. Communication was held with the respective foreign authorities to enquire about information on proposed varieties and places of trials when the need arose.

EU Documentation

Documents, instruction notes, briefing notes and explanatory memoranda on the Accession Treaty of Croatia in the EU that are related to the marketing of seeds and propagation material, EU guidelines related to Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on food security/agriculture/rural development, codification of EU legislation on the marketing of seed potatoes, recommendations on guidelines for the development of national co-existence measures to avoid the unintended presence of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in conventional and organic crops, the future of an EU strategy on invasive alien species, the evaluation of the Community *Acquis* on seeds/propagation material, the Community plant variety rights regime and of the Plant Health regime evaluation including the Task force on Plant Passports (PP), Protected Zones (PZ), proposal for an EU directive on the marketing of vegetative propagation material of vines, draft General Budget of the European Commission for the financial year 2011 with respect to the budget of the Community Plant Variety Office, draft Council conclusions drawn up by the EU Presidency on the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for the 4th session of its Governing Body were drafted or existing ones were reviewed and comments forwarded as requested.

A number of documents sent by the EU Affairs Directorate mainly regarding the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment, the national position on the recommendation of the European Commission on guidelines for the development of national coexistence measures, regulations on the possibility for EU Member States to restrict/prohibit the cultivation of GMOs in their territory and the launching of a dialogue by the Commission on the environmental impact rules following EFSA's report/guidelines for the environmental risk assessment of genetically-modified plants have been reviewed throughout the year and comments were forwarded when requested.

5. MULTILATERAL, INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS

The Plant Health Directorate continued to respond to questionnaires and take part in consultations on draft standards and other items circulated for members' opinion by the International Plant Protection Convention Office and the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation.

Communication was held between the Seeds and Propagation Material Unit (SPMU) and the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) and comments were provided by the former mainly on the examination offices to be entrusted for the testing of plant species, availability of facilities in Malta to carry out examination of plant varieties, various draft technical protocols used for the examination of varieties, the EU legislation that covers the quality of plant material for examination, vacancy notices, suspension of entry into force of the modification of the establishment plan, the CPVO strategic plan and the contents of Official Gazettes.

Communications was also held with the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) and information and comments was provided by this Directorate on the results of surveys of Pine Wood Nematode for the period between 2006 and 2009, the new diagnostic protocol for *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp *insidiosus* (doc 10-15691) and on protocol - PM 7/76 - Use of EPPO diagnostics protocols' on *Frankliniella occidentalis* and *Cacoecimorpha pronubana*, on the official control measures of Pine Wood nematode, on *Drosophila Suzuki*, on Azole fungicides and Septorial Leaf Blotch control and on the standards were about the insect pests *Sternochetus mangiferae* and *Paysandisia archon*.

The Plant Health Directorate continued to participate in a number of national committees including the Plant Protection Board, the Red Palm Weevil Commission and the Food Safety Commission.

The Plant Protection Board which has been set up in 2008 is a statutory advisory board and is constituted in terms of the Plant Quarantine Act (Chapter 433). During the year 2010, the board met a total of five times on the following dates: 22 January, 5 March, 14 May, 16 July and 25 October. Current issues concerning Plant Quarantine were discussed during the Plant Protection Board Meetings such as the ongoing review of the Community plant health regime, the National Strategy for *Tuta absoluta* and Red Palm Weevil monitoring and control and discussions on results following the circulation of the consultation document on Potato Cyst Nematode. The possibility to submit a request regarding the establishment of a Protected Zone for Grapevine Flavescence Dorée in Malta was also discussed. Draft legislations were also submitted to the Board for consultation.

6. DIAGNOSIS AND CONTROL

Monitoring and Surveys

As in previous years, in 2010, the Plant Health Directorate continued its programme of annual surveys to assess the local situation with respect to emerging pests. The monitoring and testing of certain quarantine and harmful organisms is also regulated by Council Decisions and Directives.

During 2010 a total of 19 surveys were carried out in relation to the following areas of diagnosis – virology, bacteriology, mycology, entomology, and nematology covering approximately 698.42 hectares during which a total of 1,971 samples were collected and a total of 2,565 tests were performed. A more detailed list of the surveys conducted in 2010, including details of the commodity surveyed, the inspection sites, the number of inspections carried out and the area covered, as well as the number of samples collected, is found in Annex 1 and Annex 2.

