



# Scientific Panel on Plant Health

## MINUTES OF THE 92<sup>ND</sup> PLENARY MEETING

**WEB conference, 24 & 25 March 2021**

**(Agreed on 19 April 2021)**

### Participants

#### ■ Panel Members

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

#### ■ Hearing Experts

Françoise Petter and Camille Picard (EPPO); Andrew Hart; Kevin Schneider, (WU NL)

#### ■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives

Panagiota Mylona, Maria Kammenou, Rosalinda Scalia, Wolfgang Reinert, Maria Mirazchiyska and Maria Belen Marquez Garcia (EC DG SANTE Unit G1);

Iria Soto Embodas, Jesus Barreiro Hurle, Emilio Rodriguez Cerezo; Fabiola Di Bartolo, Berta Sanchez (JRC-SEVILLA)

#### ■ EFSA

**ALPHA Unit:** Caterina Campese, Ewelina Czwieniczek, Eduardo De La Peña, Alice Delbianco, Ciro Gardi, Ignazio Graziosi, Svetla Kozelska, Nikolaus Križ, Andrea Maiorano, Giulia Mattion, Alzbeta Mikulova, Marco Pautasso, Oresteia Sfyra; Giuseppe Stancanelli, Franz Streissl, Emanuela Tacci, Sara Tramontini and Sybren Vos.

**AMU Unit:** Olaf Mosbach Schulz

### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair welcomed the participants.

### 2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted

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

Nothing to declare

### **4. Report on written procedures**

#### **4.1. 91st PLH Plenary meeting minutes**

PLH plenary minutes of last Plenary were agreed and published on the EFSA website

### **5. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption**

#### **5.1. Art. 29 Scientific Opinion on Commodity risk assessment on *Juglans regia* from Moldova (EFSA-Q-2020-00532)**

The European Commission requested the EFSA Panel on Plant Health to prepare and deliver risk assessments for commodities listed in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 as 'High risk plants, plant products and other objects.' Taking into account the available scientific information, including the technical information provided by the applicant country, this Scientific Opinion covers the plant health risks posed by the following commodities: dormant, free of leaves grafted plants and rootstocks of *Juglans regia* imported from Moldova. A list of pests potentially associated with the commodities was compiled. The relevance of any pest was assessed based on evidence following defined criteria. None of the pests in the list fulfilled all relevant criteria and therefore none were selected for further evaluation. As a result, risk mitigation measures proposed in the technical dossier from Moldova were listed, but not further evaluated.

The opinion was adopted on 25 March 2021.

#### **5.2. Art. 29 Scientific opinion on Commodity risk assessment on *Corylus avellana* from Serbia (EFSA-Q-2020-00448)**

The European Commission requested the EFSA Panel on Plant Health to prepare and deliver risk assessments for commodities listed in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 as 'High risk plants, plant products and other objects.' This Scientific Opinion covers the plant health risks posed by the two following hazelnut commodities to be imported from Serbia. 1. Bare rooted plants: one to three-years-old plants of *Corylus avellana* or *C. avellana* grafted on *C. colurna*, without leaves. 2. Plants in pots: two-years-old plants of *C. avellana*, without leaves. The assessment was performed by taking into account the available scientific information, including the technical information provided by Serbia. The relevance of any pest for this opinion was based on evidence following defined criteria. One EU quarantine pest, i.e. Flavescence dorée phytoplasma, fulfilled all relevant criteria and was selected for further evaluation. For this pathogen, the risk mitigation measures proposed in the technical dossier from Serbia were evaluated separately for bare rooted plants and for plants in pots, taking into account the possible limiting factors. For the selected pathogen, an expert judgement

was given on the likelihood of pest freedom of plants for planting, for both commodities taken together, considering the risk mitigation measures, including uncertainties associated with the assessment. The Expert Knowledge Elicitation indicated, with 95% certainty, that between 9,837 and 10,000 bare rooted plants and plants in pots per 10,000 would be free of *Flavescence dorée* phytoplasma.

The opinion was adopted on 25 March 2021.

### **5.3. Art. 29 Scientific Opinion on Commodity risk assessment on *Robinia pseudoacacia* from Turkey (EFSA-Q-2020-00091)**

The European Commission requested the EFSA Panel on Plant Health to prepare and deliver risk assessments for commodities listed in Commission Implementing Regulation EU/2018/2019 as "High risk plants, plant products and other objects". This Scientific Opinion covers plant health risks posed by bare rooted and potted plants of *Robinia pseudoacacia* that are imported from Turkey, taking into account the available scientific information, including the technical information provided by the NPPO of Turkey. The relevance of any pest for this opinion was based on evidence following defined criteria. Three species, the EU-quarantine pests *Anoplophora chinensis* and *Lopholeucapsis japonica*, and the EU non-regulated pest *Phocazia shatungensis* fulfilled all relevant criteria and were selected for further evaluation. For these pests, the risk mitigation measures proposed in the technical dossier from Turkey were evaluated taking into account the possible limiting factors. For these pests, an expert judgement is given on the likelihood of pest freedom taking into consideration the risk mitigation measures acting on the pest, including uncertainties associated with the assessment. The estimated degree of pest freedom varies among the pests evaluated, with *L. japonica* being the pest most frequently expected on the imported plants. The Expert Knowledge Elicitation indicated, with 95% certainty, that between 9,521 and 10,000 plants per 10,000 would be free of *L. japonica*.

