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To: IPPC contact points

Emergency Measures: *Xylella fastidiosa*

I am writing to inform you of new legislation that will come into force on 4 March 2021, amending The Plant Health (Phytosanitary Conditions) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020, to address the plant health threat posed by *Xylella*.

The changes have been identified as priorities for improving the UK's plant biosecurity, in response to known threats, thereby protecting UK business, society and the environment in the short term, as well as in the future. An emergency notification has been submitted to the WTO.

Xylella fastidiosa

The UK has significant concerns about the risk of plant material infected with *Xylella fastidiosa* being imported into GB. There is considered to be a particular risk of introducing *Xylella* with olive, almond, lavender, rosemary, coffee and polygala plants, and these are the hosts which will be subject to additional requirements.

Outbreaks in southern Italy have devastated olive production and have had major social and economic impacts. Substantial impacts have been observed elsewhere, both on businesses affected and more generally. The pathogen is not known to be present in the UK, but we remain concerned about the possibility of *Xylella* arriving in the UK on high risk hosts, such as olive, and those plant species commonly associated with outbreaks. The long latency period of *Xylella* means that, without additional requirements, it could be carried into non-infected countries via imports of plants, long before the infection is identified.

Xylella is continuing to be detected in Europe and elsewhere. The uncertain distribution and ongoing findings indicate an ongoing risk of disease spread.

We are therefore increasing restrictions and requirements for the import of high risk *Xylella* host plants to reduce the chances that *Xylella* is introduced into GB. The aim of these measures is to enhance the level of protection against the risk of entry of *Xylella* into GB via imported plants.

The current GB measures on *Xylella fastidiosa* do not address the risks highlighted in the updated Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) available at: <https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/pras/Xylella-Draft-PRA.pdf>.

The new measures will include the requirements set out below:

- Only allow imports of *Polygala* and *Coffea* from countries where *Xylella* is known not to occur.
- Introduce more stringent requirements for the import of Olive, Almond, Lavender, Rosemary and *Nerium oleander* from countries where *Xylella* is known to occur. We will allow imports under certain conditions including inspections of the place of production and the surrounding area, testing, pre-export inspections and a one-year quarantine period prior to import.

The existing requirements for high risk plants from countries where *Xylella* is not known to occur will be retained, which include annual official inspection, with sampling and testing of the plants concerned.

A summary of the new requirements can be found in the annex sent with this letter and a copy of the regulations is available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/uksi/2021/136> . They come into force on 4 March 2021.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Spence', written in a cursive style.

Professor Nicola Spence
UK Chief Plant Health Officer