Info on Electronic Phytosanitary Certificates (ePhytos) and Digital Collaboration from the EU Commission

Export certificates - EU Commission request reciprocity for online transmission flexibility for EU exports:

- Last week, the European Commission sent a letter to all trading partners to inform them that electronic export certificates and scanned copies would be accepted for imports into the European Union, waiving the requirement to present original paper certificates as a temporary working solution in the context of COVID-19.

- This week, DG SANTE has sent a further communication asking third countries for reciprocal measures in their treatment of EU exports of animals, plants and their products, as these have likewise experienced difficulties in presenting original paper certificates issued by EU competent authorities to border inspection posts.

- In the Communication, the Commission asked third countries to ensure that consignments originating in the EU will be accepted on the basis of scanned copies of the original paper certificates whenever it is not possible to present the original paper certificate and provided that the original form follows at a later stage. If a country is a user of the TRACES platform, the scanned copies could be replaced by the EU harmonised export certificates issued and transmitted through TRACES.

- The Commission also asked third countries’ authorities to inform all EU Member States, EU Delegations and the European Commission of the steps that exporters need to take in order to benefit from such a trade facilitating measure with regard to certification.