ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

Scientific Panel on Plant Health

Minutes of the 87th Plenary meeting

WEB conference, 10- 11 June 2020

(Agreed on 2 July 2020)

Participants

- **Panel Members**

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

- **Hearing Experts:**

Andrew Hart

Daniel Flo

- **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:**

Maria Belen Marquez Garcia, Maria Kammenou, Panagiota Mylona (EC, DG SANTE, Unit Plant Health)

- **EFSA:**

ALPHA Unit: Caterina Campese, Laura Carotti, Ewelina Czwienczek, Eduardo De La Peña, Alice Delbianco, Ciro Gardi, Svetla Kozelska, Nikolaus Kriz, Andrea Maiorano, Maria Rosaria Mannino, Giulia Mattion, Alzbeta Mikulova, Marco Pautasso, Maria Chiara Rosace, Oresteia Sfyra; Giuseppe Stancanelli, Franz Streissl, Emanuela Tacci and Sara Tramontini.

AMU Unit: Olaf Mosbach Schulz, José Cortiñas Abrahantes

SCER Unit: Bernard Bottex

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes

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

Nothing to declare.

4. Report on written procedures since 85th PLH Plenary meeting

4.1 86th Plenary minutes, agreed by written procedure

Plenary minutes were agreed on April 16th and were published on EFSA web site on April 17th https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/event/2020/86th-plh-plenary-meeting-minutes.pdf

5. New mandates

PLH team leader updated the PLH panel members on the upcoming foreseen mandates.

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

6.1 Art. 29 Scientific opinion on Pest categorisation of the Andean Potato Weevil (APW) complex (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) (previously Called *Premnotrypes* spp.)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of the species within the Andean Potato Weevil (APW) complex (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) for the EU. The complex consists of 14 species, 12 belong to the genus *Premnotrypes,* plus *Phyrdenus muriceus* and *Rhigopsidius tucumanus*. These weevils co-occur in the Andean region, usually above 2,100 m. Eggs are deposited in plant debris close to potato plants. Upon hatching larvae immediately bore into potato tubers where they complete development. Except for *R. tucumanus*, which pupates inside the tuber, mature larvae leave the tuber and pupate in the soil. Adults can survive feeding on different plants but cannot deposit fertile eggs unless fed on potato foliage. *P. muriceus* can also complete development feeding on tomato and eggplant roots and occurs at lower altitudes from southern USA to central Argentina. Within the APW complex only species in the genus *Premnotrypes* are regulated in Annex IIA of Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072 as *Premnotrypes* spp. (non-EU). Within this regulation potential pathways, such as solanaceous plants for planting with foliage and growing medium, seed and ware potatoes, and soil, can be considered as closed. There are no records of interception of any of these weevils in EUROPHYT. Should these species be introduced into the EU, climatic conditions and wide availability of potato crops in the EU territory would provide conditions for establishment, spread and economic impact. Phytosanitary measures are available to reduce the likelihood of entry. The species within the APW complex satisfy with no uncertainties the criteria that are within the remit of EFSA to assess, for them to be regarded as potential Union quarantine pests. Although human-assisted movement of seed potatoes is considered the main mechanism for spread of these species, these weevils do not

meet the criterion of occurring in the EU for them to be regarded as potential Union regulated non-quarantine pests.

The scientific opinion was adopted on 11 June 2020.

6.2 Art. 29 Scientific opinion on Pest categorisation of *Helicoverpa zea*

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Helicoverpa zea* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) (American cotton bollworm, corn earworm) for the European Union (EU). *H. zea* is a polyphagous species that feeds on over 100 plant species. The crops most frequently recorded as host plants are maize, sorghum, cotton, beans, peas, chickpeas, tomatoes, aubergines, peppers and, to a lesser extent, clover, okra, cabbages, lettuces, strawberries, tobacco, sunflowers, cucurbits and ornamentals. *H. zea* preferentially feeds on flowers and fruits of the host. Eggs are laid mostly on maize silks. Larvae feed on the silks and kernels. Pupation takes place in the soil. Hibernation and estivation as pupa are reported. Adults are nocturnal. *H. zea* is a strong flier, able to fly up to 400 km during migration. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 (Annex IIA) regulates *H. zea.* Fruits and plants for planting, with and without soil, provide potential pathways for entry into the EU. Climatic conditions and the availability of host plants provide conditions to support establishment in the EU. The introduction of *H. zea* could have an economic impact in the EU through qualitative and quantitative effects on agricultural production (e.g. tomatoes, soybean, sweet corn). Phytosanitary measures are available to reduce the likelihood of entry. *H. zea* satisfies the criteria that are within the remit of EFSA to assess for it to be regarded as a potential Union quarantine pest. *H. zea* does not meet the criteria of (a) occurring in the EU, and (b) plants for planting being the principal means of spread for it to satisfy the criteria that are within the remit of EFSA to assess for it to be regarded as a potential Union regulated non-quarantine pest.

