

## Citrus: draft proposal for citrus black spot

The European Commission and Member States discussed this week a first draft of measures that could govern the upcoming season of import of citrus from South Africa. The Commission is planning to significantly reinforced the import conditions to monitor fruit originating from regions where citrus black spot is known to occur and secure compliance with the EU legislation. The Commission proposal would require:

- official examination stating that CBS has not been detected in the place of production since the beginning of the last cycle of vegetation; and
- carrying appropriate treatments against CBS
- undertake a visual examination as close as possible to the harvest
- introduce a sampling and lab testing scheme covering a sample 200 fruits per 30 tonnes during packing, as close as possible to export
- registration of the place of production, the packing facilities, exporters and any other operator involved in the handling of the fruit
- keep record of the pre and post-harvest treatments and ensure a complete traceability and supported by a documentary system made available to the EU
- additional measures will be considered by the EU as soon as the sixth interception and it is confirm that the procedures for official monitoring in South Africa have not been sufficient. Concretely , this implies that a formal decision will have to be taken by the Commission to introduce additional safeguard measures
- specific provisions for citrus for processing allowing a Member State to authorize imports of citrus complying with the current requirements of Directive 2000/29 but that will not be subject to the sampling and testing requirements set above. Specific labeling , dedicated port of entry and reinforced traceability requirement will be introduced for this derogation

The proposal will now be discussed at EU level. Member States have up to the 4<sup>th</sup> of April to comment on the proposal. The matter will be brought back to the Permanent Phytosanitary Committee next 28/29 April for a decision. Once adopted, the provisions will come into force 20 days after the publication in the official Journal.

The non paper specifying the measures that could be included in the final decision are to be found enclosed.