

Preparing for the early detection of EAB (*Agrilus planipennis*) to allow quick response by the NPPO in Hungary



WITH OPEN-EYES
AGAINST NON-NATIVE PESTS

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1. Background

2008: News about the appearance of *Agrilus planipennis* in Moscow region and its dramatic spreading to southwest

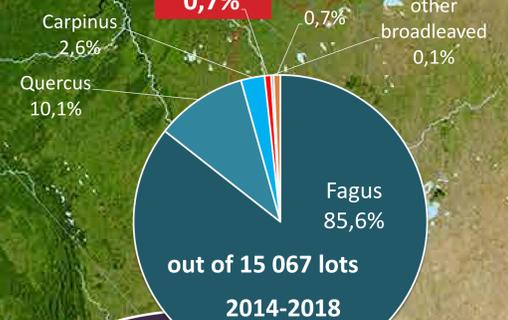
2. Surveillance

2011: The National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) put in place a forestry survey programme by including non-native pests in the country-wide monitoring programme of the Forestry Agency covering, among them, EAB.

3. Considerations about risks of introducing EAB by importing firewood:

- EAB is not regulated and not under surveillance in Russia
- Study of statistics concluded that firewood imports to EU increased 10x, EAB's main host, *Fraxinus* has a significant share in firewood imports
- Wood from European non-EU countries is not subject to phytosanitary inspection before entering the EU
- Firewood is of poor quality

Fraxinus
0,7%



4. Risk factors of introducing EAB by importing firewood from Ukraine to EU via Hungary

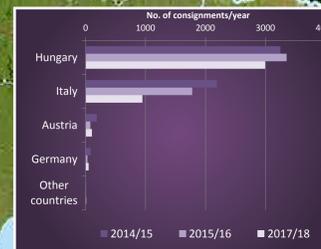
Research-related:

- occurrence of EAB in Ukraine - key information

Inspection-related:

- source of the wood consignments – locations in Ukraine
- EAB status of the area at the source of the wood – if EAB is present or not
- volume of trade and share of the main host (*Fraxinus*) in the consignments
- quality of firewood consignments

The time until the further spread of the *Agrilus* reaches the sources of firewood consignments needs to be fully used to prepare for the long-term protection of ash trees!



5. Monitoring programme of non-regulated firewood imports from Ukraine at the border (BIP)

- Launched in 2014, based on a good cooperation with the customs office.
- Consignments with ash wood were roughly checked for health status
- Weekly records of firewood lots per genus have been collected at the BIP and analysed by the headquarters of the NPPO.

7. Conclusions for next steps

The efforts of internal surveys for EAB and depth of checking firewood at the border will be increased when the factors change to increase the risk.

Sharing information and cooperation between

- NPPO about risk-based checking of non-regulated imports at BIP + survey (with Forestry Agency) and
- researchers: about the occurrence of the pest in Europe and developing detection methods (traps, etc.) appropriate for EAB to be placed at the BIP and final destinations of ash firewood in Hungary

could result in early detection to allow quick response to *Agrilus planipennis* and hopefully contribute to the long-term protection of ash from its threats.

6. Conclusions of the monitoring programme (2014-2018)

The risk on this pathway is quite low - at the moment(!) because

- no confirmed data on the occurrence of EAB in Ukraine;
- vast majority of wood consignments arrive from the southwestern part of Ukraine – not close to the supposed natural spreading area of EAB;
- volume of firewood trade is not significant and has reduced by over 25% in the past 3 years due to the increased prices of the demanded commodity;
- the share of ash (*Fraxinus*) in firewood imports is negligible, constantly below 1%! (around 30 consignments/year), firewood quality is not poor – though not heat-treated at all.

Acknowledgement:

Sincere thanks to the phytosanitary inspectors at the Ukrainian border (Záhony, Hungary) for their constant monitoring and reporting work in a good cooperation with the local customs office.