Outbreak of Pests

There were no new outbreaks of pests recorded during 2010.

Contingency, Emergency and Eradication Plans

Contingency plans have been drawn up and submitted to the Commission in respect of the following pests: Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN), Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid (PSTVd), *Phytophthora ramorum*, Grapevine Flavescence Dorée, Citrus Longhorned Beetle (*Anoplophora chinensis*), Palm Borer (*Paysandisia archon*) and *Giberella circinata*.

Tomato Registration

Government Notices 79 and 286 of 2010, published according to the Plant Quarantine Act, on the 22nd January 2010 and 23rd March 2010 respectively, obliged any grower, whether professional or amateur or legal entity which is responsible for the property where tomato plants (*Lycopersicon lycopersicum* (L.) are kept and/or cultivated anytime during February to August 2010 to register with the Plant Health Directorate until the 30th March 2010. These were given assistance under the *Tuta absoluta* Control Scheme undertaken by the Ministry. A total number of growers registered amounted to 1228 covering an area of 264.60 hectares.

Control of Red Palm Weevil

During this year the control against Red Palm Weevil continued. The Directorate issued a plan of action in order to control this insect. The European Union Commission appreciated the effort that the Maltese Government is doing and after analyzing the plan, an approximate of 350,000 euro were voted as aid for this insect to be controlled according to the plan that was submitted. The control and prevention of further spreading of the Red Palm Weevil was carried out by means of inspections on infested palm trees.

Citrus Tristeza Virus Contingency Plan

During this year citrus trees under suspicion in places such as San Blas and Dahlet Qorrot were still being analyzed. The destruction of infected trees with Citrus Tristeza Virus (CTV) in the same area continued. A total of 798 trees were sampled in the mentioned area.

Tuta Absoluta Control Scheme

Following the negative effect caused by this pest in 2009 and to prevent the reoccurrence of a similar effect, during 2010, the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs initiated the *Tuta absoluta* Scheme (Plant Quarantine Act of 2001, LN 26 of 2010, GN 232, 233 and 234 of 2010).

The main objective of the Scheme was to provide assistance to tomato growers and thus soliciting all the tomato growers to use trap pheromones, thus enabling mass trapping of the insect at national level. This involved issuing of legislations; registration of tomato growers, issuing of expression of interests for the monitoring, surveillance and enforcement, an intensive information campaign and publication of a number of guidelines for the control of the pest.

The PHD issued vouchers to all tomato growers who registered with the PHD and declared that they will be cultivating tomatoes for table, for processing or for personal during February-August 2010. These vouchers were exchanged for pheromones provided by the four approved suppliers. Furthermore, technical assistance was also provided for the control of this pest.

This scheme proved to be successful as the infection level for *Tuta absoluta* during 2010 was insignificantly low.

Financial Assistance

During 2010 a total number of 110 of citrus trees were distributed as part of the CTV compensation plan has been performed. These trees were given to citrus growers in the area under contingency of San Blas and Dahlet Qorrot Valley in Gozo, which were effected by the uprooting of citrus trees infected by Citrus Tristeza Virus. Financial compensation totalling to an amount of 15,796.80 euro was also forwarded to the respective growers.

A total number of 43,586 vouchers were given to the tomato producers under the *Tuta Absoluta* Control Scheme, issued by the Ministry. These amounted to €108,965. The total number of vouchers exchanged totalled to 33,952 amounting to €84,880.

7. SEEDS AND OTHER PROPAGATION MATERIALS

Production and marketing of plant material

25 inspections, 22 follow-ups and 3 informative visits were carried out at local nurseries and suppliers on plant material being produced and/or marketed in the Maltese Islands. In general, minor shortcomings were noted. One of the above mentioned inspections was carried out during the audit that the PHD had by the Malta Standards Authority on the 30th April on the implementation of the national control plan with respect to inspections.

Standard operating procedures and checklists based on the national legislation on the marketing of seeds and propagation material of vegetables, fruit trees and ornamentals that are used during inspections have been revised and new ones applicable for seed producers have been drafted. Work was also carried out on the possible modifications of plant passport/supplier's documents of particular nurseries in order for these to comply with the national legislation. Also, communication was held between the Directorate and various suppliers, who forwarded the lists of varieties they market and/or propagate, for clarification as some of the information was incorrect or missing.

