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Mr H Arijs
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Dear Harry

PEST RISK ANALYSES AND MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

You are aware of our approach to the assessment and management of new or revised risks from pests found in the UK, including public consultation. I am writing to confirm the outcome of the most recent consultations referred to at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/planth/pratab.htm> .

Annex A provides a brief summary of our conclusions (full details are available through the web reference above). Section 1 includes those organisms where our conclusions indicate that there may be implications in relation to listings and/or requirements in Directive 2000/29/EC. Section 2 includes those organisms where no further statutory action will be taken in the UK.

I am copying this letter to other member states, so they are aware of developments regarding the organisms referred to. We look forward to consideration of the conclusions referred to in due course.

Yours sincerely

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ANNEX A

UK PEST RISK ANALYSES AND MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

1. UK requests for consideration of new or amended status in the Plant Health Directive

a. *Scirtothrips dorsalis* (chilli thrips) – PRA available at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/planth/pr/scirto.pdf>

This was the subject of consultation in 2006, with the outcome being notified to Marc Vereecke in Martin Ward's letter of 2 April 2007. There have been further developments as reported below.

Scirtothrips dorsalis is a polyphagous pest from tropical and subtropical Asia that is already regulated by the EU on *Citrus*, *Fortunella*, *Poncirus* and their hybrids. The risk posed by *S. dorsalis* has increased in recent years as the pest has spread internationally and has been found on produce, and several different species of plants for planting. In May 2008 the UK notified its first outbreak, at a botanical garden in the South of England. Since *Scirtothrips dorsalis* is a risk to a number of vegetable and ornamental crops in northern European glasshouses and to a broad range of crops grown outdoors in southern Europe, extending measures to all plants for planting would seem logical, and this was the recommendation made in our earlier letter.

However, in the last 3 years there have been 45 interceptions in the UK of *S. dorsalis* on produce, particularly *Momordica* from Kenya and India. Therefore, we believe that a review of this pest is still needed, but it should now take into account the increased interceptions on produce.

2. Organisms where no further statutory action will be taken in the UK

a. *Milviscutulus mangiferae* (Mango shield scale) – PRA available at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/planth/pr/milvismang.pdf>

Milviscutulus mangiferae is a non-native, polyphagous scale pest of exotic ornamental plants, of low risk to the UK and moderate risk to the EU as a whole. The pest has been intercepted coming into the UK on numerous occasions, most recently on plants for the vivarium industry. It presents a low risk to the UK, but does have the potential to cause a moderate amount of damage to ornamentals, particularly on specialist nurseries. In the southern areas of the EU the pest is likely to cause more damage due to the larger range of hosts growing outside. The small but growing mango industry of Spain is particularly at risk. There are chemical treatments available for the control and eradication of *M. mangiferae* on terrestrial plants, but recent UK interceptions have been made on plants linked with aquariums and for these there are no available control measures other than destruction.

b. *Nysius huttoni* – PRA available at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/planth/pr/nysius.pdf>

Even though conditions are highly suitable for *N. huttoni* to establish, it currently poses a minor risk to the UK because it is unlikely to enter and only minor risks to crops can be expected. This is primarily based on the situation in the Netherlands and Belgium, where it is currently confined to waste ground, roadsides and abandoned fields. If that changes, the PRA needs to be revised. Brassica crops in locations where there are few weed species during very hot, dry years will be most vulnerable. Such situations are currently rare.

c. *Paratrichodorus minor* (stubby root nematode) – PRA available at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/planth/praparaminor.pdf>

Paratrichodorus minor is a highly polyphagous plant pest, generally found in tropical or subtropical soils. It has entered the UK in growing media associated with palm trees and is most likely to establish on ornamental plants grown under protection. There is a moderate likelihood of the pest establishing outdoors in the UK through the planting of imported plants in gardens or amenity areas. However there is a low likelihood of the nematode spreading from such areas to commercial food crops, to which it presents a small risk of economic impact. *P. minor* is known to vector the *Tobacco rattle virus* (TRV), which affects potatoes, possibly strains that are not already present in the UK, but the risk of the nematode entering in association with seed potatoes is low. Overall the risk of *P. minor* to the UK is rated as low.