



FIVI comments on measures to prevent the establishment and spread of *Popillia japonica* Newman and on measures for the eradication and containment of that pest within certain demarcated areas of the Union territory
COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) .../... of XXX

FIVI - **Federazione Italiana Vignaioli Indipendenti** (www.fivi.it) – counts today over 1600 companies and it aims to represent nationally the producers who carry out the entire chain within their own company, starting from the cultivation of the vineyard to the direct sale of the bottle, passing through vinification.

FIVI welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the recently released Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) .../... of XXX on measures to prevent the establishment and spread of *Popillia japonica* Newman and on measures for the eradication and containment of that pest within certain demarcated areas of the Union territory.

1. Measures to prevent the establishment and spread of *Popillia japonica* Newman and on measures for the eradication and containment of that pest within certain demarcated areas

The Italian Independent winegrowers positively welcome the action carried on by the European Commission, recognizing the importance of intervention at the first stages. In some Italian regions, indeed, the presence of the insect is largely spread, causing huge damages to cultivation and the absence of a common national plan of intervention jeopardizes the situation.

Specifically, FIVI agrees with the following measures of interventions proposed in the Regulation, considering them strategic for those countries where the insect is not present yet:

- i. (Article 4) Contingency plan elaborated by each member state;
- ii. (Article 5) Establishment of demarcated areas: *where the presence of the specified pest is officially confirmed, the Member State concerned shall, without delay, establish a demarcated area for the purpose of eradication of the specified pest*
- iii. (Article 9) Eradication measures;
- iv. (Article 10) Containment measures

2. Implementation of tailor made training courses

FIVI considers crucial to provide tailor made training course for farmers, in order to both educate and raise awareness of the risk. Indeed, it is fundamental to recognize the first signals of the presence of the insect, avoiding further spread.

3. Definition of coherence with the European sustainability goals

Taking into account the sustainability goals established at the European level, FIVI underlines the importance of defining, within the new regulation, dedicated funds in order to reach out new and more sustainable alternatives that can be used to contain the diffusion of the insect.