Communication and coordination was also held between the Seeds and other Propagation Material Unit (SPMU) within the PHD and other entities on various issues related to the quality of seeds and other propagation material and their marketing such as testing requirements as part of the certification of seeds, labelling of ornamental plants, forest tree production in Malta, important pests affecting fruit trees in Malta and the sustainable use through marketing of mixtures of seeds of local varieties of fodder and non-fodder species that are used for the preservation of the natural environment.

Weed and common bunt trials

Trials were held and are still ongoing on different species of weeds found in the samples of wheat, barley and sulla that have been tested for purity by the SPMU. Information on common bunt was searched for in order for a method on how to infect plants with this particular fungus to be found. This fungus has been detected during seed purity testing.

Agri-environmental measures and rural development funds

In 2010, the permanent registration of old fruit trees that are still grown in Malta and Gozo was continued, as part of the PHD's aim to collect information on local varieties and also in connection with the financial support given to farmers that are in possession of endangered old varieties. The financial support is covered by the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 (agri-environmental

measure 9). 15 persons from Malta registered their fruit trees this year. 30 certificates have been issued by the SPMU and 374 trees of various species have been registered.

Work related to agri-environmental measure 3 on the sowing of pure seeds by farmers was further carried out during 2010. This consisted in testing of seed samples of sulla, wheat and barley that were submitted by farmers who applied for such measure for the determination of purity of such seeds. Relevant farmers have been made aware if a significant number of weed seeds and the presence of a fungal infection (common bunt) have been noted in their samples during testing. Relevant information (leaflets) was also distributed.

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8. SURVEILLANCE AND INSPECTORATE

Registration

During 2010 there were 14 new entries in the Traders Registration as per LN 97/2004 regulation 6. Thus the total number of importers, traders of various agricultural products and timber imports now amounts to 276.

Certification

During 2010, 47 inspections took place in nurseries and garden centres in accordance with LN 97/2004 regarding the annual inspections for plant passport. A total of 558 plant passports were issued. A total of 15 export phytosanitary certificates and a total of 6 re-export phytosanitary certificates were issued during 2010.

Market Surveillance

All consignments imported in Malta are subject to documentary checks. A total of 321 documentary checks took place in 2010. All 321 consignments were also inspected both for identity and for phytosanitary checks. In addition, all consignments containing any wood packaging material (WPM) which varies from dunnage to pallets were also physically inspected. These were inspected to check if they conform with the ISPM no.15 standards (WPM) and for the presence of Pine Wood Nematode and *Monochamus* spp.

Registration of Palm Trees

During this year the Directorate received 567 registrations of palm trees.

Inspections, eradication and enforcement

During 2010, a number of inspections were carried out in relation to quarantine harmful organisms, and samples collected. These were sent to the various laboratories within the Plant Health Directorate for further analyses.

The surveillance of Red Palm Weevil continued and there were 583 inspections of which 495 were in private residences, 86 in public areas, 1 in Government entities and 1 in an embassy. During these visits, the stakeholders were informed about pesticide treatment which could be utilized for control purposes. Inspections were carried out during the different stages of growth. A total of 1067 palms had to be destroyed as a consequence of red palm weevil. In total 293 registered enforcement letters were sent to various individuals for palm removal.

During 2010, 240 inspections took place with regards to *Tuta Absoluta* and tomato viruses. 100 inspections took place on the market place whereas 140 inspections were conducted in greenhouses and open fields. Four destruction notices for the eradication of tomato plantlets were issued, the area covered amounted to approximately 5553 meters squared of tomato plantlets.

During this year several inspections took place for the surveillance of the Citrus Tristeza Virus (CTV). Surveillance was also carried out on citrus orchards, nurseries and open markets. During the inspections at the open market, orange fruits with leaves and peduncles were found and collected by the inspectors and enforcement actions as stipulated by the respective legislations was taken accordingly.

9. LABORATORIES

Diagnostic Laboratories (Harmful Organisms)

The diagnostic laboratories within the Plant Health Directorate are responsible for the detection and identification of plant diseases caused by plant pests and pathogens with special reference to Council Directive 2000/29/EC and the Plant Quarantine Act 2001. Diagnostic techniques implemented in the laboratories are in accordance with EU Directives and EPPO standards where applicable.

