



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Safety of the Food Chain
Plant health

Brussels,
SANCO.E2/GVC/ap (2013) 123913

Dear Mr Dossler,

Subject: Emergency measures regarding the genus *Pomacea* (Perry)

I refer to your letter of 6 December regarding Commission Decision 2012/697/EU as regards measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of the genus *Pomacea* (Perry).

I would like to inform you that an assessment of the risk regarding the genus *Pomacea* (Perry) was carried out by the Commission and Member States based on pest risk analysis and on a scientific opinion (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/2552.pdf>) and statement (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/2645.pdf>) of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

In the scientific opinion EFSA concluded that "*a legislative ban on import of Pomacea spp. is the only risk reduction option identified that can reduce the probability of entry*". In addition, in the EFSA statement it was clarified that "*risk reduction options should not be targeted to single species of the genus Pomacea*".

Decision 2012/697/EC does not require destruction of stocks of the genus *Pomacea*. Only further introduction into or spread within the EU is prohibited. In addition, we will remind all Member States that an implementation of the mentioned legislation is compulsory in all the EU territory.

Pomacea diffusa is referred to by EFSA as an example of the complexity in taxonomic identification of the genus *Pomacea*. Potential effects of *Pomacea diffusa* in natural habitats are considered unknown. For that reason, the exclusion of any specie was not considered.

President Werner Dossler
EATA – European Aquarium & Terrarium Association
Vijftien-Augustusstraat 37/4
B-3690 Zutendaal

For the above reasons, the Commission is not in a position to meet your request. An appropriate level of protection against the introduction into and the spread within the EU of *Pomacea* (Perry) is one of the key elements of the phytosanitary protection of the Union's Single Market.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dana Simion', written in a cursive style.

Dana Simion
Head of Unit