Scientific Panel on Plant Health (PLH)

Minutes of the 77th Plenary meeting

21 & 22 November 2018; Parma, (Italy)

"Meeting room: EFSA – MO7"

(Agreed on 12 December 2018)

Participants

- Panel Members

  Claude Bragard, Katharina Dehnen-Schmutz, Francesco Di Serio, Paolo Gonthier, Josep Jaques Miret, Annemarie Fejer Justesen, Alan MacLeod, Sven Christer Magnusson, Panagiotis Milonas, Juan A. Navas-Cortés, Roel Potting, Philippe Lucien Reignault, Hans-Hermann Thulke, Wopke Van der Werf, Antonio Vicent, Jonathan Yuen, Marie-Agnès Jacques, Lucia Zappalà, Stephen Parnell

- Hearing Experts:

  Stephan White, Daniel Chapman and Gianni Gilioli (members of the EFSA PLH Panel WG on the update of *X. fastidiosa* pest risk assessment)

  Muriel Suffert (EPPO)

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

  Panagiota Mylona

- EFSA:

  ALPHA Unit: Elma Bali, Michela Chiumenti, Ewelina Czwienczek, Alice Delbianco, Makrina Diakaki, Ciro Gardi, Michela Guzzo, Tomasz Kaluski, Virag Kertesz, Mart Kinkar, Svetla Kozelska, Nikolaus Kriz, Andrea Maiorano, Maria Rosaria Mannino, Elisabeth Meyer-Landrut, Joshua Oyedele, Marco Pautasso, Stefano Preti, Giuseppe Stancanelli, Emanuela Tacci, Sara Tramontini and Sybren Vos

  SCER Unit: Bernard Bottex

  AMU Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

  ED Office: Riccardo Siligato

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Katharina Dehnen-Schmutz

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes

3. Declarations of Interest of Scientific Committee/Scientific Panel/ Members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Panel members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process.

Certain interests were declared orally by the members before the beginning of the meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Oral Declaration(s) of Interest made at the beginning of the meeting, please refer to the Annex.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 76th Plenary meeting held on 26 & 27 September 2018 Parma Italy

The minutes of the 76th Plenary meeting held on 26 & 27 September 2018 Parma Italy were agreed by written procedure on 15 October 2018 and published on 16 October on the EFSA website at: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/180926-4

5. New Mandates

5.1. Scientific opinion regarding import of corn seed from US into the EU

The mandate regarding the evaluation of a US derogation request for the EU import of corn seed was presented to the panel. The Panel Chair nominated Wopke van der Werf to chair this WG. The first meeting of this WG is planned for December, when the WG will discuss the Terms of Reference and the work plan.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and/or possible adoption/endorsement

Scientific opinion on Pest Categorisations:

WG on Viruses group categorisation

5.2. Scientific opinion on the List of non-EU viruses of *Cydonia* Mill. (EFSA-Q-2018-00272), *Fragaria* L. (EFSA-Q-2018-00633), *Malus* Mill. (EFSA-Q-2018-00634), *Prunus* L. (EFSA-Q-2018-00635), *Pyrus* L. (EFSA-Q-2018-00636), *Ribes* L. (EFSA-Q-2018-00637),

Rubus L. (EFSA-Q-2018-00638) and *Vitis* L. (EFSA-Q-2018-00639)

