



Council of the  
European Union

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**'I/A' ITEM NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

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Subject: Draft Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on protective measures against pests of plants, amending Regulations (EU) No 228/2013, (EU) No 652/2014 and (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Directives 69/464/EEC, 74/647/EEC, 93/85/EEC, 98/57/EC, 2000/29/EC, 2006/91/EC and 2007/33/EC **(First reading)**

- Adoption of the Council's position at first reading and of the statement of the Council's reasons

= Statements

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**Statement by the Netherlands**

The Netherlands abstains on the Regulation on protective measures against pests of plants. The Netherlands believes that the measures regarding the import system, as stated in this regulation, are disproportional (in relation to the actual risks involved).

**Statement by Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, the Netherlands, Portugal,  
Greece, Czech Republic, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Latvia, Malta, Romania and the United  
Kingdom**

We note that the terms 'harmful organism' and 'pest' refer to the same concept in EU legal acts, and are used equivalently.

**Reasoning:**

Given that existing Commission legal acts and Council Regulations and Directives (e.g. Council Directive 93/85/EEC, Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and Commission Implementing Decision 2012/138/EU) also use the term 'harmful organism' with the same meaning and in an equivalent manner, the fact that the terms 'pest' and 'harmful organism' are synonyms should be clearly emphasised, in order to preclude any uncertainty in the application of existing EU legal acts and the new EU Plant Health Regulation.

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