The scientific opinion was adopted on 11 June 2020.

6.3 Art. 29 Scientific opinion on Pest categorisation of *Ripersiella* (*Rhizoecus*) *hibisci*

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Ripersiella hibisci* (Hemiptera: Rhizoecidae) for the European Union (EU). *R. hibisci* occurs in Japan, China and Taiwan and has spread to the USA: Florida, Hawaii and the territory of Puerto Rico. *R. hibisci* is a polyphagous mealybug recorded feeding on roots of monocotyledonous and dicotyledonous plants. Root damage reduces nutrient and water uptake, retards plant growth and may cause leaves to wilt or discolour, heavily infested plants can die. Literature most commonly refers to damage to greenhouse grown potted ornamentals such as *Cuphea, Hibiscus, Pelargonium* and *Phoenix*. All life stages occur in the soil and host plants for planting with growing media provide a pathway for eggs, nymphs and adults. Multiple overlapping generations occur in greenhouses each year. *R. hibisci* is listed in Annex IIA of EU Regulation 2016/2031, appearing with the synonym *Rhizoecus hibisci*. All plants for planting from third countries are regulated. The import of soil or growing medium attached to plants for planting from third

countries (other than Switzerland) is prohibited and therefore reduces the likelihood, but does not prevent entry of *R. hibisci*, as individuals may remain attached to the roots. There have been interceptions of *R. hibisci* in the EU, usually on artificially dwarfed plants, i.e. bonsai / penjing. Findings in EU greenhouses have been eradicated. *R. hibisci* would be able to establish in the EU, greenhouse potted plant production would be most affected. Phytosanitary measures are available to lower the likelihood of introduction. *R. hibisci* satisfies the criteria that are within the remit of EFSA to assess for it to be regarded as a potential Union quarantine pest. *R. hibisci* does not meet the criterion of occurring in the EU for it to be regarded as a potential Union regulated non-quarantine pest.

The scientific opinion was adopted on 11 June 2020.

6.4 Art. 29 Scientific opinion on Pest categorisation of tomato leaf curl New Delhi virus

Following a request from the European Commission, the Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation on tomato leaf curl New Delhi virus (ToLCNDV). ToLCNDV is a well-defined bipartite Begomovirus species, sometimes associated with satellite molecules. It is transmitted by *Bemisia tabaci* to a wide range of hosts. ToLCNDV is reported from Estonia, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain, with limited distribution. The prevalent strain (ToLCNDV-ES) in these countries is particularly adapted to cucurbits and is different from isolates reported outside the EU, which are better adapted to solanaceous crops and could therefore pose additional risk for EU agriculture. The virus is regulated under Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. The main pathway of entry identified is plants for planting of susceptible hosts, even if entry could also occur via commodities carrying viruliferous *B. tabaci* and possibly by seeds. While establishment and local spread rely on *B. tabaci*, the virus can also be dispersed over long distances by movement of infected plants for planting. Establishment and spread are limited to regions with ecoclimatic conditions suitable for the establishment of vector populations (southern regions of Europe) or can occur as outbreaks wherever crops are grown under protected cultivation. The main uncertainties associated with this pest categorisation are the distribution and prevalence of ToLCNDV in the EU, the magnitude of the virus impact particularly on hosts different from *Cucurbitaceae*, and seed transmission. ToLCNDV meets all the criteria evaluated by EFSA to qualify as potential Union Quarantine Pest (QP); conversely, ToLCNDV does not meet the criterion of being widespread in the EU to qualify as a Regulated Non-Quarantine Pest (RNQP). Should new data show that ToLCNDV is widespread in the EU, the possibility would exist for non-EU isolates to qualify as QP, while ToLCNDV EU isolates (ToLCNDV-ES) could qualify as RNQP.

The scientific opinion was adopted on 11 June 2020.