The Chair of the WG presented the draft opinion on the List of non-EU viruses of *Cydonia* Mill., *Fragaria* L., *Malus* Mill., *Prunus*, *Pyrus* L., *Ribes* L., *Rubus* L. and *Vitis* L., including the main changes respect to the previous version and an update on the comments and data provided by the EU National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs) on the viruses and viroids. In this opinion, the Panel on Plant Health performed a listing of non-EU viruses and viroids (reported hereinafter as viruses) of *Cydonia* Mill., *Fragaria* L., *Malus* Mill., *Prunus* L., *Pyrus* L., *Ribes* L., *Rubus* L. and *Vitis* L. A systematic literature review identified 197 viruses infecting one or more of the host genera under consideration. Viruses were allocated into three categories i) 87 non-EU viruses, known to occur only outside the EU or having only limited presence in the EU [i.e. reported in only one or few Member States (MSs) and/or known to have a restricted distribution], ii) 96 viruses excluded at this stage from further categorization efforts because they have significant presence in the EU (i.e. only reported so far from the EU or known to occur or be widespread in some MSs or frequently reported in the EU), iii) 14 viruses with undetermined standing for which available information did not readily allow to allocate to one or the other of the two above groups. Comments provided by MSs NPPOs during consultation phases were integrated in the opinion. The main knowledge gaps and uncertainties of this listing concern (i) the geographic distribution and prevalence of the viruses analysed, in particular when they were recently described; (ii) the taxonomy and biological status of a number of poorly characterised viruses; (iii) the host status of particular plant genera in relation to some viruses. The viruses considered as non-EU and those with undetermined standing will be categorised in the next steps to answer the specific mandate from the European Commission to develop pest categorisations for non-EU viruses.

The Opinion was adopted on 22 November 2018.

5.3. Scientific opinion on Pest Categorisation of non-EU viruses of *Cydonia, Malus, Pyrus* (EFSA-Q-2018-00790, EFSA-2018-00784, EFSA-Q-2018-00786)

The Chair of the WG presented the draft opinion on Pest Categorisation of non-EU viruses of *Cydonia, Malus, Pyrus*, which will then be circulated to Panel for comments until 10 December and proposed for a written adoption procedure from mid-December to end-December 2018.

High Risk Plants commodity risk assessment

5.4. Update on the publication of the EFSA Technical Report on "Information required for dossiers to support demands for import of high risk plants, plant products and other objects as foreseen in Article 42 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031"

The Technical Report on " required for dossiers to support demands for import of high risk plants, plant products and other objects as foreseen in Article 42 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031" was briefly presented and the Panel was updated on the upcoming activities related to the Mandate on High Risk Plants.

5.5. Endorsement for public consultation of the draft Guidance on the evaluation of technical dossiers to support demands for import of high risk plants, plant products and other objects (EFSA-Q-2018-00117)

Firstly, the WG chair presented in detail the methodology for commodity risk assessment for high-risk plants and provided examples. Secondly, the WG chair went through the draft Guidance document explaining the structure of the document and the general flow-chart of the commodity risk assessment. In this context the need of a further discussion and decision regarding the connected pest categorisations was pointed out and discussed. The specific methodology used in each part of the Guidance including proposal for the final evaluation of the likelihood of pest freedom of a consignment was then explained. The follow-up discussion focused specifically on the approach for the final evaluation of the likelihood of pest freedom of a consignment. The Panel discussed in detail and clarified the two proposed steps of this final evaluation, i.e. (i) the likelihood expression of subjective probability and (ii) the quantitative expression of subjective probability and agreed on including both steps in the Guidance. The WG was asked to amend the draft document according the comments and proposals received during the discussion and to submit an updated version to the PLH Panel for further comments and then for written endorsement of the draft Guidance for public consultation.

WG on Agricultural Fungal Pathogens

5.6. Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation of *Septoria lycopersici var. malagutii* (EFSA-Q-2018-00017)

The WG Chair presented the draft opinion on the pest categorisation of *Septoria malagutii*, the causal agent of annular leaf spot of potato, for the European Union (EU). The pest is a well-defined fungal species and reliable methods exist for its detection and identification. *S. malagutii* is present in Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela; it is not known to occur in the EU and is listed as *Septoria lycopersici* var. *malagutii* in Annex IAI of Directive 2000/29/EC. The major cultivated host is *Solanum tuberosum* (potato), but other tuber-forming *Solanum* species as well as wild solanaceous plants are also affected. Hosts and pathways of entry of the pest into the EU are currently regulated. Host availability and climate matching suggest that *S. malagutii* could establish in parts of the EU and further spread mainly by human-assisted means. The pest affects leaves, stems and petioles of potato plants (but not the underground parts, including tubers) causing lesions, leaf necrosis and premature defoliation.

