

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

General Affairs
Legal affairs

Brussels,
SANTE.A2/NLD/sdl (2015)3337302

Email: antoniabattaglia@yahoo.it

Dear Ms Antonia Battaglia,

Subject: Your email on *Xylella fastidiosa* to Cabinet Andriukaitis

Thank you for your message of 9 July 2015 to Commissioner Andriukaitis on *Xylella fastidiosa*. The Commissioner has asked me to answer on his behalf.

As you know, *Xylella fastidiosa* is regulated as quarantine organism under the plant health Directive 2000/29/EC¹ since 1992. In this respect, the introduction and spread of regulated pests, such as *Xylella fastidiosa*, in the Union is prohibited and all necessary measures need to be taken by the Member State concerned to prevent its further spread in the rest of the Union territory.

The Commission has recently revised the EU emergency measures which are now applicable following the official adoption of Decision (EU) 2015/789² by the Commission on 18 May 2015.

The new EU measures require Member States to notify new outbreaks in the EU, to carry out official surveys, and to promptly demarcate infested areas. Strict eradication measures have to be applied for new outbreaks outside the province of Lecce, including in Oria, in the province of Brindisi, which include removal and destruction of infected plants, and all host plants within a radius of 100 m, irrespective of their health status.

The timely implementation of these measures is required to prevent further spread of the bacterium in the rest of the Italian territory and of the Union, and will contribute to

¹ Council Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community, OJ L 169, 10 July 2000, pp. 1-112

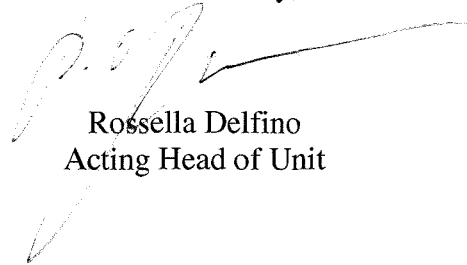
² Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/789 of 18 May 2015 as regards measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of *Xylella fastidiosa* (Wells et al.), OJ L 125, 21.5.2015, p. 36-53

preserve the majority of the host plants, including olive trees, which are still free from *Xylella fastidiosa* in the concerned demarcated areas.

We are exploring all possible tools available at EU level and deploying all efforts to assist the Italian Authorities and the relevant stakeholders in the implementation of these measures in a sustainable and responsible manner.

The Commission and Italy are presently engaged in a constructive dialogue to ensure the full implementation of the EU emergency measures.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Delfino', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rossella Delfino
Acting Head of Unit