



To **EU-Commission**

From **Søren Thorndal Jørgensen**

CC **Anders Panum (DAFC), Lars Bødker (SEGES Innovation)**

Date **06 January 2022**

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) .../... of XXX on measures to eradicate and prevent the spread of *Synchytrium endobioticum* (Schilb.) Perc.

The Danish Agriculture and Food Council (DAFC) is of the opinion that it is of paramount importance that appropriate measures be taken to eradicate and prevent the spread of *Synchytrium endobioticum* in all member states (MS).

DAFC supports the proposal that the competent authority (CA) should carry out annual, risk-based surveys for the presence of *S. endobioticum* by visual inspection of tubers in production sites, where specified plants are grown or stored, to ensure the identification and the eradication of the specified pest if found present.

However, if MS have an option for using soil samples in national surveys, there is a risk that very low levels (1 sporangia) may designate a production site or even larger coherent areas with fertile land with a long history of potato production in Northern Europe as being infested for up to 20-50 years. There is no information on the consequences of using soil samples in surveys for the European potato production.

In Denmark, *S. endobioticum* is effectively controlled by official visual inspection and by using resistant varieties and mandatory crop rotation in both seed potatoes and processing potatoes (starch). Soil samples can be used to demarcate and to revoke measures in an infested zone.

DAFC therefore suggests the following changes to the proposed text:

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, (5) The competent authorities should carry out annual, risk-based surveys for the presence of the specified pest, [~~at least~~] by visual inspection, of tubers in production sites, where specified plants are grown or stored, in order to ensure the identification and the eradication of the specified pest if found present.

Article 3 Surveys and laboratory tests of the specified pest

1. The competent authorities, or the professional operators under supervision of the competent authorities, shall carry out annual, risk-based surveys for the presence of the specified pest, [~~at least~~] by visual inspection, of tubers in production sites, where specified plants are grown or stored.

Memo

Page 2 of 2



ANNEX II. Survey template as referred to in Article 3

Delete columns for laboratory testing

ANNEX IV. 2. Partial revocation of the measures

Subareas need to be defined

Best regards

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