

Implementation of the plant health regime in Belgium

Federal Public Service for Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment (FPS-HFCSE)
Directorate-General Animals, plants, foodstuffs - NPPO -Division Plant Protection

EUROPATAT CONGRES - Antwerp
16/06/2017



Overview

Implementation of the plant health regime in Belgium

1. Objective and scope
2. Current structure and tools
3. Plant Health Fund in Belgium

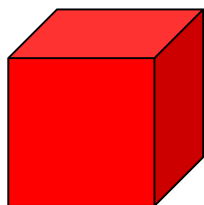


Implementation of the plant health regime in Belgium

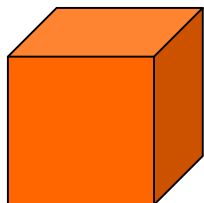
1. Objective and scope



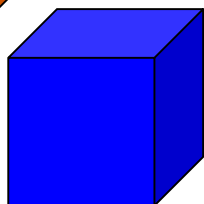
Cornerstones plant health OBJECTIVES



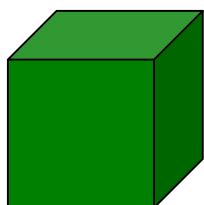
Sustainable production



Assuring economic growth and competitiveness



Food safety and food security



Protection of the natural environment

Public good = need for protection



SCOPE

Protection of our plant health resources



Organisms harmful to plants and plant products: not yet present or widespread, precaution,..



Avoid introduction and establishment
Combat further spread (BE/EU)
Guarantee free movement of plants/plant products
Traditional focus on agriculture



Principles of CPHR for implementation R(EU)2016/2031

1. Better protection EU territory

- prevention/early detection/notification/priorities/awareness
- pest status different in 28 MS
- annual contingency /control/ survey/eradication programs
- assure internal movement of regulated material/conditions
- import checks
- **EU co-financing in case of phytosanitary eradication measures**



Principles of CPHR for implementation R(EU)2016/2031

2. Lower the administrative burden/better regulation
 - Combining the plant passport and the certification label
 - Single framework on listing pests
 - Harmonization certification of regulated commodities

