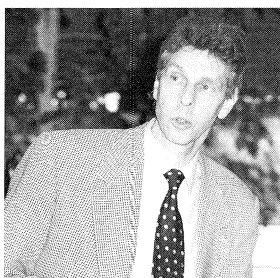


Biologische Bundesanstalt für Land und Forstwirtschaft, Abteilung für nationale und internationale Angelegenheiten der Pflanzengesundheit, Braunschweig

Phytosanitary measures against Asian Longhorned Beetle and the responsibilities of the German authorities

Phytosanitäre Maßnahmen gegen den Asiatischen Laubholzbockkäfer und die Zuständigkeiten der deutschen Behörden

Jens-Georg Unger



The outbreak of the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) in Austria, the findings of single specimens in Germany as well as of grubholes in non-treated wooden packaging imported from infested countries and the outcome of the pest risk assessment give reason to assume that ALB could have already been introduced into Germany or that such an intro-

duction is not unlikely in the near future. Phytosanitary activities against such an event should concentrate on

1. improved protection against the introduction,
2. early detection within Germany, and
3. the development of emergency measures to be taken in case of an outbreak.

In Germany, such actions are based on the Plant Protection Act and the Plant Inspection Order. They reflect the EU-harmonised phytosanitary regulations against the introduction and spread of organisms harmful to plants and plant products, which are mainly laid down in EU Council Directive 2000/29. In addition, the framework of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) describes the national responsibilities and international obligations of the German Plant Protection Service. The required phytosanitary activities against the introduction and spread of ALB and the relevant regulatory background will be summarised in the following.

1 Protection against the introduction of ALB

The phytosanitary import requirements of the EU Member States have been almost fully harmonised since 1993. For many years, the *Anoplophora* species *A. malasiaca* and *A. chinensis* have been on the EU Quarantine List (Annex I of Directive 2000/29), while *A. glabripennis* will be included only from the 1st April 2003 on. In 1998, in accordance with Article 16 (3) of this Directive, the United Kingdom took provisional emergency measures against the introduction of ALB after some beetles had been found in the UK which were linked with wooden packaging from China. In 1999, the measures were adapted and became EU-wide binding by Commission Decision 1999/355/EC, which was adopted by the Standing Committee on Plant Health in agreement with all Member States. The Decision is still in force and

requires that hardwood packaging from China should be made of either debarked wood that is free from grubholes larger than 3 mm in diameter or of wood that has been kiln-dried (KD) below a moisture content of 20%. On export, no certificates and thus no involvement of the Plant Protection Service of China is required. On import, there should be some random inspections by the German Plant Protection Service. However, it is difficult to implement the import inspections due to the lack of any marks or certificates the necessity of differentiation between hard- and softwood and due to the uncertainty whether the requirements, in particular KD treatment, have been fulfilled. The level of protection provided by these emergency measures may not be sufficient to ensure a long-lasting protection against the introduction of ALB into Germany. It is hoped that in the near future a horizontal phytosanitary requirement for all types of wooden packaging including a standardised mark as foreseen by the IPPC Standard No. 15 (www.ippc.int > ISPM15) will improve the situation. The standard should be integrated as soon as possible into the general phytosanitary import regulations of all EU countries for wooden packaging as laid down in Annex IV of Directive 2000/29/EC.

2 Early Detection

Activities to ensure the early detection of any outbreak in Germany should include an information campaign directed to the public (press releases, broadcasting, TV) and more specific and technical information to the responsible public services in the regions (plant protection, forestry, communities) as well as to nurseries and tree care firms. The regulatory basis of these activities are § 33 (2) and § 34 (2) point 3 of the Plant Protection Act implementing in general Article IV (3) of the IPPC. In addition, an active systematic monitoring of 'places at risk' is required and it should be secured that any suspected finding is reported to the responsible official bodies. The Plant Protection Services of the Länder as well as the Plant Health Department of the BBA (www.bba.de, link 'Pflanzengesundheit') are finally responsible for such reporting based on § 34 (2) point 1 and 4 and § 38 (2) of the Plant Protection Act. The duty of the Plant Protection Services of the Länder is defined there as:

1. the surveillance of plants for the occurrence of harmful organisms;
4. the notification of the occurrence and spread of harmful organisms.

The IPPC provides not only the general background for these provisions employing its Article IV (2b), but also guidance by at least two of its standards (pest surveillance and pest reporting).

In addition, EU Directive 2000/29/EC requires that the occurrence of a harmful organism that is not listed as a quarantine organism and has not yet been known to occur in the relevant region is to be notified by the affected Member State to the EC Commission and to the other Member States. In Germany, this duty is done by the Plant Health Department of the Federal Biological Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry (BBA).

To sum up the Plant Protection Services of the Länder should perform a systematic survey for ALB in Germany following the national, EC and international regulatory framework. The results should be notified to the BBA which will pass on the relevant information to the EU and the other Member States.

3 Measures in case of an outbreak

Eradication measures are most efficient and effective when they are applied as soon as possible after an outbreak has been identified as it is shown in the Austrian and US cases. An action plan should be elaborated and the responsibilities of the bodies involved should be clarified in advance in order to allow effective and early response. According to § 34 of the Plant Protection Act,

the Plant Protection Services have the duty to take the relevant measures. All necessary powers are provided for in § 3 and § 4. § 5 allows short cut procedures in emergency situations. Directive 2000/29/EC obliges the Member States to notify in such cases the measures taken against the harmful organisms. The measures must ensure that the organisms do not spread into other Member States. The measures taken in Austria following this requirement should be the model for measures to be taken in Germany in a comparable situation. After the required notification to the EU and the other Member States, measures taken in Germany would be evaluated by the Commission and compared with the responses of other Member States. The evaluation might result in an EC Decision with measures that would be applied EU-wide.

In addition to the identification of the measures, the responsible public services in the regions should also clarify their specific obligations in such 'action plans' in advance in order to avoid unnecessary delay.

The activities required in particular with regard to early detection and eradication measures are described in detail in other contributions during this colloquium.

Kontaktanschrift: Dr. Jens-Georg Unger, Biologische Bundesanstalt für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Abteilung für nationale und internationale Angelegenheiten der Pflanzengesundheit, Messeweg 11/12, D-38104 Braunschweig, E-Mail: J.G.Unger@bba.de