A new Legal Notice was drafted transposing Council Directive 2009/143/EC amending Directive 2000/29/EC as regards the delegation of the tasks of laboratory testing.

During 2010 a total of 1,971 samples were collected and a total of 2,565 tests were performed in relation to the following areas of diagnosis – virology, bacteriology, mycology, entomology, and nematology. A more detailed breakdown of the number of samples collected and tested in relation to the target organism and the number of positive or suspect samples detected can be found in Annex 2.

Soil and Irrigation Water Laboratory

The main aim of the Soil and Irrigation Water Laboratory is to provide a service to farmers through the testing of soil and irrigation water in support of fertiliser planning and irrigation control.

In 2010, the laboratory received a total of 442 samples which consisted of 253 soil samples and 189 water samples and conducted a total of 3,132 tests. These tests include routine analysis for nutrients and characteristics of soil as well as irrigation water quality (salinity).

Seed Testing Laboratory

In 2010, the Seed Testing Laboratory continued seed testing for purity determination. This is being carried out in connection with the use of high quality local seeds of cereals and fodder plants for which financial aid is being given to local farmers under agri-environmental measure 3 of the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013. The number of samples received in the first batch and that were submitted between November 2009 and July 2010 amounted to 370 on which 370 tests have been carried out. The second batch of seed samples started to be submitted in October 2010. Till the end of the year, 173 samples were received of which 24 were tested. This testing shall be continued in the coming year.

Tissue Culture Lab (In vitro Laboratory)

Micro-propagation

Micropropagation of ornamental plants such as Boston ferns and African violets was continued during 2010. During this year a total of 120 and 4,112 in vitro plantlets were acclimatised,

Work on the conservation of the wild local species of tulip and orchids were continued. 3 and 343 plantlets of tulips and orchids respectively were acclimatised during the year.

Sanitation of local varieties

During 2010 work on the first sanitation trial via somatic embryogenesis of local citrus was attempted. A trial on the sanitation of local vines by meristem tip culture was also initiated at the Tissue Culture Lab. This trial is being carried out as part of a project of MRRA and the University of Malta on the valorisation of indigenous vine varieties of Malta. This project is being funded by MCST.

10. ADVISORY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

The Plant Health Directorate continued to assist farmers and the general public on a number of phytosanitary issues. Most queries are resolved by the telephone, by email and others investigated on site and samples taken when necessary.

In addition, the Plant Health Directorate has organised meetings and information seminars in 2010 for stakeholders as part of awareness and information campaigns, as indicated in the list hereunder. Officials also participated in a number of local television and radio programmes.

Seminar	Date	Stakeholders
Seminar on <i>Tuta Absoluta</i> scheme (Gozo)	27 th April 2010	Tomato Growers
Seminar of <i>Tuta Absoluta</i> scheme (Malta)	28 th April 2010	Tomato Growers
Seminar of Plant Health and Afforestation by Israeli experts and PHD and PARKS Department	10-12 th May 2010	PHD and PARKS personnel
<i>Tuta Absoluta</i> Information Seminar	10 th September 2010	Tomato Growers and Processors, General Public

In 2010 the Directorate published a number of press releases as indicated hereunder:

No	Date	Topic addressed
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1345	27 th July 2010	Plant Health Directorate: Guidelines regarding palm fronds to be used by Fisherman
1561	25 th August 2010	<i>Success f'dan l-istagun tat-tadam, permezz tal-pjan</i> <i>Nazzjonali ghall-kontoll tat-Tuta Absoluta</i>

In 2010, the Plant Health Directorate also updated and published a number of leaflets on plant health pests and diseases of local importance.

PHD issued a poster on the proper use of palm fronds by fishermen during the *lampuki* fishing season. This poster was printed and distributed by post to all Local Councils, Promotion and Information Directorate, and other stakeholders such as fisheries cooperatives, MELP/ELC.

Two University students commenced their work experience with the Plant Health Directorate from the 28th July – 24th August, 2010 and 25th August – 17th September, 2010. Other students made use of the facilities offered at the various labs within the Plant Biotechnology Centre and the Plant Health Laboratories at Ghammieri.. A Ph.D. student from the University of York used the facilities of the Soil and Irrigation Water Lab to prepare a number of extracts in connection with her dissertation on residue analysis to investigate the diet of animals in the Western Mediterranean. An M.Sc student from the University of Malta carried out analysis in connection with his dissertation on local sand dunes also at the Soil and Irrigation Water Lab. Other students participated in screening of viruses by ELISA, survey for the Pepino Mosaic Virus. Arrangements have also been made for students to visit the Tissue Culture Lab and other facilities of the PHD.

11. COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION

During 2010 the Plant Health Directorate continued taking part in the evaluation of the Community Plant Health regime, on the Community *Acquis* on the marketing of seeds and other plant propagation material and the Community Plant Variety Rights Regime commissioned by DG SANCO.

Consultation with relevant stakeholders was carried out on the draft Legal Notice transposing Council Directive 2008/90/EC on the marketing of fruit plant propagation material and fruit trees intended for fruit production; on the draft legal notice transposing Commission Directive 2009/145/EC providing for certain derogations for the acceptance and marketing of landraces and varieties of vegetable seeds, on Potato Cyst nematode regulations and on measures and guidelines for the control of *Tuta absoluta*.

Another consultation was held with a particular stakeholder on a draft legal notice transposing Commission Directive 2009/74/EC on the amendment of the botanical/scientific names of plants and organisms and amendment of certain standards in the light of development of scientific and technical knowledge.

12. PROJECTS

Following the modifications to the COST proposal on Citrus entitled 'Combating existing and prevention of emerging diseases and vector-pests of Citrus', the coordinator

(Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Valenzano, Bari) submitted the new proposal to the COST office in March, 2010 and the PHD expressed its interest in participating in the COST proposal. In May, 2010 PHD received a communication from the Coordinator of this action indicating that following evaluation, the COST proposal was not selected for further consideration.

The EUPHRESKO-II project which was submitted under FP7 was favourably evaluated by the Commission Services. The PHD is in this project as an observer.

13. PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY CENTRE MANAGEMENT

Facilities Management

During 2010, the PBC was rescheduled as per 'Development Planning Act 1992, (Section 46), Scheduling of Property', as a Grade 1 property in terms of Structure Plan Policy UCO 7 together with a Buffer Zone in terms of Structure Plan Policy UCO 13.

During the year several maintenance works and services were carried out at the PBC premises (Tal-Kmand, Lija) related to the upkeep of the laboratories, offices, glasshouses and ancillary equipment.

Throughout the year routine work such as general cleaning, cleaning of benches and pots, application of pesticides and fertilisers, weeding, pruning and propagation were carried out in the glasshouses, screen houses, shade house, mother block and outdoor areas. Routine works for the up keeping of the PBC grounds formed also part of the work carried out, including general cleaning and maintenance, caring of the various plants and trees situated around the premises, weeding and cultivation of fields.

Wheat was sown in the fields forming part of PBC and in the beginning of the year due to the growth of weeds; herbicide was applied to the forage. This wheat was later harvested and donated to *Ghammieri* farm.

Rootstocks and ornamental plants were continually cared for with regular applications of insecticides where necessary to control pests. Acclimatised rootstocks were transferred to the shade house for hardening. Continuous conventional propagation of various ornamental plants was also carried out within the glass house.

A continuous production of herbaceous indicator and indexing plants for virus diagnosis was continued throughout the whole year. Apart from the regular herbaceous plants, cucumbers, tomatoes, aubergines and others vegetables were also grown as indicator plants. Works for this production include regular sowing, transplanting, repotting, irrigation and spraying with pesticides for the control of insects pests such as sciarid flies, thrips, whiteflies, caterpillars and red spider mites. Hygiene measures such as cleaning of benches and floors as well as discarding of old material were maintained throughout the year.

The production and upkeep of herbaceous indicator mother plants which are kept for seed collection was continued during 2010. These plants were given regular care. Maintenance work was also carried out on the benches inside the plastic house.

The screen houses containing healthy and infected plants/trees required regular irrigation, pruning, weeding, application of pesticides and drenching with fungicides for the control of pests and fungal diseases.

The Directorate also embarked on a project for the construction of bins where to collect organic waste to be converted into compost. This is a pilot project and the outcome of it will be observed in the coming year.

Sale and Donation of Plants

In 2010 the Plant Health Directorate's Facilities Management and Maintenance Unit sold a total of 159 plants amounting to €628. In addition, a total of 1027 plants were donated to various entities of the Ministry, governmental organisations and other non-governmental organisations. Also, 99 plants were lent to various governmental and non-governmental organisations.