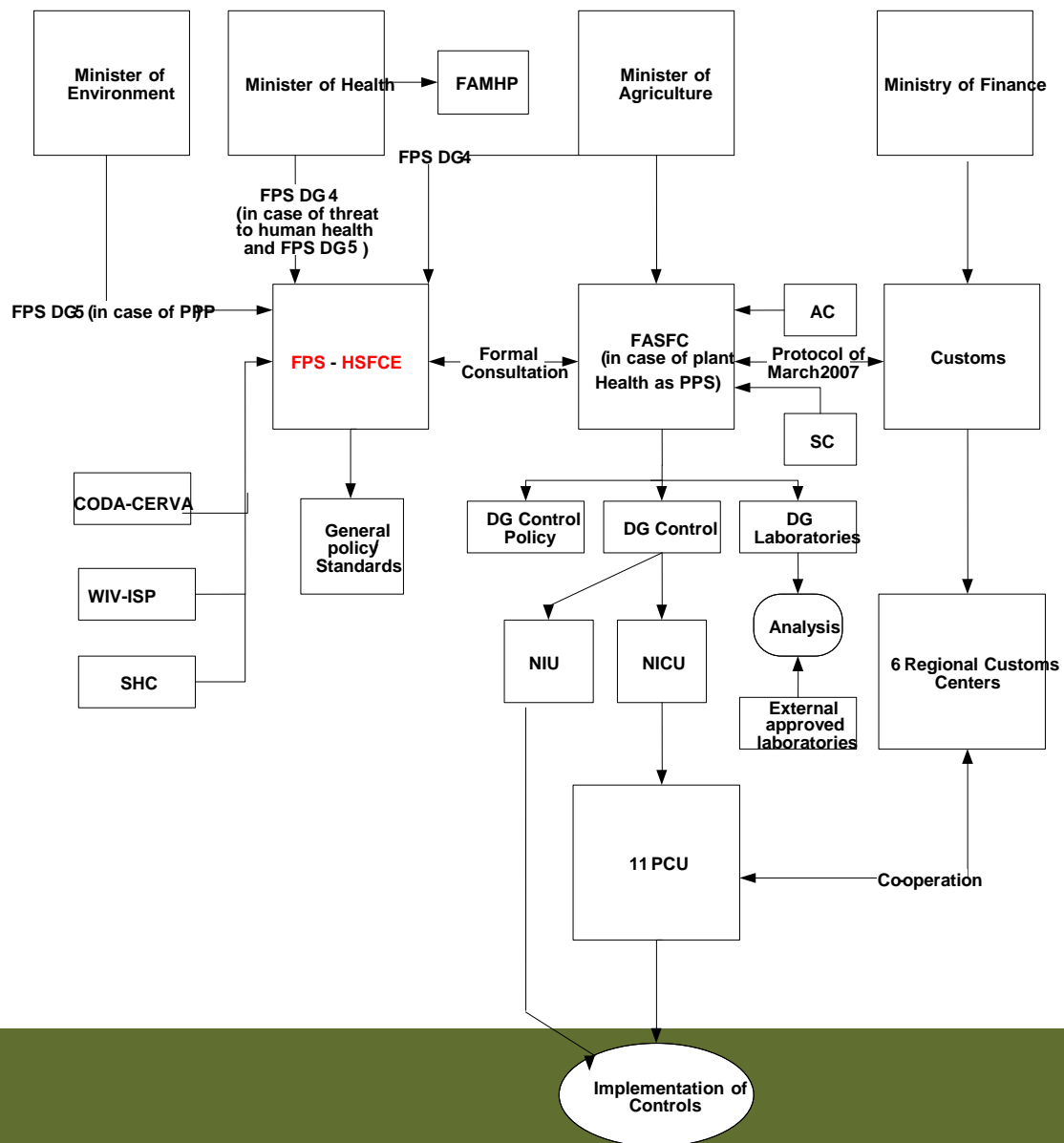
3. Compliant with international standards - IPPC
 - Risk based measures: temporally/permanent
 - Criteria for listing (Q, high risk, priority, RNQP, ZP Q)
 - Protected zone (PZ) EU concept , pest free area (PFA) compliant