In some infested areas, the disease has been reported to cause almost complete crop loss with favourable weather conditions and susceptible potato cultivars. The introduction of the pest into the EU would potentially cause impacts to potato production. The main uncertainties concern the host range, the maximum period the pest can survive on host debris in soil, the maximum distance over which conidia of the pest could be dispersed by wind-driven rain and the magnitude of potential impacts to the EU. *S. malagutii* meets all the criteria assessed by EFSA for consideration as potential Union quarantine pest. The criteria for considering *S. malagutii* as a potential Union regulated non-quarantine pest are not met, since the pest is not known to occur in the EU.

The Opinion was adopted on 22 November 2018.

5.7. Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation of *Phyllosticta solitaria* (EFSA-Q-2018-00018)

The WG Chair presented the draft opinion on the pest categorisation of *Phyllosticta solitaria*, the causal agent of blotch of apple, for the European Union (EU). The pest is a well-defined fungal species and methods are available for its detection and identification. *P. solitaria* is present in Canada and the continental states of the USA. The pest is not known to occur in the EU and is listed in Annex IAI of Directive 2000/29/EC, meaning its introduction into the EU is prohibited. The major cultivated host is *Malus domestica* (apple), but wild *Malus* and *Crataegus* species may also be affected. All hosts and major pathways of entry of the pest into the EU are currently regulated. The disease is favored by warm, wet weather during the growing season. Host availability and climate matching suggest that *P. solitaria* could establish in parts of the EU and further spread mainly by human-assisted means. The pest causes premature defoliation, fruit cracking and rot, and twig and branch cankers. At the beginning of the 20th century, disease incidences of 70-90% on fruit of untreated susceptible apple cultivars had been reported and the disease was considered as a limiting factor in the commercial production of those cultivars. Nowadays, the disease is rare in commercial apple orchards, probably due to regular fungicide sprays against other diseases. The pest introduction in the EU would potentially cause impacts to apple production. The main uncertainties concern the host range, the maximum distance of conidial dispersal by wind-driven rain, and the magnitude of potential impacts to the EU. *P. solitaria* meets all the criteria assessed by EFSA for consideration as a potential Union quarantine pest. The criteria for considering *P. solitaria* as a potential Union regulated non-quarantine pest are not met, since the pest is not known to occur in the EU.

The Opinion was adopted on 22 November 2018.

WG on Forest Fungal Pathogens

5.8. Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation of non-EU *Cronartium spp.* (EFSA-Q-2018-00037)

A member of the WG presented the draft opinion on the pest categorisation of *Cronartium* spp. (non-EU), a well-defined and distinguishable group of fungal pathogens of the family Cronartiaceae. There are at least 40 species described within the *Cronartium* genus, of which two are considered native to the EU (*C. gentianeum* and *C. pini*) and one has been introduced in the 19th-century (*C. ribicola*) and is now widespread in the EU – these three species are thus not part of this pest categorisation. In addition, the non-EU *C. harknessii*, *C. kurilense* and *C. sahoanum* were already dealt with in a previous pest categorisation. All the non-EU Cronartium species are not known to be present in the EU and are regulated in Council Directive 2000/29/EC (Annex IAI) as harmful organisms whose introduction into the EU is banned. *Cronartium* spp. are biotrophic obligate plant pathogens. Many of the North American *Cronartium* species alternate between the aecial host Pinus spp. and telial hosts of various dicotyledonous plants. *C. conigenum, C. orientale, C. quercuum* and *C. strobilinum* have different *Quercus* spp. as their telial hosts. *C. orientale* and *C. quercuum* also infect *Castanea* spp. and *Castanopsis* spp. The pathogens could enter the EU via host plants for planting and cut flowers and branches. Non-EU *Cronartium* spp. could establish in the EU, as climatic conditions are favourable to many of them and *Pinus* and *Quercus* spp. are common. The pathogens would be able to spread following establishment by movement of host plants, as well as natural spread. Should non-EU *Cronartium* spp. be introduced in the EU, impacts can be expected on pine, oak and chestnut woodlands, plantations, ornamental trees and nurseries. The *Cronartium* species present in North America cause important tree diseases. Symptoms on Pinus spp. differ between Cronartium spp., but include galls, cankers, dieback of branches and stems, deformity, tree and cone death. The main knowledge gap concerns the limited available information on (sub)tropical *Cronartium* spp. The criteria assessed by the Panel for consideration of *Cronartium* spp. (non-EU) as potential quarantine pests are met, whilst, for regulated non-quarantine pests, the criterion on the pest presence in the EU is not met.

