

#TheGoodPestManager December

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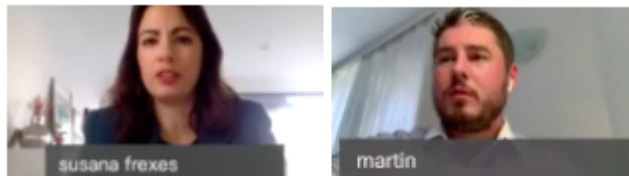
#TheGoodPestManager

December 2020

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CEPA Quarterly Meeting held virtually, featuring guest speakers MEP Martin Hlaváček, and EU Correspondent, Susana Frexes



CEPA successfully held digitally its Quarterly Meeting on Tuesday 24th of November. This new digital format is being maintained due to the COVID-19 situation.

Henry Mott, CEPA President, welcomed the useful insights provided by special guest speakers Member of European Parliament (MEP), Martin Hlaváček and Portuguese EU correspondent journalist, Susana Frexes.

EU Portuguese journalist correspondent, Susana Frexes focused on the EU's priorities at present such as the importance of the incoming 2021-2027 EU Budget and Recovery Fund and its current blockage from two Member States (Poland and Hungary). She continued her presentation by introducing the next key issues that the incoming during the first 2021 Semester Portuguese Presidency might encounter: The future EU-UK post Brexit relationship; To reach a compromise on the future European Climate Law and EU leaders Social Summit in May in Porto on harmonization of EU workers' wages. On another note, the Member of European Parliament (MEP), Martin Hlaváček, member of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee and previous Czech Vice-Agriculture Minister, provided some more specific Farm-to-Fork Strategy and European Green Deal input and its consequent implications for the pest management industry.

MEP Martin Hlaváček expressed that "*CEPA is well prepared and positioned thanks to multiple competitive advantages because CEPA membership are authorized professionals which will also help to broaden its work area*". MEP Martin Hlaváček suggested "*three areas relevant for CEPA's potential work within the link between the Farm-to-Fork Strategy, biodiversity and the fulfillment of the Green Deal by monitoring and mitigating climate change probable ramifications*". He concluded by thanking and acknowledging CEPA membership's hard work considering their essential role during the current COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges that it imposed in the pest management sector, making it more relevant than before. MEP Martin Hlaváček also confirmed that he is a big Integrated Pest Management (IPM) supporter.

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Invasive species Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) highlights the weakness in the European approach to invasive species



*Since 2018 Anticimex Sweden have on several occasions encountered the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (*Halyomorpha halys*) in goods imported from the European continent writes Håkan Kjellberg, Board Member of CEPA.*

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) is native to eastern Asia, as shown on the map above. It has during the last 20 years spread across the World (2001 USA, 2004 Europe, 2017-18 Australia). In many warmer areas the species has quickly become a pest in fruit and vegetable cultivations, resulting in produce that is unfit for sale. The BMSB may also have the

potential to interfere with local trophic webs and thus poses a threat to several agro-ecosystems. Therefore, the species could cause major economic damage.

In Sweden, due to its relatively harsh winter climate, BSMB is not a present threat to such cultivations. However, with a warmer climate, this may change, at least for the southern part of the country, which also happens to be the hot spot for fruit production in Sweden. In October 2020, Anticimex Sweden found the BMSB several times in cargo from Italy and one time for both Hungary and Poland. Unfortunately, since the BMSB is not on the **European Union's list of invasive alien species** there is no legislation to regulate the control of this species. Another problem is that the Swedish Board of Agriculture handles this species from an agricultural, plant protection view, and Anticimex from a customer-based view (i.e. Anticimex most often find the BMSB in imported goods in warehouses, far from farmlands). Since, there is no legislation in use for this species Anticimex is restricted to using mechanical and physical methods including vacuum-cleaning of the goods, glue traps, heat or freezing treatment etc.; actions clearly defined within the scope of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

This text highlights the problem with European legislation which is aimed at tackling such pests, but which is not applicable for the situations where Anticimex finds the BMSB, outside of the agricultural context and in the urban, supply chain environment. For Sweden, and other countries where this bug has not yet successfully established, it is of high importance that all available control methods, including the use of biocides, can be used to hinder the spread.

The concern is that European authorities may miss vital information on the means through which this species, and other alien species, is spread. This is due principally to a restrictive regulatory focus in tackling these issues, addressing agricultural threats from invasive pests once they have arrived in farms and orchards, overlooking much of the preventative steps which can be undertaken across supply chains by the professional pest management sector. Improvements must be made in the gathering of key information from pest control operators that often are on the front line in encountering invasive pests such as the BMSB, and bringing a holistic perspective to pest management in Europe.

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Pests need Passports 🎙️ **Talking Pest Management interview with Håkan Kjellberg**



Talking Pest Management is a leading worldwide source of pest control news and opinion. It is designed for business leaders and opinion formers around the globe and explores current market situations and also innovative new technologies.

Their videos feature interviews with prominent industry figures to bring you market-affecting insights, with the aim of helping people make informed business decisions in our industry and beyond. The series has so far featured CEPA board members such as [Henry Mott](#), [Ian Andrew](#), [Håkan Kjellberg](#), [Rune Bratland](#), [Patrick Vernié](#) and [Monica Biglietto](#).

Click below to watch the new Talking Pest Management interview with Håkan Kjellberg, on his recent experiences with the Marmorated Stink Bug...



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