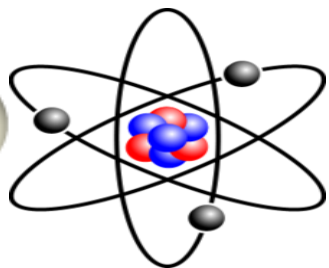


Implementation of the plant health regime in Belgium

2. Current structure and scope





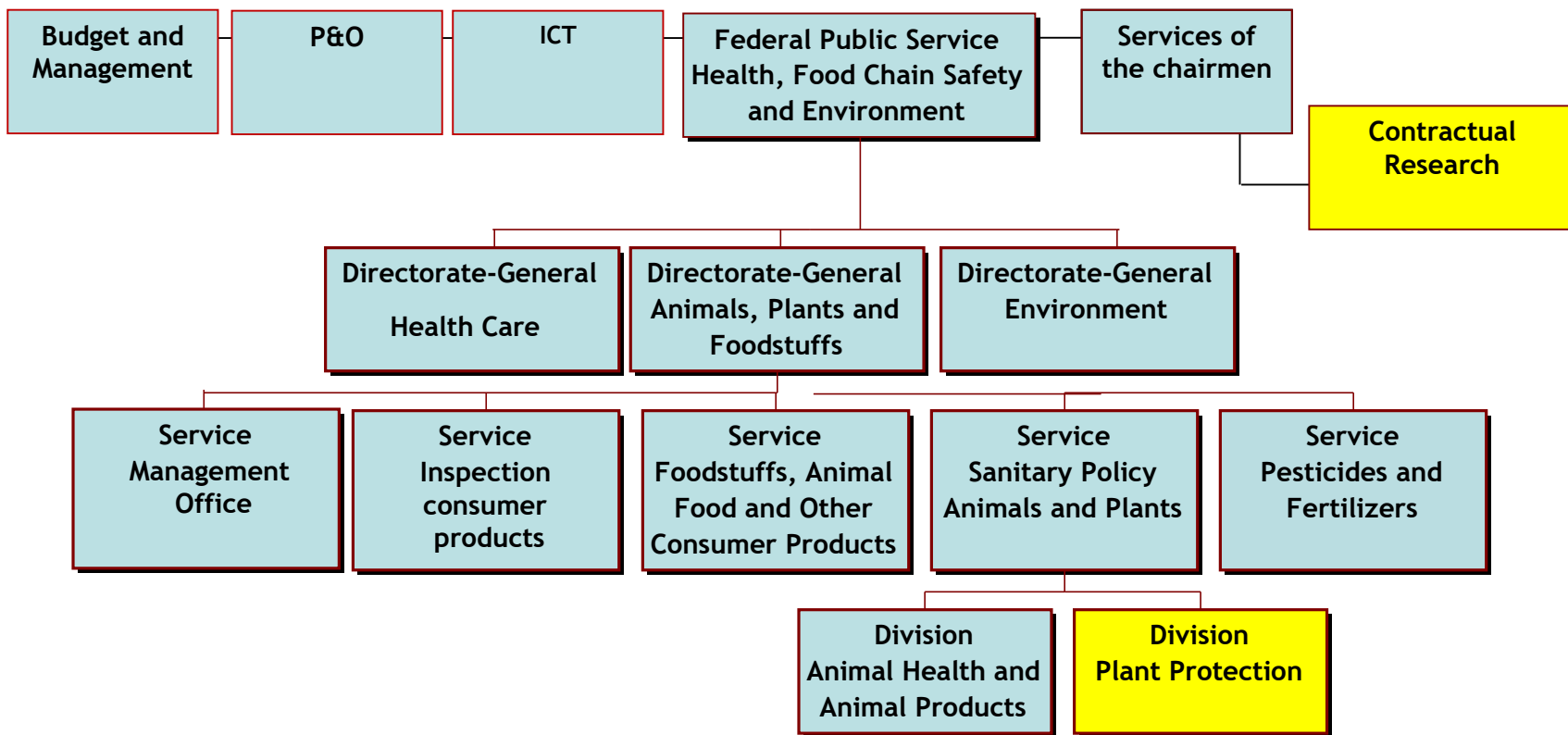


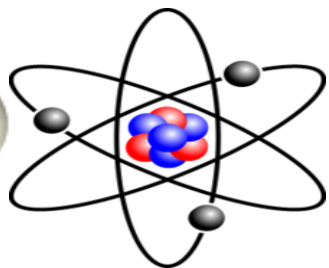
FASFC in plant health

- responsible for laying down, implementing and enforcing measures related to food safety, animal health and plant protection
- notifications & outbreaks
- eradication and containment measures
- EU emergency measures/survey
- import & export certification, plant passports
- registration and traceability, data



FPS-HFCSE





Division plant protection/NPPO: TASKS

- Concept & preparation of sanitary policy regarding plant health
- Legislative aspects:
 - preparation, coordination and transposition of legislation
 - normalisation and standard setting (including pest status)
- EU Council/PAFF PH/COPHS: sanitary policy EU
- International sanitary plant health policy:
NPPO, IPPC, EPPO, EFSA





TOOLS

- Federal law ' 71 - Dir 2000/29/EC - R.D. 10.08.2005
→ to be 14/12/2019 R(EU)2016/2031
- IPPC and EPPO: international standards and guidelines
- Scientific research projects in plant health
 - Contractual Research unit: National
 - International: partner Euphresco
- Plant Health Fund



