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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

**MEASURES AIMED AT ESTABLISHING REGIONALIZATION CRITERIA
IN RELATION TO QUARANTINE PESTS FOR CHILE**

COMMUNICATION FROM CHILE

The following communication, received on 8 March 2023, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Chile.

1. Pursuant to Article 5 and Article 6 of and Annex A, paragraph 3(c), to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Chile hereby informs WTO Members of the regionalization criteria in relation to quarantine pests for Chile, drawing particular attention to the following:

- i. The Agricultural and Livestock Service (SAG) is the authority responsible for protecting the country's phytosanitary resources.
- ii. As a Member signatory to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Chile must ensure that its phytosanitary measures are adapted to the regional characteristics of the areas from which the product originated and to which the product is destined.
- iii. Article VII of the 1997 International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), to which Chile is a signatory, stipulates that contracting parties shall establish and update lists of regulated pests, using scientific names, and make such lists available to the Secretary, to regional plant protection organizations of which they are members and, on request, to other contracting parties.
- iv. The importing contracting party establishes and updates lists of regulated pests in order to assist it in preventing the introduction and/or spread of pests and to facilitate safe trade by enhancing transparency.
- v. To this end, SAG, by means of the relevant pest risk analyses, regularly updates Chile's list of quarantine pests and their hosts. These pests are covered by the phytosanitary regulations with which regulated articles must comply, where applicable, in order to enter the country.
- vi. As a result of its agricultural surveillance and forest surveillance programmes, SAG is able to verify which pests are absent from or present in Chile, determining the presence of quarantine pests subject to official control and regularly updating their distribution.
- vii. The distribution of pests present in part of the national territory, and subject to official control for the purposes of containment, suppression or eradication, varies depending on the official control measures applied and the biology of the pest.
- viii. Of the quarantine pests included on the list established by Chile on the basis of international guidelines and the aforementioned actions, particular attention is drawn to those with a high probability of introduction and spread, with the potential to cause

an economically and environmentally significant impact, and which are therefore high risk, such as:

- *Xylella fastidiosa*: a bacterium absent throughout the territory of Chile, responsible for diseases with very serious consequences in numerous species of agricultural interest, affecting more than 300 hosts in a wide range of climatic zones, and able to survive during storage and transport, it has therefore been qualified as a pest posing a high level of risk.
- Fruit flies: since 1995, Chile has declared itself to be free of tephritid fruit flies which are of global economic importance. This is a comparative advantage for exporters of fresh fruit and vegetable products. Within the American continent, it is the only country to be classified as free of these insects. The Fruit Fly Programme, through a responsive national detection system, is tasked with preventing the establishment of this pest in the country. The quarantine pests, the Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*), and the genera *Anastrepha* spp. and *Bactrocera* spp., are absent from our country.
- *Trogoderma granarium*: this polyphagous insect is one of the most destructive pests of stored grains and, unlike other dermestidae, it prefers plant matter. Although it can attack almost any kind of material, it tends to prefer dried plant matter, grains and animal matter. Severe infestations of this insect cause qualitative degradations in grains by depleting specific nutrients. This insect's habits, such as hiding in cracks in walls and floors, where it can survive for several years without food, make it difficult to detect, control and eradicate. In addition, it has been reported that the insect has developed resistance to phosphine and other insecticides, making it even more difficult to control. All of the foregoing, together with the high cost of control measures and potential quarantine restrictions, means that it can be classified as a pest posing a high level of risk.
- *Lymantria dispar*: considered to be one of the most important defoliator pests at the global level, because it is highly polyphagous, feeding on over 500 varieties of forest, fruit and ornamental trees and shrubs. It can strip a tree of all its foliage. The main pathway by which this pest spreads to other countries is on ships that have spent time in countries where the pest is present during the moth's flight period. Females are attracted to the ships' lights at night and lay their eggs on the vessels. The eggs can survive for up to 24 months. The eggs hatch to reveal first-instar larvae, which can be borne by the wind, thus introducing them into new territories. In Chile, the Asian spongy moth has been intercepted and controlled on infested ships from parts of Asia where the pest is present, without introducing this pest into Chile's national territory.
- Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma: considered to be one of the most serious diseases that is known to affect grapevines. Depending on the intensity of infection, yields may decrease drastically and the quality of the wine is affected by high acid and low sugar contents of infected clusters. The disease was first reported in France, where some commercial producers recorded substantial losses. The leafhopper *Scaphoideus titanus* is the primary vector of the phytoplasma.
- '*Candidatus* Liberibacter africanus', '*Ca.* Liberibacter americanus', '*Ca.* Liberibacter asiaticus' (Huanglongbing (HLB)): this is the most serious disease of citrus in the world. Once a tree is infected there is no cure, causing a decline in vigour, twig dieback and, ultimately, the death of the plant. Infected trees produce bitter and irregularly-shaped fruit. HLB has destroyed citrus production in various parts of the world, including some states in Brazil, Mexico and the United States, and has caused huge economic losses due to the reduction in yields, decline in fruit quality, tree death, destruction of orchards, vector control measures and modernization of nurseries' plant production systems.

- *Erwinia amylovora*: a destructive pathogen that not only destroys the year's crop, but can also kill mature trees in a season, resulting in huge losses. Fire blight is also a barrier to market access between countries where the disease has been reported and countries free of fire blight. Although it can use other natural openings, *Erwinia amylovora* uses flower blossoms as the main entry pathway. If the host is sensitive and the weather conditions are favourable, the bacteria move rapidly from the flower to the pedicel and then to the branch, reaching the main branch and sometimes the trunk, killing the tree.
- ix. The current measures and pest lists are set out in SAG Resolution No. 3080 of 2003 and amendments thereto, which is available in Spanish at <https://bcn.cl/2wg4b> or which may be requested by email from the Chile SPS enquiry point (sps.chile@sag.gob.cl).
2. Lastly, Chile states that this communication is being made for the purposes of transparency, without prejudice to the country's rights and obligations under the SPS Agreement.
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