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A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

European Member States Approve Draft Criteria for Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals in Pesticides

- On July 4, the European Member States in the European Commission's Standing Committee on Pesticides [voted in favor](#) of the [draft criteria](#) to define endocrine disruptors (EDs) in the area of plant protection products. The proposal on ED criteria was originally published on June 15, 2016 (*BCI Monitor* 6-21-16), and has failed to reach a qualified majority on multiple occasions. EDs are chemicals that can disrupt the human endocrine system.
- The draft criteria aim to ensure that any active substance used in pesticides that is identified as an endocrine disruptor for people or animals can be assessed and withdrawn from the market. Under the ED criteria, pesticide compounds would need to be assessed for potential ED properties each time the substance is subject to an approval or renewal of approval at the EU level.
- The EU approves an active substance for a limited period of time of up to 15 years. The application of ED criteria under these regular reviews creates the potential for numerous plant protection products to be withdrawn from usage in the EU, and for the EU Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) to be revoked.
- The draft criteria still need to be approved by the European Parliament and European Council. The two bodies have three months to vote in approval for the criteria to be officially adopted, after which a six month transition period is expected to follow. The European Chemicals Agency and the European Food Safety Authority are working on finalizing a joint guidance document for the implementation of the criteria. The draft guidance document is expected to be available for public consultation this fall.

Spotted Wing Drosophila Found for the First Time in Chile

- Chile's Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG) found eight specimens of spotted wing Drosophila (*Drosophila suzukii*) in mid-June, and the pest has spread rapidly since.
- SAG has confirmed 162 specimens of the pest have been trapped in the Pucón and Villarica areas of Chile, and 454 specimens in the Los Lagos region. These detections have so far been in wild blackberry traps along a major road. Due to the high economic impact that this pest can have on orchards, on June 30, government officials along with representatives from the private sector [met](#) to discuss further plans to monitor, control, and study this pest in Chile.
- Since the findings, SAG has installed around 1,000 additional high density traps with a specific attractor for the spotted wing fly around each capture point and up to a radius of 1 kilometer around the capture points.
- The spotted wing Drosophila is already present in the major export markets for Chilean fresh fruit, and the SAG does not expect the finding to limit trade for quarantine reasons.

Japan and European Union Reach Agreement in Principle on Economic Partnership Agreement

- On June 6, Japan and the European Union (EU) reached an agreement in principle on the main elements of an Economic Partnership Agreement, according to a European Commission (EC) [press release](#).
- Japan will liberalize 91% of its imports from the EU at entry into force. At the end of the 15-year period, 99% of its imports from the EU will be liberalized, while the remaining imports will be partly liberalized through quotas and tariff reductions. For agricultural products, significant quotas, duty free, or reduced duty have been agreed upon, ensuring meaningful new market access.
- The agreement in principle covers most aspects of the Economic Partnership Agreement; however, in some chapters, there are technical details that still need to be worked out. To finalize the agreement, negotiators from both sides will continue to resolve all the remaining technical issues and a final text of the agreement is expected by the end of this year. The agreement will need to be approved by all EU Member States as well as the European Parliament.

Update on the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement Implementation

- Canada and the European Union (EU) have set a date for the provisional application of the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). The agreement will apply provisionally beginning September 21, 2017.
- Both the EU and Canada have taken the necessary steps to ratify the agreement. It was first cleared for provisional entry into force in the EU on February 15, 2017, when Members of the European Parliament approved CETA (*BCI Monitor* 2-21-17). On the Canadian side, [Bill C-30](#)—Canada's implementing legislation for CETA—was adopted on May 16, 2017.
- The agreement will enter definitively into force once the Parliaments in all Member States of the EU ratify the text according to their domestic procedures.

Mexico Continues Public Consultation Process for the North American Free Trade Agreement

- The Government of Mexico is requesting additional comments with regards to the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), according to a Ministry of Economy [press release](#). Mexico plans to use the public consultation as a guide for the modernization of the agreement. [Comments](#) from both domestic and foreign interested parties are welcome, and are due no later than July 26.
- On June 7, following a meeting with Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto, President Trump said the two countries are making good progress toward renegotiating NAFTA. However, in his weekly address released by the White House, President Trump once again threatened to withdraw from NAFTA if the deal was not completely renegotiated.
- Formal NAFTA renegotiations have not yet begun due to requirements laid out in the Trade Promotion Authority law. The first official talks between the U.S., Mexico, and Canada are expected to take place in mid-August.

European Union Approves Dialogue and Cooperation with Cuba

- Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) gave their consent for the first European Union-Cuba cooperation agreement, according to a European Parliament [press release](#). The agreement will boost bilateral trade, promote economic cooperation, and allow for joint action on the world scene.
- Cuba was the only Latin American country to have no bilateral agreement with the European Union (EU), and relations have been governed by an EU Common Position since 1996. The EU Common Position made cooperation and the conclusion of a bilateral agreement conditional on visible progress in terms of democracy and improvement of human rights.
- The agreement marks a new stage in relations between the EU and Cuba and, while the agreement does not mention the U.S. embargo on Cuba, the MEPs reiterated their opposition to “unilateral coercive measures with extraterritorial effect contrary to international law and the principles of free trade” due to their negative impact.
- The [EU-Cuba Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement](#) (PDCA) was signed by the EU foreign affairs chief in December 2016, and has been under negotiation since April 2014. The agreement needed to get the European Parliament's consent to enter into force, and it will apply on a provisional basis pending the ratification of all member states.