107 wheat bales from the wheat grown on PBC grounds were donated to the Animal husbandry section at Ghammieri.

Participation in Fairs

The PHD had participated in several fairs organised by MRRA and these included the *Fiera Tal-Halib*, Wine Fair in Siggiewi, World Food Day in Ta' Qali and *Festa tal-Majjal Siggiewi*. During these fairs plants propagated and grown at PBC were exhibited and sold.

Commencement of Risk Assessment within the PBC

During 2010 an Occupational Health and Safety Consultants were commissioned to carry out a risk assessment report and a number of actions were taken to reduce enlisted risks.

Other activities

The PHD has been following the MEPA application submitted in July 2008 for the extension of the Diagnostic Laboratory. In September, amended plans as per MEPA requirements were submitted and a conditional approval was granted by MEPA. Various reports including an application for an Environmental permit and another application for the renewal of the Public Sewer Discharge Permit were requested prior to the final approval and issuing of the MEPA permit.

14. OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Human resources development

A number of officials within the Plant Health Directorate attended courses, both locally and abroad in a wide range of topics, including management and leadership skills, EU affairs and ICT skills.

Technical staff also attended a number of courses specific to the area under their responsibility, namely EPPPO Workshop on Eradication, containment and contingency planning in Treviso (Italy), EU Emergency Decisions for Harmful Organisms Typical for Forestry Areas in Milan and Europhyt Training in Ireland. Other training courses organised by Better Training for Safer Foods in the Field of Internal Controls required by the EU emergency decision (non-forestry) in Dublin, another on Plant Health Imports – Emergency Decisions (Non Forestry Areas) in Spain and in Lisbon Portugal for EU Plant Quarantine Regime for Wood Packing Material.

During the month of September, a 5 day in-house training on diagnostic procedures and control of the Virology Section was given to the Diagnosis and Control Unit .

A number of staff movements, including those due to promotions and transfers took place in 2010. In spite of some new additions, through recruitment and transfers from other departments, the Plant Health Directorate still suffers from low staffing levels, especially in technical and scientific positions.

Procurement

Following an Expression of Interest for the provisions of monitoring services and for surveillance and enforcement of *Tuta absoluta* (tomato leaf minor moth), the contract for these services was awarded to APS Consult and the University of Malta accordingly.

A call for tenders for the supply of a Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) for the Plant Health Directorate in order to help in the automation of laboratory activities was issued by the Malta Information Technology Agency and applicants evaluated accordingly.

In 2009 the PHD through the Department of Contracts issued a tender for the supply and Commissioning of a heavy duty palm tree shredder for the shredding of infected palm trees. The tender was adjudicated during 2010.

Income

During 2010, the Plant Health Directorate had a total income of 16,943.27 euro from laboratory testing, sale of plant and import inspections.

Missions

In 2010, the Plant health participated in a review mission of the Food and veterinary Office of DG SANCO on import/ transit control system and border inspection posts held in April.

Audits

An audit of the *Tuta absoluta* scheme was carried out by the Internal Audit and Investigations Division (IAID) in order to evaluate the control mechanisms in place regarding the implementation of this scheme.

During 2010, the PHD has had an external audit carried out, as provided by Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on the official controls was performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules, in order to verify that the required system of control is in place and is being effectively implemented. The audit was carried out by the Malta Standards Authority (MSA) on nursery and garden centres inspections.

Customer Care

The Directorate has finalised the draft Quality Service Charter which may be subject to change pending the issue of a new Directive on Service Standards. An introduction seminar was held to all Plant Health Directorate's staff regarding any obligations outlined in the draft Quality Service Charter. The seminar also served to brief the staff regards the obligations under Director 4; Consolidated Quality Standards as per Public Administration Act.

Freedom of Information

The Freedom of Information representative and the alternate representative attended the meeting of the FOI network organised on the 22 February, 2010. During this meeting, several items were discussed pertaining to the provisions and implementation of the FOI Act and various legal notices.

The Directorate submitted information related to the list of exemptions (categories of documents that are exempt from the provisions of this Act) as per relevant legislation, and information related to the internal complaint procedure that it intends to adopt to the FOI network.