6.5 Art. 29 Scientific opinion on Commodity risk assessment of Jasminum polyanthum plants from Israel

The draft opinion on the commodity risk assessment of *Jasmimum polyanthum* plants from Israel was presented and discussed. Following the conduct of additional expert knowledge elicitations for plant pests by the Working Group, the draft opinion will be updated and presented to the Panel

for discussion and possible adoption at next Panel plenary meeting on 8-10 July 2020.

7 Feedback from Scientific Panel including their Working Groups, Scientific Committee, EFSA and European Commission

7.1 Update from Pest categorisation WGs: agricultural insects, plant viruses and plant bacteria, including methodological issues

The chair of the plant bacteria pest categorisation WG updated the Panel about the progress of the WG regarding the list and categorisation of phytoplasmas of tuber-forming *Solanum* spp., focusing on the categorisation of '*Candidatus* Phytoplasma americanum'. The Panel was informed of the plan for further work, including presentation at the Plenary meetings of the remaining relevant phytoplasmas and possible adoption at the November 2020 plenary meeting.

The chair of the Agricultural insects WG presented progress of the group and future planning. Pest categorisations summary of the work finalised and still ongoing was shown (38 out of 43 opinions were adopted up to June 2020). WG is now starting to work on the new mandate received from the European Commission regarding the potential entry pathways for non-EU Tephritidae on *Musa* spp. (banana and plantain) and will be supported by the University of Thessaly (Greece) in this activity.

7.2 Update from High Risk Plants WGs section I, II and III and Momordica WG, including methodological issues

The chair of the WG HRP Section II provided a short update focusing on two dossiers the WG is dealing with now, i.e. (i) a commodity risk assessment of *Ficus carica* plants for planting (bare-rooted plants and liners) from Israel and (ii) a commodity risk assessment of *Acer palmatum* plants for planting (bare-rooted plants, dormant without leaves, grafted on understock of *Acer davidii*) from China. The Panel was also informed about (i) the dossiers which EFSA has recently received from Serbia on *Corylus avellana*, *Juglans regia*, *Tilia* and *Populus* and (ii) about the next WG meetings.

7.3 Update on Quantitative pest risk assessment and uncertainty guidances, including:

a. Calendar of planned plenary discussion items and uncertainty training Basic introduction to scenario comparison

The Panel was reminded of the schedule of the training sessions on the quantitative pest risk assessment methodology foreseen in 2020. The

uncertainty training for the PLH Panel originally scheduled for November 2020 is postponed to March or June 2021, due to the Covid-19 epidemic, so as to make it possible to have the course in Parma.

b. Online exercise on scenario comparison using R4EU

An exercise on scenario comparison using the R4EU tool was run, using scenarios prepared in advance.

c. Round table: lesson learnt from exercise

The Panel discussed some issues related to scenario comparison in pest risk assessment and the lessons learnt from the exercise.

7.4 Update from Scientific Committee and its Working Groups

The Panel Chair updated on the work of the Scientific Committee: SC Panel made change of project plan for the Guidance on appraising and integrating evidence from epidemiological studies, which will be proposed for endorsement in June prior a testing phase, discussion on the EFSA strategy 2021-2027: so1, Chemical RA, Environmental RA: Next SC Plenary is scheduled for June 23 & 24, it would be an Open plenary to observers.

7.5 Update from European Commission

DG SANTE updated on the mandates sent to EFSA on non-EU Tephritidae on fruit of Musa species and on plant pests surveys. An update was also provided on the legislative follow up to the EFSA PLH Panel opinions.

7.6 Update from EFSA

a. PLH Activities: Publication, EFSA Grants

Panel was updated with the latest EFSA PLH publications and reminded about the EFSA ongoing art 36 Grant call for proposals.

b. Feedback from the 2020 Expert mutual assessment

Panel was updated with the result of the Survey of Experts Mutual Assessment and was informed about an open dialogue meeting going to be organised between June and mid September 2020. The dialogues will be held individually by the PLH team leader with each Panel member.

8 OPEN plenary 8-10 July 2020

EFSA guidelines for Panel plenary meetings open to observers

Panel was reminded that the next PLH Plenary on July 8-10 would be Open Plenary to observers; the EFSA guidelines for panel plenaries open to observers were shown to the Panel.

Open Plenary draft agenda

The Open Plenary draft agenda was shown during the plenary and discussed amongst PLH panel members and approved.

9 AOB wrap up & next Panel meeting

The Panel members were informed that all the Plenaries scheduled for 2020 would be done as a web plenary.