

**NOTIFICATION**

<p><b>1. Member to Agreement notifying:</b> <u>EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES</u> <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b></p>
<p><b>2. Agency responsible:</b> Commission of the European Communities, Health &amp; Consumer Protection Directorate-General Directorate E – Food Safety, Plant Health, Animal Health and Welfare, International questions</p>
<p><b>3. Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable):</b> Wood and wood packaging material circulating under Chapter 44 (Headings CN 4401, 4402, 4403, 4404, 4406, 4407, 4415, 4416) and Heading 9406; ICS:55</p>
<p><b>4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:</b> Member states and countries exporting the products concerned to the European Community</p>
<p><b>5. Title, language and number of pages of the notified document:</b> Draft Commission Directive amending Annexes II, III, IV and V to 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 (22 pages).</p>
<p><b>6. Description of content:</b> The current provisions governing the import into and movement within the Community of woods and wood products are proposed to be amended.</p> <p>In particular, the relevant provisions of Directive 2000/29/EC on wood packaging material would be aligned with the provisions of the FAO International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures No 15 on <i>Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade</i>.</p> <p>Other amendments are proposed as regards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- wood originating in countries where <i>Bursaphelenchus xylophilus</i> (Steiner et Bühner) Nickle <i>et al.</i> is known to occur;</li><li>- wood originating in Russia, Kazakhstan and Turkey and other third countries;</li><li>- isolated bark of conifers;</li><li>- the provisions against <i>Cryphonectria parasitica</i> (Murrill.) Barr.;</li><li>- changes in the tariff and statistical nomenclature and the Common Customs Tariff.</li></ul> <p>These amended provisions are of interest for member States and countries exporting the relevant wood or wood products to the European Community.</p>

<p>7. <b>Objective and rationale:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests</p>
<p>8. <b>International standard, guideline or recommendation:</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission, <input type="checkbox"/> Office International des Epizooties, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention, <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><b>If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations:</b> This regulatory amendment is consistent with the standards, guidelines and recommendations of the International Plant Protection Convention of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, and in particular, the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures No 15 on <i>Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade..</i></p>
<p>9. <b>Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</b> European Commission Document SANCO/1460/03 Rev.12 (available in English).</p>
<p>10. <b>Proposed date of adoption:</b> February 2004</p>
<p>11. <b>Proposed date of entry into force:</b> 1 July 2004</p>
<p>12. <b>Final date for comments:</b> 15 January 2004</p> <p><b>Agency or authority designated to handle comments:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EC enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:</p>
<p>13. <b>Texts available from:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EC enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:</p>