The opinion was adopted on 25 March 2021.

### **5.4. Art. 29 Scientific Opinion on Commodity risk assessment on *Nerium oleander* from Turkey (EFSA-Q-2020-00093)**

The European Commission requested the EFSA Panel on Plant Health to prepare and deliver risk assessments for commodities listed in Commission Implementing Regulation EU/2018/2019 as "High risk plants, plant products and other objects". This Scientific Opinion covers plant health risks posed by bare rooted and potted plants of *Nerium oleander* that are imported from Turkey, taking into account the available scientific information, including the technical information provided by the NPPO of Turkey. The relevance of any pest for this opinion was based on evidence following defined criteria. One species, the EU non-regulated pest *Phenacoccus solenopsis*, fulfilled all relevant criteria and was selected for further evaluation. For this pest, the risk mitigation measures proposed in the technical dossier from Turkey were

evaluated taking into account the possible limiting factors. For this pest, an expert judgement is given on the likelihood of pest freedom taking into consideration the risk mitigation measures acting on the pest, including uncertainties associated with the assessment. The Expert Knowledge Elicitation indicated, with 95% certainty, that between 9,719 and 10,000 plants per 10,000 would be free of *P. solenopsis*.

The opinion was adopted on 25 March 2021.

## **6. Feedback from Scientific Panel including their Working Groups, Scientific Committee, EFSA and European Commission**

### **6.1. New EC SANTE mandate on pest categorisation (phase 1) and pest risk assessment (phase 2)**

A new mandate to EFSA on pest categorisation and pest risk assessment (PRA) was introduced to the panel. The mandate was accepted by EFSA in March 2021 and has a deadline of 2026, requesting 53 pest categorisations for the pests listed on its Annexes A, B, D and E by March 2023, as well as the categorisation of non-EU Scolytinae of broadleaved trees. EFSA was also tasked to conduct quantitative PRAs for the 11 pests (listed on its Annexes A and E) by March 2024, including, for three of these pests (listed in Annex E of the mandate), climate change scenarios. The mandate also requests pest categorisations for the actionable pests identified by the ongoing commodity risk assessments resulting from the High Risk Plants WGs (Annex 1C).

### **6.2. An overview of the pests, pathways and crops in the new mandate**

A brief overview was given on the pests listed on the annexes of the new mandate on pest categorisations and pest risk assessments, including a brief description of their trade pathways and main host crops. The work will start with the 11 pests for which both pest categorisation and PRA are requested. In the first three years, 53 categorisations and 11 PRAs will be delivered, while in the following 3 years work will focus on a large number of categorisations for the actionable pests resulting from the ongoing commodity risk assessments of the High Risk Plants WGs.

### **6.3. Feedback from EFSA process improvement initiative and workshop for pest categorisation (phase 1)**

With the new mandate EFSA expects the workload to increase in terms of pest categorisation and quantitative pest risk assessment (QPRA). To prepare for this, the PLH New Mandate Process Optimisation project was launched to review existing processes for Pest Categorisation and QPRA, to identify opportunities for process improvement and efficiency gains. Feedback was given to the Panel on the outcome of the first workshop related to pest categorisation. Discussion topics and improvement proposals addressed among others the ways external experts and institutions are involved and the different sections of the pest categorisations template. The workshop on QPRA is being held the week after this plenary meeting.

#### **6.4. Work organisation, template update and outsourcing plan to support pest categorisation (phase 1) and next steps for QPRA (phase 2)**

The PLH Panel was informed about the work organisation and the work plan for the new mandate. Two WGs are established to address the mandate for pest categorisation: one on pest categorisation of arthropod pests, and one on pest categorisation of Plant Pathogens. The WG chairs were nominated by the Panel chair: Alan MacLeod will chair the WG on arthropod pests categorisation; Philippe Reignault will chair the WG on plant pathogens categorisation. The adaptations of the different sections of the pest categorisation template to the new (non-regulated) pests and the large amount of work is under discussion with SANTE colleagues. The outsourcing plan was also been briefly presented.

#### **6.5. Update on High Risk Plants commodity risk assessment template and way forward**

An update on the template was presented to the PLH Plenary. The most relevant changes, still under discussion and consolidation, regard: abstract; revision of the Interpretation of terms of Reference; improved definition of non-European pests (species, populations, etc.); improvement of the description of stepwise approach for selection of actionable pests; revised approach for the definition of EU limited distribution of a pest; addition of a paragraph dedicated to EKE methodology.

