Brussels, 20th July 2016

Recommendation of the Working Group on the Annexes of the Council Directive 2000/29/EC – Section II – Listing of Harmful Organisms as regards the future listing of *Chrysanthemum stunt viroid*[1]

Current regulatory status

Chrysanthemum stunt viroid (CSVd) is a regulated harmful organism in the EU, listed in Annex II, Part A, Section II of Council Directive 2000/29/EC on plants of *Dendranthema* intended for planting other than seeds. *Dendranthema* plants are also included in Council Directive 98/56/EC of 20 July 1998 on the marketing of propagating material of ornamental plants.

For imports (and internal movement with a plant passport), there must be an official statement that the plants or cuttings are no more than third generation stock derived from material which has been found to be free from CSVd during virological tests, or are directly derived from material of which a representative sample of at least 10 % has been found to be free from CSVd during an official inspection carried out at the time of flowering.

There are a number of other hosts of CSVd but these are currently not regulated by Directive 2000/29/EC, though these are regulated in Council Directive 98/56/EC of 20 July 1998 on the marketing of propagating material of ornamental plants, (requiring practical freedom by visual inspection).

Identity of the pest

Chrysanthemum stunt viroid is a single taxonomic entity and sensitive and reliable methods exist for its detection and identification. It is part of the genus Pospiviroid in the family Pospiviroidae, which comprises 10 species.

Distribution of the pest

CSVd is present (with restricted distribution/few presences) in BE, CZ, DE, FR, IT, NL, PL, and UK. The only EU Member state which reported CSVd to be widespread was SE. Cases are often transient as a result of crops being removed at the end of their productive life.

Potential for establishment and spread in the PRA area

Plants infected with CSVd have been reported in protected cultivation (glasshouses) and in open fields. Plants that are hosts for this pathogen are widely cultivated in EU MSs and the eco-climatic conditions are unlikely to restrict the establishment and spread of CSVd.

Potential for consequences in the PRA area

Obvious symptoms on leaves, flowers and stunting of the whole plant by CSVd may significantly reduce the economic value of chrysanthemum production. Symptom severity also largely depends on the chrysanthemum species and cultivar, environmental conditions and the time of plant

[1] Scientific basis for the recommendation: EFSA Panel on Plant Health (PLH); Scientific Opinion on the risk to plant health posed by *Chrysanthemum stunt viroid* for the EU territory, with identification and evaluation of risk reduction options. EFSA Journal 2012;10(12):3027. [87 pp.] doi:10.2903/j.efsa.2012.3027.
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/scientific_output/files/main_documents/3027.pdf

infection. Rooting of cuttings used for chrysanthemum propagation can also be affected by CSVd infection and with a delay in root initiation reported in some cultivars, this may have commercial implications for nurseries. CSVd does not affect plant species of significant environmental importance. There are no agrochemicals for the control of CSVd, so no significant environmental consequences are expected.

CSVd is a systemic pathogen and is very efficiently transmitted by all vegetative multiplication techniques, which explains the importance of the plants for planting pathway. Similar to other viruses and viroids, there is no effective curative treatment that can be applied to CSVd-infected plants, therefore they must be tested and found free at the beginning of the propagation chain.

Infected planting material for multiplication for flower production purposes, because of the intended use of the commodity, is very likely to be introduced into greenhouses or open fields.

As CSVd may cause yield and quality losses in chrysanthemum, a major impact can be predicted for this crop in the absence of the existing widely used and efficient certification programmes. However, under the existing certification scheme for chrysanthemum plant propagation material, the probability of spread through infected cuttings is largely reduced and the direct consequences of viroid outbreaks are expected to be minor.

Recommendation

Currently the pest is widespread in the risk assessment area, although not all EU Member States are infested. If the current regulation were to be removed, no major consequences or changes in the potential impact of CSVd would be expected, largely owing to the important level of protection achieved by the chrysanthemum industry through the efficient and widely used chrysanthemum certification scheme.

Under the current EU regulation the damage caused by the pathogen in the risk assessment area is minor. If the use of voluntary certification schemes for the production of chrysanthemum plants for planting were removed, the risk of introduction, spread, and impact of Chrysanthemum stunt viroid in the EU, would probably increase, however cessation of the use of certification schemes by industry appears unlikely.

In conclusion, the Working Group recommends listing this organism as a Regulated Non-Quarantine pest.