The Opinion was adopted on 22 November 2018.

5.9. Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation of *Gymnosporangium spp.* (EFSA-Q-2018-00036)

A member of the WG presented the draft opinion on the pest categorisation of *Gymnosporangium* spp. (non-EU), a well-defined and distinguishable group of fungal plant pathogens of the family Pucciniaceae affecting woody species. Many different *Gymnosporangium* species are recognized, of which at least 14 species are considered not to be native in

the European Union. All the non-EU *Gymnosporangium* species are not known to be present in the EU and are regulated in Council Directive 2000/29/EC (Annex IAI) as harmful organisms whose introduction into the EU is banned. *Gymnosporangium* spp. are biotrophic obligate plant pathogens. These rust fungi are heteroecious as they require *Juniperus, Libocedrus, Callitropsis, Chamaecyparis,* or *Cupressus* (telial hosts) and rosaceous plants of subfamily Pomoideae (aecial hosts) to complete their life cycle. The pathogens could enter the EU via host plants for planting (including artificially dwarfed woody plants) and cut branches. They could establish in the EU, as climatic conditions are favourable and hosts are common. They would be able to spread following establishment by movement of host plants for planting and cut branches, as well as by natural dispersal. Should *Gymnosporangium* spp. (non-EU) be introduced in the EU, impacts can be expected in orchards, ornamental trees and nurseries. On telial hosts, these pathogens cause galls on stems, twigs and branches, and fusiform swellings on stems. Foliar infections on aecial hosts may lead to severe defoliations. The main knowledge gap concerns the limited available information on the biology, distribution range and impact of several non-EU *Gymnosporangium* spp. The criteria assessed by the Panel for consideration of *Gymnosporangium* spp. (non-EU) as potential quarantine pests are met, whilst, for regulated non-quarantine pests, the criterion on the pest presence in the EU is not met.

The Opinion was adopted on 22 November 2018.

WG on Forest Insects

5.10. Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation of *Pseudopityophthorus minutissimus* & *Pseudopityophthorus pruinosus*, (EFSA-Q-2018-00041, EFSA-Q-2018-00042) (*possibly to be anticipated to morning if time available*)

The WG Chair presented the draft opinion on the pest categorisation of *Pseudopityophthorus minutissimus* and *P. pruinosus*, two well-defined insect species in the family Curculionidae, subfamily Scolytinae (Insecta: Coleoptera). They can be identified using taxonomic keys. *P. minutissimus* is present in parts of Canada and the USA, and *P. pruinosus* is present in parts of the USA, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico. The main host plants of the two species are *Quercus* spp., but they also attack several other genera. The two species mostly colonise weakened or dead branches but can also attack the stems. They are mostly secondary pests but they vector the oak wilt fungus, *Bretziella fagacearum*, which causes heavy damage in American *Quercus* spp. populations. The fungus is mainly transmitted by the young adults during their maturation feeding on twigs, leaf petioles, and young acorn stems. The beetles are polygamous and have two generations per year in most of their range. The main pathways are wood, bark, plants for planting, cut branches, chips and wood waste. These pathways are fully or partly regulated for the genera *Quercus*,

Castanea and *Prunus*. However, the pathways are not regulated for the following genera: *Carpinus*, *Fagus*, *Hamamelis*, *Alnus*. *P. minutissimus* and *P. pruinosus* meet all the criteria assessed by EFSA for consideration as potential Union quarantine pest. The criteria for considering *P. minutissimus* and *P. pruinosus* as potential Union regulated non-quarantine pests are not met since neither species are known to be present in the EU.

