

32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (ERC)

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Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members – Original language compiled

ERC/20/8 – Report from the Outcome of the Debate of the 41st Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA)

Country	ERC Document reference	Statement
The EU (received 25 Oct 20:02)	ERC/20/8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="667 574 2003 639">1. The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the report on the 41st ECA session.<li data-bbox="667 660 2003 922">2. We appreciate and support FAO's work in the region on plant health and its interconnection with climate change, food security, biodiversity and increasing global trade – including eCommerce – and human mobility. We have especially valued the possibility of discussing plant health related issues at the 41st ECA session as it had taken place at the doorstep of the International Year of Plant Health 2020 (IYPH-2020), and had thus contributed to increased awareness in the region of the importance of plant health. We call on other Members and on FAO to continue to pursue the efforts they have undertaken or planned to undertake in the framework of the IYPH-2020, and to alleviate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by extending IYPH-2020 activities, where appropriate, into 2021.<li data-bbox="667 943 2003 1040">3. We welcome the panel discussion format used for addressing the topic of 'Plant Health in Europe and Central Asia – Relevance, Trends and Developments'. We believe that the 41st ECA session has confirmed the advantages of such a format and contributed to high-quality discussions.<li data-bbox="667 1062 2003 1289">4. We also welcome the detailed recommendations to the Members and to FAO aimed at enhancing national, regional and global arrangements and structures, and cooperation and coordination in plant health. We are committed to continue to work closely with FAO, IPPC and members in the region to improve regional and global cooperation in plant health and its integration in broader climate change, invasive alien species, biodiversity and environmental protection related activities, and to contribute to the implementation of the new IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030. We, amongst others, will support the IPPC work on improving its contribution to the global plant pest alert and outbreak response system.<li data-bbox="667 1310 2003 1404">5. The EU and its 27 Member States are also strongly committed to working internally on strengthening their phytosanitary system so as to best utilise the potential that plants have in helping to achieve the objectives of the EU Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy.

<p>Switzerland (received 25 Oct 19:46)</p>	<p>ERC/20/8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We strongly support that the 41st Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA) focused on a main technical theme, as recommended in the assessment of the ECA undertaken in 2017.• We would suggest approaching the focus on an in-depth topic even more consistently and dedicating more time for its discussion in the future.• Switzerland was in support to dedicate the 41st Session of ECA to the theme of Plant Health in Europe and Central Asia.• We welcome FAO's work on preventing, anticipating and responding to high-impact plant health in Europe and Central Asia, In light of climate change and the rise of new pests and diseases, this work will become more important still.• Such important work needs adequate infrastructure. Switzerland is pleased to inform the ERC that it is working with FAO to renovate and upgrade the current Desert Locust Information Centre. The Center operates within the long-term strategy of the FAO's Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP) and is FAO's global early warning system. The new centre will offer workspace for the senior officer and a group activity area that will offer training space and welcome visitor tours. The area will adopt state of the art technology fit for purpose. Once the renovation finished, the Center will be known as the Swiss Centre for Locusts and Migratory Pests.• Thank you, Chair.
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