Green Measures

In 2010 the Plant Health Directorate continued implementing and discussing green measures including resource-efficient measures and waste management.

A number of measures have been implemented and a list of further measures which should be implemented individually by employees as well as measures to be looked into by the Directorate have been drawn up. A meeting was held to internally discuss these initiatives and an official PHD letter was forwarded to all PHD employees.

The Directorate's Green Leader continued raising awareness about environmental measures to be followed at the workplace..

Website of the Plant Health Directorate

During 2010 the PHD website was updated as necessary on a regular basis. Such updates included uploading of various news items, Legal Notices, Government Notices, various guidelines, PHD posters and leaflets as well as implementing necessary corrections. Presentations from seminars held by PHD were also uploaded onto the website.

Annex 1: Details of surveys carried out by the Diagnosis and Control Unit in 2010

	SURVEY	COMMODITY	INSPECTION SITE	NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS / AREA COVERED	NUMBER OF SAMPLES COLLECTED
VIROLOGY	Citrus Tristeza Virus Survey	Citrus samples	Orchards / Private Gardens / Nurseries	16 inspections / 0.238 ha	246 samples
	Citrus Tristeza Virus Contingency Area	Citrus samples	Orchards	9 inspections / 2.2229 ha	798 samples
	Pepino Mosaic Virus	Tomato seeds/seedlings/fruit and plant samples	Greenhouses / open fields / importers / warehouses / nurseries	65 inspections / 5.993 ha	183 samples
	Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus				
	Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus				
	Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid	Seed and ware potatoes / tomato plants / <i>Solanum jasminoides</i>	Greenhouses / open fields / importers / warehouses / nurseries	59 inspections / 27.53 ha	68 samples
	Grapevine Flavescence Doree	Grapevine samples	Vineyards	4 inspections / 28 ha	8 samples
	CAC certification – Plum Pox Virus	Stone fruit samples	St. Vincent De Paule Nursery	1 inspection / 0.68 ha	368 samples
	CAC certification – Prune Dwarf Virus				
	CAC certification – Prune Necrotic Ringspot Virus				
BACTERIOLOGY	Brown Rot	Ware potatoes / Seed potatoes / Export potatoes / Open and Greenhouse tomatoes / Tomato seedlings / Water samples	Open fields / Greenhouses / Ware houses / Watercourses / Nurseries	84 inspections / 52.055 ha	71 samples
	Ring Rot				
	CAC certification <i>Erwinia amylovora</i>	Pome Fruits	St. Vincent De Paule Nursery	1 inspection / 2700 trees visually inspected	0

MYCOLOGY	<i>Giberella circinata</i>	Pines	Fields / Greenhouses / Ware houses / Watercourses / Nurseries	14 inspections / 205.5 ha	20 samples
	<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>	<i>Quercus ilex</i> / <i>Laurus nobilis</i> / <i>Rhododendron</i> / <i>Azalea</i> / <i>Magnolia</i> / <i>Viburnum</i> / <i>Camelia and Magnolia</i>	Nurseries / public Gardens / Woodland Areas / Embellishment projects	19 inspections / 191.5 ha	29 samples
ENTOMOLOGY	Colorado potato beetle	Potatoes	Open fields	N/A	0
	Anoplophora cinensis	Citrus / <i>Quercus</i>	Public and private gardens / Forestry / Nursery / Open fields	4 inspections / 121.7 ha	0 samples
NEMATODOLOGY	Potato Cyst Nematode	Soil / Compost	Open fields / nurseries	22 inspections / 12.992 ha	47
	<i>Bursaphelenchus Xylophilus</i> (PWN)	<i>Pinus</i> Spp. / WPM	Nurseries / Forestry / Wood inspections	244 inspections / 41.7	12 samples

Annex 2: Details of diagnostic testing in Virology, Bacteriology, Mycology, Entomology and Nematology

▪ VIROLOGY

Obligatory testing				
Target Organism	Aim	Type of plant material	Number of tests	Number of positive/suspect samples
Citrus Tristeza Virus – Survey	Council Directive 2000/29/EC and amendments	Citrus	246	0
Citrus Tristeza Virus – Contingency area	Council Directive 2000/29/EC and amendments and L.N. 97 of 2004 in which the Maltese Islands are considered as a protected zone for this virus	Citrus	798	1
Pepino Mosaic Virus	Commission Decision 2004/200/EC and amendments	Tomato seeds/seedlings/fruit and plant samples	183	1
Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus	Council Directive 2000/29/EC and amendments		173	1
Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus			163	0

Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid	Commission Decision 2007/410/EC	Seed and ware potatoes / tomato plants / <i>Solanum jasminoides</i>	71	0
Grapevine Flavescence Doree	Council Directive 2000/29/EC and amendments	Grapevine	8	Results are not yet available
Plum Pox Virus	Council Directive 2000/29/EC and amendments CAC certification for stone fruits mother plots and demonstration plots at SVDP as per L.N. 271 of 2004	Stone fruit	368	0
Prune Necrotic Ringspot Virus			74	0
Prune Dwarf Virus			74	0

Non-obligatory testing

Type of plant material	Number of tests	Aim
Tomato fruit/plant sample	8	Analysis for Pepino Mosaic Virus, Potato Virus Y, Cucumber Mosaic Virus, Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus, Tomato Mosaic Virus, Tobacco Mosaic Virus, Alfalfa Mosaic Virus, Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus – Disease was not identified

▪ BACTERIOLOGY

Obligatory testing

Target Organism	Aim	Type of plant material	Number of tests	Number of positive/suspect samples
<i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i>	Council Directive 2006/63/EC	Ware potatoes / Seed potatoes / Export potatoes / Open and Greenhouse tomatoes / Tomato seedlings / Water samples	104	0
<i>Clavibacter michiganensis ssp. speedonicus</i>	Council Directive 2006/56/EC		99	0
CAC certification <i>Erwinia amylovora</i>	Council Directive 2000/29/EC and amendments	Pome Fruits	0 (trees were visually inspected)	0

Non-obligatory testing

Type of plant material	Number of tests	Aim

Olive twigs	1	This sample was analysed for <i>Pseudomonas syringae</i>
Potatoes	1	This sample was analysed for potato scab

▪ MYCOLOGY

Obligatory testing				
Target Organism	Aim	Type of plant material	Number of tests	Number of positive/suspect samples
<i>Giberella circinata</i>	Commission Decision 2007/433/EC	Pines	20	0
<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>	Commission Decision 2002/757/EC	<i>Quercus ilex / Laurus nobilis / Rhododendron / Azalea / Magnolia / Viburnum / Camelia and Magnolia</i>	29	0

Non-obligatory testing		
Type of sample	Number of tests	Aim
Wheat samples	2	<i>Tilletia Indica</i>
Samples include: Cypress, grapevine, pine, eucalyptus, tomato roots, tomato plants, mellow, oaks, beans, citrus, fig tree, olive, turf, washingtonia, pumpkin, watermelon, pomegranate and dahlia.	56	Samples were analysed for: <i>Alternaria, Penicillium, Rust, Botrytis, Verticillium, Fungal canker, Pink fungus, Seridium cardinale and Phytophthora spp.</i>

▪ ENTOMOLOGY

Obligatory testing				
Target Organism	Aim	Type of plant material	Number of tests	Number of positive/suspect samples
Colorado potato beetle	Council Directive 2000/29/EC and amendments	Potatoes	0	0
Anoplophora cinensis	Commission Decision 2008/840/EC	Citrus / <i>Quercus</i>	0	0

Non-obligatory testing

Type of sample	Number of samples tested	Aim
Tomato sample	0 / 23 inspections	Tuta absoluta monitoring
Samples include: Gebra flowers, stone fruit, citrus, grapevine, carob branch, potato leaf, olive branch, mulberry tree, fig tree, Pomegranate, apricot branch, cypress, poplar tree.	40	Samples were analysed for: Identification of insects, vine borer, scale insects, beetle larva, fig borer, leaf flea beetle, wood borers.

▪ NEMATOLOGY

Obligatory testing				
Target Organism	Aim	Type of plant material	Number of tests	Number of positive/suspect samples
Potato Cyst Nematode	Council Directive 2007/33/EC	Soil / Compost	19	1
<i>Bursaphelenchus Xylophilus</i> (PWN)	Commission Decision 2006/133/EC	<i>Pinus</i> Spp. / WPM	12	0

Non-obligatory testing		
Type of sample	Number of tests	Aim
Samples include: Soil samples, citrus, fig branches, grapevine, carob branches.	16	Samples were analysed for the presence and identification of nematodes.