The Opinion was adopted on 22 November 2018.

WG on Agricultural Insects

5.11. Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation of *Grapholita inopinata* (EFSA-Q-2018-00026)

The WG Chair presented the draft opinion on the pest categorisation of *Grapholita inopinata*, (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae), the Manchurian fruit moth, for the territory of the European Union (EU). *G. inopinata* is a well-defined species that is recognised as a major pest of *Malus* spp. in Far East Russia, Eastern Siberia and northern China. *G. inopinata* is less common in Japan where it is not a serious pest. *G. inopinata* is not known to occur in the EU. *G. inopinata* is listed in Annex IIAI of 2000/29 EC as a harmful organism regulated on *Cydonia, Malus, Prunus* and *Pyrus* from non-European countries. Adult *G. inopinata* emerge in the summer, mate and lay eggs on host leaves and fruit. Larvae burrow into the fruit to develop. Larvae exit fruit and overwinter under bark, under leaf litter or in the soil. Import of host fruit provide a potential pathway into the EU. Restrictions on the import of host plants for planting closes other potential pathways. *G. inopinata* occurs in a range of climates in Asia, some of which also occur in the EU. Wild and commercially grown hosts are available within the EU. *G. inopinata* has the potential to establish within the EU. There could be one or two generations per year as in its native range. Impacts could occur in pome fruit orchards. The level of impacts would be uncertain. Phytosanitary measures are available to reduce the likelihood of introduction of *G. inopinata*. *G. inopinata* meets all the criteria assessed by EFSA PLHP to satisfy the definition of a Union quarantine pest. *G. inopinata* does not meet the criteria of occurring within the EU, nor plants for planting being the principal means of spread, so does not satisfy all the criteria for it to be regarded as a Union regulated non-quarantine pest (RNQP).

The Opinion was adopted on 22 November 2018.

5.12. Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation of *Carposina sasakii (niponensis)* (EFSA-Q-2018-00027)

The WG Chair presented the draft opinion on the pest categorisation of the peach fruit moth, *Carposina sasakii* Matsumura (Lepidoptera; Carposinidae) for the European Union (EU). *C. sasakii* is not currently

regulated in the EU although *C. niponensis,* a valid species of no economic significance that was previously mistakenly synonymised with *C. sasakii,* is regulated in Annex IIAI of 2000/29 EC. *C. sasakii* is a well-defined species that is recognised as a major pest of apples, peaches and pears in eastern China, Japan, Korea and Far East Russia. *C. sasakii* is not known to occur in the EU. Adult *C. sasakii* emerge in the spring or early summer. Eggs are laid on host fruits. Larvae burrow into the fruit to develop. Infested fruits often drop early. Larvae exit fruit and overwinter in the soil. In the more southern areas of distribution there can be two or more generations per year. Import of host fruit provides a potential pathway into the EU. *C. sasakii* occurs in a range of climates in Asia, some of which occur in the EU. Wild and commercially grown hosts are available within the EU. *C. sasakii* has the potential to establish within the EU where there could be one or two generations per year. Impacts could be expected in apples, pears and other rosaceous fruit crops. The level of impacts would be uncertain. Phytosanitary measures are available to reduce the likelihood of introduction of *C. sasakii*. *C. sasakii* meets all the criteria assessed by EFSA PLHP to satisfy the definition of a Union quarantine pest. *C. sasakii* does not meet the criteria of occurring within the EU, nor plants for planting being the principal means of spread, so does not satisfy all the criteria for it to be regarded as a Union regulated non-quarantine pest (RNQP).

The Opinion was adopted on 22 November 2018.

