



27 February 2018

(18-1253)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

## NOTIFICATION OF MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY-FREE STATUS

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The following communication, dated 26 February 2018, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the Dominican Republic.

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1. On 5 July 2017, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Dominican Republic (MA-RD), by means of Resolution No. 2017-11, published a declaration announcing the eradication of the Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*) outbreak, which had been reported on 12 March 2015, near to the Punta Cana International Airport, in the La Altagracia province, in the eastern region of the country.

2. The declaration of Mediterranean fruit fly-free status was made in public with the presence and recognition of international bodies such as the FAO, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA), which, together with the phytosanitary representation of the Embassy of the United States of America in the Dominican Republic, made up the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the control and eradication of the Mediterranean fruit fly.

3. On 18 March 2015, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (APHIS-USDA) issued Federal Order DA-2015-14, prohibiting the importation from the Dominican Republic of 18 products that host the Mediterranean fruit fly. On 6 January 2016, the APHIS-USDA issued Federal Order DA-2016-03, allowing the importation of the 18 prohibited products from 23 provinces in the Dominican Republic; the ban by the APHIS-USDA still applies to nine of the country's 32 provinces.

4. Despite the official declaration of Mediterranean fruit fly-free status, published on 5 July 2017, and the guarantee of the international bodies, the APHIS-USDA required the Ministry of Agriculture of the Dominican Republic to undertake a further five months of trapping and testing of Mediterranean fruit flies in order for the provinces that remained under the ban and, therefore, for the country to be recognized as free of the Mediterranean fruit fly. On 12 December 2017, the APHIS-USDA issued Federal Order DA-2017-38, which recognized the country as being free of the Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*). The Ministry of Agriculture of the Dominican Republic has established, throughout the national territory, a surveillance and monitoring programme for the early detection of exotic fruit flies.

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