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A REPORT FOR THE CALIFORNIA CHERRY BOARD

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

European Parliament Approves New Measures to Prevent Entry of Plant Pests

- In a plenary vote on October 26, members of European Parliament (MEPs) voted in favor of new measures designed to protect against the influx of plant pests to the European Union (EU), according to a recent European Parliament [press release](#).
- The new rules introduce a variety of preventative measures to mitigate phytosanitary risks posed by plants and plant products entering the EU. Notably, the requirements allow the European Commission to quickly identify potential pest risks and provisionally restrict the entry of specific plant products from non-EU countries. The requirements also order EU member states to create multi-annual survey programs to improve early detection efforts.
- The plenary vote on October 26 followed a vote on October 13 in which the European Parliament's Agriculture Committee endorsed the new measures (*BCI Monitor* 10-18-16). The regulation will now be published in the EU's Official Journal and enter into force 20 days following publication. According to the European Parliament press release linked above, the requirements will become applicable 36 months after entry into force.

European Food Safety Authority Publishes 2014 Report on Pesticide Residues in Food

- The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) recently published the [2014 European Union Report on Pesticide Residues in Food](#). The annual report analyzes data on food samples from the 28 European Union (EU) member states, Iceland, and Norway.
- According to the report, nearly 83,000 samples were analyzed, with 97 percent of samples either free of residues or containing residues within legally permitted levels. While only 1.6 percent of samples originating from within the European Economic Area (EEA) exhibited residues above legally permitted levels, 6.5 percent of samples originating from countries outside the EEA exhibited residues exceeding legal limits.
- Following its analysis, EFSA concluded current dietary exposure to pesticide residues is unlikely to pose a threat to human health. EFSA recommended certain changes to improve pesticide monitoring in the EU, including an extension of the monitoring program for food products such as small fruits and berries and a mandatory analysis of glyphosate in certain crops.

European Union-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement Signed

- Representatives from the European Union (EU) and Canada met in Brussels, Belgium on October 30 for the EU-Canada Summit, according to a European Commission [press release](#). At the summit, leaders from the two sides signed the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

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European Union-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement Signed

- The EU-Canada Summit and CETA signing ceremony, which was originally scheduled to occur on October 27, had been temporarily postponed due to objections by the Belgian regional parliament of Wallonia. Following negotiations involving representatives from Belgium, Wallonia, the EU, and Canada, officials were able to secure the support of Wallonia on October 27 and immediately reschedule the summit and signing ceremony.
- Provisional application of CETA will be possible after European Parliament approves the agreement as well as the specific details of the provisional application. The new investment court system (ICS) promoted by the EU will not be provisionally applied and will be evaluated by each EU member state during its national ratification process. CETA cannot be fully implemented until it is approved by the national parliaments of each EU member state. Additional information about the EU-Canada CETA is available in the following [fact sheet](#).

European Commission Publishes Report on 17th EU-Japan Free Trade Agreement Negotiating Round

- The European Commission recently published a [report](#) detailing progress made during the seventeenth round of negotiations for the European Union (EU)-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), which took place in Brussels, Belgium from September 26-30, 2016.
- According to the report, the two sides continued to make progress at a technical level and are close to finalizing several chapters of the EPA. The two parties clarified their respective priorities and sensitivities regarding market access for agricultural goods and processed food products. Additionally, representatives agreed on the final wording for substantial parts of the sanitary and phytosanitary measures chapter, though further discussions will be needed to finalize the overall chapter.
- EU and Japanese leaders continue to emphasize their commitment to concluding the EU-Japan EPA as soon as possible. Together, the two sides account for more than a third of global gross domestic product (GDP). Bilateral trade in goods between the EU and Japan reached \$120 billion in 2014.