5.13. Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation of *Grapholita (Enarmonia) prunivora* (EFSA-Q-2018-00028)

The WG Vice-chair presented the draft opinion on the pest categorisation of *Grapholita prunivora* (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae), an oligophagous moth whose larvae feed mostly on leaves and fruit of different Rosaceae including cultivated apples, plums, cherries and pecans. It overwinters in soil and bark crevices of its host plants. *G. prunivora* has reliable identification methods, both for adults and immature stages. It occurs in North America, where it can impact pome and stone fruit production, especially when broad spectrum insecticides targeting pome and stone fruit key pests are substituted by more selective crop protection methods (i.e., mating disruption, biological control). *G. prunivora* is regulated in the European Union (EU) by EU Directive 2000/29/EC where it is listed in Annex IIAI using the synonym *Enarmonia prunivora*. Plants for planting, fruit, cut branches, and bark are potential pathways. Most, but not all hosts are regulated, eg. pecan (*Carya* sp.). There are no records of interception of this species on Europhyt. Biotic and abiotic conditions are conducive for establishment and spread of *G. prunivora* in the EU. Therefore, were *G. prunivora* to establish, impact on pome and stone fruit production could be expected. Considering the criteria within the remit of EFSA to assess its regulatory plant health status, *G. prunivora* meets with no uncertainties the criteria for consideration as a potential Union

quarantine pest (it is absent from the EU, potential pathways exist, and its establishment would cause an economic impact). Given that *G. prunivora* is not known to occur in the EU, it fails to meet this criterion required for regulated non-quarantine pest (RNQP) status.

The Opinion was adopted on 22 November 2018.

6.12b. Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation of non-EU Cicadomorpha, vectors of *Xylella* spp. (EFSA-Q-2018-00792)

The Vice-chair of the WG Agricultural Insects gave a short presentation on the interpretation of the Terms of Reference. The group of Cicadellidae (non-EU) known to be vector of Pierce's disease (caused by *Xylella fastidiosa*) is amongst pests listed in the Appendices to the Terms of Reference (ToR) to be subject to pest categorisation to determine whether it (i.e. the group) fulfils the criteria of a quarantine pest or those of a regulated non-quarantine pest for the area of the EU excluding Ceuta, Melilla and the outermost regions of Member States referred to in Article 355(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), other than Madeira and the Azores. As *Xylella* spp. (xylem-limited bacterium) is known to be transmitted to plants by the whole group of xylem sap-feeding insects (Redak et al., 2004; Almeida, 2005; EFSA, 2018) (approximately 30 000 species), the WG decided to follow the specific strategy to focus on the most important exotic vectors described in the literature and captured in the *Xylella* spp. host plant database (EFSA, 2018).

22 November 2018, 08:30 – 13:00

6. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels, EFSA

6.1. PLH Scientific Panel including its Working Groups

Fruit flies pest categorisation

6.1.1. Tasking grant on non-EU fruit flies (Tephritidae) pest categorisation – presentation of the extensive data collection conducted by University of Thessaly

The WG chair of the Agricultural insects WG gave an update presentation for the work conducted by the EFSA Tasking Grant project on the large group Pest categorisation for non-EU Tephritidae (fruit flies). He presented some general information about the Tephritidae family. Current status of the work was shown to the PLH Panel and explanation was given regarding the way of approaching the pest categorisation and listing of about 4300 Tephritidae species based on their distribution, feeding habits and hosts. Tasking grant group proposed a possible ways of organising the collected information for opinion preparation.

Xylella fastidiosa

6.1.2. Update of the working group on the pest risk assessment of *Xylella fastidiosa* (EFSA-Q-2018-00069)

The *Xylella* Woking Group presented all the ongoing activities to the PLH Panel in a 1.5 hour dedicated session. The Panel made questions and discussed mainly on the asymptomatic period work, in relation to the survival analysis approach, on the potential establishment, with some observations and questions in relation to the methodological approach, preliminary results, and uncertainties, and to the long spread modelling in relation to the complexity of the work and data availability.