#### **6.6. Short update on climate suitability**

An update on the *EFSA guidance on climate suitability assessment for pest categorisation* was presented. The guidance was reviewed by the panel members and the final version is now available. Panel members highlighted the need to integrate the guidance with the technical report on the tool for climate suitability assessment based on climate classification under development. The technical report will be drafted soon after the development of the first version of the tool and presented at the next Panel Plenary.

#### **6.7. Feedback and activities update from WG High Risk Plants section I, section II (including new information submitted on China Japanese white pine bonsai plants derogation) and section III**

An update of the status of the HRP WGs (Section I, II, III) was presented.

The PLH Panel was informed on the activities of HRP WG Section I. It was the dossiers from Turkey on *Lonicera caprifolium* and on presented the status of *Berberis* spp.

For the dossier on *L. caprifolium* the pest list is currently being finalised by the WG. Integration of information were requested to Turkish NPPO on his dossier. On the activities on *Berberis* there will be the support of the Benaki Phytopathological Institute within the frame of an EFSA Art. 36 Tasking Grant.

The Panel was also informed that the dossier on *Pinus parviflora* bonsai plants from China was assigned to the HRP WG Section II. This dossier was originally in 2018 assigned to a PLH Panel WG on Japan black pine (*Pinus thunbergii*) bonsai derogation, however the clock for this dossier was stopped pending provision of additional information and clarifications. In February 2021, having received the additional clarifications and information, this dossier was then assigned to WG HRP Section II to effectively use the experience on the advanced commodity risk assessment methodology and the availability of expertise in this WG.

### **6.8. Feedback and activities update from WG on citrus fruit system approach for false codling moth**

An update on the status of the WG on citrus fruit system approach for false codling moth was presented.

### **6.9. Feedback and activities update from Scientific Committee**

The PLH Panel chair updated the Panel on the ongoing Scientific Committee project.

### **6.10. Update on Transparency Regulation**

The state of play on the implementation of Transparency Regulation and impact for the PLH panel was presented to the Panel. The Transparency Regulation will be implemented from 27 March 2021 onwards.

### **6.11. Feedback from EFSA**

- 3rd European Conference on *Xylella fastidiosa* and XF-ACTORS final meeting (online 26-30 April 2021): The Panel was informed on the ongoing organization of the 3rd European conference on *Xylella fastidiosa* and XF-ACTORS final meeting, together with number of participants and abstracts submitted.
- Uncertainty training calendar: The Uncertainty training is going to be held on May 20, the day after the plenary, for four hours, then on May 26, all day, May 27 half day.
- Plenary meetings calendar 2021-2022: The Panel had an overview of the calendar and confirmed the date for 2022 for the onsite meeting as well.

### **6.12. Discussion session on the quantitative PRA methodology: impacts**

A discussion session on the quantitative PRA methodology was organized, focusing on pest impact assessment.

#### **6.12.1.1. Introduction to the session & overview with examples of impact assessment in previous QPRAs (2nd tier approach)**

An introduction to the session was provided. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> discussion session on the qPRA methodology, after basics on distributions (March 2020), entry & scenario comparison (June 2020), establishment (theory (July 2020) and practice (September 2020) and spread (January 2021).

Some examples of impact assessments (using the tier 2 approach) from previous qPRAs were given.

#### **6.12.1.2. EKE on impact for EU priority pests (1st tier approach)**

The topic of expert knowledge elicitation on pest impact in the priority pest project was introduced.

#### **6.12.1.3. Socio-economic impact assessment of priority pests**

An overview of the socio-economic impact assessment in the priority pest project was provided by Berta Sanchez (JRC).

#### **6.12.1.4. EKE on impact of Xylella from the 2019 PRA update**

The expert knowledge elicitation on impact from the 2019 EFSA PRA on Xylella was described.

#### **6.12.1.5. From Xylella PRA EKEs to impact assessment in EU olive production**

How to assess the impact of Xylella on EU olive production starting from the EFSA expert knowledge elicitation was described by Kevin Schneider (Wageningen University).

#### **6.12.1.6. Environmental impact assessment & PLH ERA Guidance**

The environmental impact assessment methodology for pest risk assessments developed by EFSA PLH Panel was introduced.

#### **6.12.1.7. What is not covered by PLH panel impact assessment**

PLH panel chair and EFSA PLH Team Leader summarized the coverage of PLH pest impact assessments and the way forward on the topic regarding the new mandate from the European Commission.

#### **6.13. Discussion on USDA APHIS comments on the opinion on oak logs with bark**

After the publication of "Commodity risk assessment of oak logs with bark from the US for the oak wilt pathogen *Bretziella fagacearum* under an integrated systems approach" (<https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2020.6352>), EFSA was asked to reply to feedback of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA APHIS) provided to the European Commissions about the EFSA PLH Panel scientific opinion. Those comments and draft replies were discussed and agreed with the Panel. It