Implementation of the plant health regime in Belgium

3. Plant Health Fund in Belgium



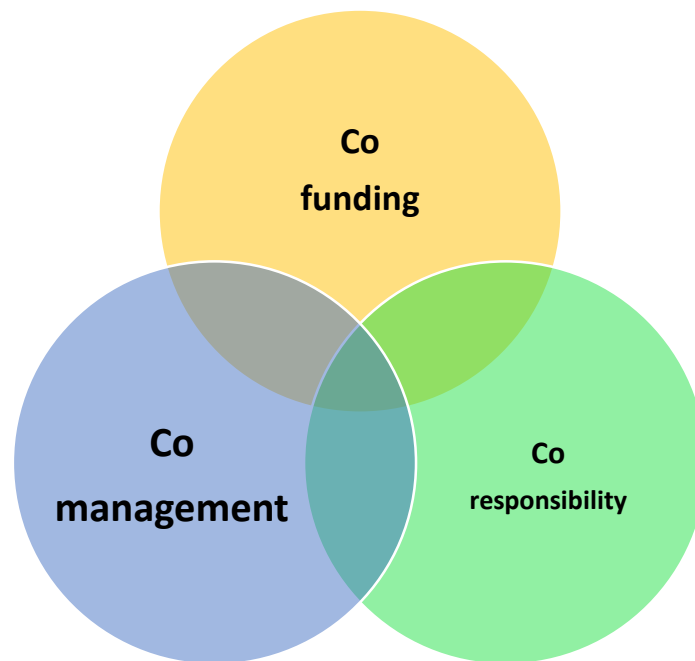
Belgium Plant Health Fund

Principles :

Develop and finance phytosanitary measures for the prevention of pests, in consultation with the sector and the relevant competent authorities

Funding:

Principle of solidarity, mandatory contributions payable by producers



Fully in accordance with the **COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 702/2014 of 25 June 2014** declaring certain categories of aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.



Plant Health Fund

- managed by a Council which is composed of representatives of various Belgian agricultural sector, experts of the competent authorities (FPS HFCSE, FASFC, FPS Budget), it is composed of 14 members mandated for a period of 4 years.
- one solidarity fund/sector fully operational for the potato sector
- ornamental sector in progress
- legal basis allows an extension to other sectors

Legal basis:

- Law from the 17th March 1993
- Royal decree from the 28th of October 2004



Historically, the Plant Health Fund is working closely together with the plant sectors. It is based on the principles of co-management, co-financing and co-responsibility.





Solidarity fund for Belgian producers of potatoes

Since the presence of *Ralstonia solanacearum* (Smith) Yabuuchi *et al.* and *Clavibacter michiganensis* (Smith) Davis *et al.* ssp *sepedonicus* (Spieckermann et Kotthoff) Davis *et al.* in potato production in 2003.



Potatoes destroyed, treated or processed → Considerable financial losses = **CRISIS**



Several requests for compensation



Creation of the Solidarity Fund, with contributions of producers

PURPOSE: compensation for direct losses sustained value



More information: <http://www.health.belgium.be/>



Funding and financial compensation

Funding

The solidarity fund for potato producers is only financed by mandatory contributions of all potato producers active on the Belgian territory. Approved as a state aid by the EU Commission.

Financial compensation

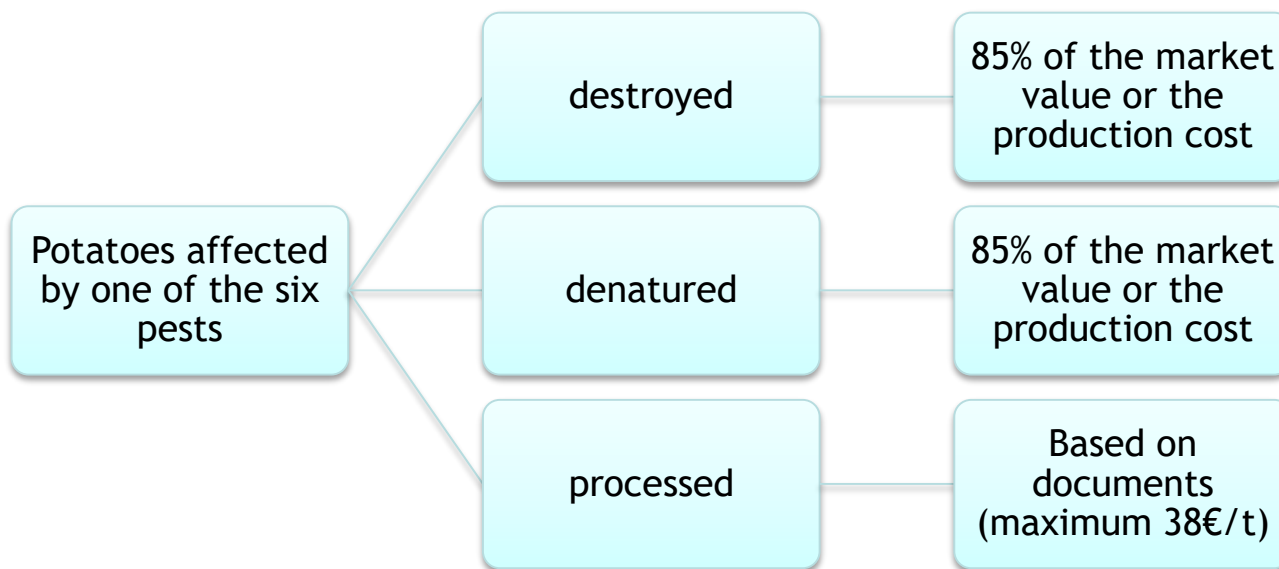
Contributions are exclusively intended to compensate producers who suffered of losses following phytosanitary measures due to:

- *Ralstonia solanacearum* (Smith) Yabuuchi et al.,
- *Clavibacter michiganensis* (Smith) Davis et al. ssp *sepedonicus* (Spieckermann et Kotthoff) Davis et al.,
- *Meloidogyne chitwoodi* Golden et al.,
- *Meloidogyne fallax* Karssen,
- *Synchytrium endobioticum* (Schilbersky) Percival,
- Potato spindle tuber viroid



Financial circuit of the compensation system

1. The FASFC imposes phytosanitary measures (R2000/29/EC) in order to destroy, or process under quarantine conditions potatoes infected by one of the six pests.



All the information needed by potato producers to introduce their claims can be found on our website:
<http://www.health.belgium.be/fr/fonds-de-solidarite-pour-les-producteurs-de-pommes-de-terre>



Financial circuit of the compensation system

2. The producer introduces a written claim
3. A dossier containing all relevant documentation is made by the FPS Public Health (FASFC inspection PV mentioning the net quantity destroyed, denatured or processed, confirmation that the producer fulfills all the contribution obligations to the fund, ...)
4. A compensation proposal is made by the FPS and submitted for written approval to the producer



Minimum requirements regarding the compensation to the owners for the value of destroyed plants

In order to claim compensation for losses, a potato producer must meet the following requirements:

- paid all the mandatory contributions for all crop years charged at the time of declaration of contamination of potatoes
- declared the cultivated potato area
- satisfied all of the phytosanitary regulations
- taken all precautionary measures to minimize the damage
- introduced a written and signed claim, with supporting documents



Facts & figures



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- Size of the potato sector in Belgium :
+/- 4.400.000 ton/ 90.000 ha/ 7000 producers
- The indexed fee is 24,24 EUR/ha for certified seed potatoes and 12,12 EUR/ha for ware potatoes and farm produced seed potatoes
- 98% of the producers comply with their contribution
- At 31 December 2016, the financial reserves of the Solidarity Fund for potato producers amounted to 1.867.573,70€(1.500.000 € threshold)
- Since its creation in 2004, the compensation fund for potato producers has granted a total amount of 1.582.004€ (70 dossiers)



State aid and co-financing at EU level



- Compliant CAP/ state aid rules EU(2014/C 204/1 1/6/2014)

f.e. state aid only for harmful organisms where national or European phytosanitary measures are in place

- Compliant with R 652/2014 - in respect of CPHR
from 1/1/2017 possibility of maximum 50% co-financing from EU for the value of destroyed plants/plant products /objects



Thank you for your attention