Bonsai plants derogations

6.1.3. Short update of the working group on Bonsai Plant derogations (EFSA-Q-2017-00715, EFSA-Q-2018-00277)

Firstly, the WG chair briefly presented the state of art of the mandate dealing with the request from Japan regarding export of black pine (*Pinus thunbergii* L.) bonsai to the EU. The WG analysed in detail the additional technical information provided by Japanese competent Authority in written and during the hearing with the hearing experts from Japan on 9 November 2018. The WG chair explained to the Panel in detail the approach and criteria for selection of actionable pests including an example how the WG will summarise the relevant information. In the follow-up discussion the approach how to perform the evaluation of the risk reduction options for the actionable pests and assess the pest freedom of the commodity was explored.

Secondly, the WG chair briefly mentioned the mandate dealing with the request from China regarding export of Japanese white pine (*Pinus parviflora* L.) bonsai to the EU. EFSA submitted a letter with a request for additional information to the European Commission. The WG will continue with its work on the opinion when the additional information will be available

6.2. EFSA including its Working Groups/Task Forces

6.2.1. Update on the R4EU online application for PLH Panel quantitative pest risk assessment

An update on the R4EU online application for quantitative pest risk assessment was provided to the Panel.

6.2.2. Update on the request to provide technical support to the JRC with the regard to climate suitability and impact assessment for candidate Union priority pests (M-2017-0136)

The EU Priority pests Woking Group has reached its third activity step: after the methodology development and its application to three case studies, the WG is currently assessing the impact for the remaining 25 potential candidate priority pests indicated by mandate.

The main parameters are estimated with the help of the expert knowledge elicitation approach in order to obtain results which are comparable and supported by a thorough rationale. The final delivery is planned for end of June 2019.

6.3. Scientific Committee and its Working Groups

An update was provided by the Panel Chair

7. Feedback from the European Commission

Feedback was provided by the EU Commission representative on the risk assessment and scientific advice delivered by the Panel and its use by the EC Annexes WG.

8. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

8.1. Presentation on EPPO Platform on PRAs, a tool to improve collaboration

The EPPO representative presented the EPPO online platform on PRAs. Acknowledging that many PRAs are produced at the national level and that providing a database to present them would be useful for EPPO countries, to increase awareness on new pests and share knowledge, EPPO has recently launched its Platform on PRAs.

This platform aims to share information on activities on evaluation of pest risk in the EPPO region. It includes national PRAs produced by EPPO countries (e.g. Express PRAs, quick scans, interception PRAs,

commodities PRAs), on all pests including invasive plants in any language. It also includes PRAs and pest categorisations done for the EU or wider territory by EPPO and EFSA. Countries may also share draft PRAs, or plans for future PRAs.

The Panel welcomed the EPPO initiative and congratulated EPPO on the development of the PRA platform.

9. Any other business

9.1. Open Plenary in January 30-31

9.1.1. Guidelines for Observers

The panel received explanation of the guidelines for Observer as well as the needed information regarding an Open Plenary

9.2. EFSA trainings for Panel Members: Environmental risk assessment for Biological hazards, tentative date in February 2019

The Panel will receive an email with the different possible dates to enrol in the EFSA training.

Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the Oral Declaration of Interest done at the beginning of the meeting

With regard to this meeting, Dr. Francesco Di Serio declared the following interest: with regard to the draft Scientific opinion on the List of non-EU viruses of *Cydonia* Mill., *Fragaria* L., *Malus* Mill., *Prunus* L., *Pyrus* L., *Ribes* L., *Rubus* L. and *Vitis* L., he informed the Panel that he participates to the work on this opinion as coordinator of an EFSA Art. 36 Tasking Grant Specific Contract. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[1] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[2], and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest (CoI).
This results in the exclusion of the expert from discussion or voting as PLH Panel Member of item 6.7, however he can participate to this agenda meeting to present the work he conducted under the EFSA Art 36 Tasking Grant Specific Contract.

[1] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf