



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 14 September 2012

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**AGRI 582
PHYTOSAN 10**

NOTE

from:	Dutch delegation
to:	Council
Subject:	Asian Longhorned Beetle outbreaks

Delegations will find attached a note from the Dutch delegation, on the abovementioned subject, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 25 September 2012.

Asian Longhorned Beetle outbreaks

The increasing number of outbreaks of the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB or *Anoplophora glabripennis*) in the European Union, originating in Asia is an extremely worrying development. Outbreaks are directly linked to infested wood packing from Asian countries, and in particular China. Asian longhorn beetle is regulated in the EU as a harmful organism to plants whose introduction into and spread within all Member States shall be banned and can affect a large number of different trees and shrubs. In the Netherlands an outbreak of the Asian longhorned beetle in Almere occurred in 2010, more recently there have been several findings of the ALB in different member states, including the UK, Germany, Austria and the Netherlands.

Establishment and spread of the Asian longhorn beetle in the territory of the EU would have major consequences for both the nursery sector and for nature and the countryside. The topic has been discussed several times in the Standing Committee on Plant Health, where several member states have expressed their concerns. It is important that the necessary measures are taken on a short term to prevent introduction of harmful longhorn beetles. An important aspect is the principle laid down in international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPM) that the responsibility for meeting the EU import requirements, also for wood packaging material, lies in the first place in the country of dispatch. The continued interceptions of infested wood packaging material from Asian countries where the beetle occurs raise doubts about the method of treatment of wood packing applied in these countries. The European Commission sent a letter in June 2012 (Ref. Ares(2012)702397 - 12/06/2012) urging China to take the necessary action to improve the situation and to respond to letters which were sent by several Member States, including the Netherlands to the Chinese authorities in this regard. However, we have not received a response by the Chinese authorities in relation with recent cases of non-compliance. In view of the high risks it is important that the European Commission strongly insist on improving the situation by the Chinese authorities in the shortest possible time and to consider in consultation with Member States, what measures can be taken to reduce the risk in case necessary improvement would fail.