ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

Scientific Panel on Plant Health

Minutes of the 93rd Plenary meeting

Held on 19 May 2021, WEB

(Agreed on 01 July 2021)

Participants

- **Panel Members**

  Claude Bragard (Chair), 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**

  Rob Tanner and Camille Picard (EPPO);

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

  Maria Kammenou; Maria Belen Marquez Garcia; Maria Mirazchiyska; Panagiota Mylona; Wolfgang Reinert

- **EFSA**

  Alpha Unit: Caterina Campese, Martina Capelli, Ewelina Czwienczek, Eduardo De La Peña, Alice Delbianco, Ciro Gardi, Ignazio Graziosi, Virag Kertesz, Svetla Kozelska, Andrea Maiorano, Giulia Mattion, Marco Pautasso, Evgenia Sarakatsani, Giuseppe Stancanelli, Franz Streissl, Emanuela Tacci, Sara Tramontini and Sybren Vos.

  AMU Unit: Olaf Mosbach Schulz

  GMO Unit: Franz Streissl

- **Tasking Grant**

  Massimo Faccoli, Giovanni Iacopetti, Alžběta Mikulová, Fabio Stergulc (University of Padova, Italy)

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. Agreement of the minutes of the 92nd Plenary meeting held on 24&25 March 2021.

The minutes of the 92nd Plenary meeting held on 24-25 March 2021 were agreed by written procedure in 19 April.

5. Info from Panel coordinator on PLH Panel extension

The PLH Panel Coordinator informed the Panel that, following the extension of the current mandates for all EFSA Scientific Panels/Committee until 2024, it is planned to confirm or elect new Panel Chair and Vice-Chairs during the Plenary meeting scheduled on 7-8 July 2021

Candidates can express their interest to stand for election up to the day of the election by emailing the Panel coordinator. Panel Members can also nominate other members of the Panel.

If the current Chair and Vice-Chairs wish to continue in their roles and there are no other candidates, a simple majority of favourable votes will confirm them in the role. In all other cases, the procedure shall follow Article 4 of the Decision concerning the establishment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups. The outcome of the votes will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

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

6.1 Introduction to the changes in the template for Pest categorisation

The pest categorisation template used in the previous mandate has been reviewed and updated with the aim to speed up production and panel review of categorisations whilst at the same time satisfying needs of the Commission. Main proposals for changes were presented, focusing on different sections of the assessment such as pest biology, host range, legislation, pathways and measures. In order to have some practical examples, the draft template was tested by the Arthropod WG in three different insect categorisations as presented in agenda items 6.2 – 6.4.

6.2 Art. 29 Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation on *Elasmopalpus lignosellus* (EFSA-Q-2021-00214)

The European Commission requested the EFSA Panel on Plant Health conduct a pest categorisation of *Elasmopalpus lignosellus* (Zeller) (Leipidoptera: Pyralidae) for the territory of the European Union (EU) following interceptions of the organism within the EU and its addition to the EPPO Alert List. *E. lignosellus* feeds on over 70 species; hosts include cereals, especially maize, legumes, brassicas and a range of grasses. Seedlings of ornamental and forest trees can also be hosts. *E. lignosellus* is established in tropical and sub-tropical areas of North, Central and South America. Eggs are usually laid in the soil or on the lower stem of hosts. Larvae develop in the soil and feed on roots and stems causing stunting and yield losses. Plants for planting, rooted with growing media, or with stems cut close to the soil, and fresh vegetables harvested with stems, such as asparagus and cabbage, provide pathways for entry. Population development is favoured by dry and hot conditions (27 to 33 ^{o}C). Adults fly and can be carried in air currents. Adults are recorded from temperate areas within the Americas contributing some uncertainty regarding the limits of its establishment potential in the EU. Although cultivated and wild hosts are distributed across the EU, impacts are likely to be confined to production areas on sandy soils around the coastal Mediterranean during hot dry years. Phytosanitary measures are available to inhibit the entry of *E. lignosellus*. *E. lignosellus* satisfies the criteria that are within the remit of EFSA to assess for it to be regarded as a potential Union quarantine pest.

The scientific opinion on pest categorisation on *Elasmopalpus lignosellus* was adopted on 19 May 2021.

6.3 Art. 29 Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation on *Amyelois transitella* (EFSA-Q-2021-00212)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of the navel orangeworm, *Amyelois transitella* (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae), for the EU. This polyphagous species feeds on citrus, almonds, pistachios, grapes. and other crops cultivated in the EU. *A. transitella* occurs in North, Central and South America in a range of climates some of which also occur in the EU. Adult females lay up to 200 eggs on overripe, damaged, cracked, or mummified fruits or nuts. In citrus, eggs are laid at the navel end of damaged fruit. On occasions they may be found on adjacent leaves or stems. This species is not included in EU Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072. Potential entry pathways for *A. transitella*, such as plants for planting, and fruit, exist. The pest is not known to be present in the EU territory although it has been intercepted in Italy and Austria. Should *A. transitella* arrive in the EU the availability of hosts and occurrence of potentially suitable climates would be conducive for establishment. Should this species establish in the EU, yield and quality losses in citrus, nuts, stone and pome fruit production is anticipated. *A. transitella* satisfies the criteria that are within the remit of EFSA to assess for this species to be regarded as a potential Union quarantine pest.

The scientific opinion on pest categorisation on *Amyelois transitella* was adopted on 19 May 2021.

6.4 Art. 29 Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation on *Citripestis sagittiferella* (EFSA-Q-2021-00213)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of the citrus pulp borer, *Citripestis sagittiferella* (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae), for the EU. This oligophagous species, which feeds on *Citrus* spp., occurs in Southeast Asia, mostly in lowlands but can also be found up to 1,200 m above sea level. Adults oviposit on citrus fruit at any stage of the fruits development. Larvae feed in the fruit then abandon it to pupate in the soil within an earthen cocoon. *C. sagittiferella* is multivoltine in its native range. This species is not included in EU Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072. Potential entry pathways for *C. sagittiferella*, such as *Citrus* spp. plants for planting with foliage and soil/growing medium, and soil/growing medium by themselves can be considered as closed. The citrus fruit pathway remains open for countries where *C. sagittiferella* is known to occur. Indeed, this species was intercepted several times in the UK during the last decade. Hosts of *C. sagittiferella* are available (*Citrus* spp.) in the southern EU. The EU has climatic conditions that are also found in countries where *C. sagittiferella* occurs although it is unknown whether *C. sagittiferella* occurs in those areas. Economic impact in citrus production is anticipated if establishment and spread occurs. *C. sagittiferella* satisfies the criteria that are within the remit of EFSA to assess for this species to be regarded as a potential Union quarantine pest. There is uncertainty about the climatic requirements of this species, which may hamper its establishment in the EU.

The scientific opinion on pest categorisation on *Citripestis sagittiferella* was adopted on 19 May 2021.

6.5 Discussion on possible endorsement of the changes in the template for Pest categorisation

Most changes presented were agreed and endorsed by the Panel. For the proposal to introduce the concept of time horizon in categorisations the Panel recommended to wait for the outcome of the Uncertainty training and then rediscuss it at the next Plenary meeting. For the proposal to introduce the "best scientific judgement" concept in addressing the conclusions (in line with the EFSA guidance on the use of the weight of evidence approach in scientific assessments), the Panel requested to prepare a proposal in the template with clear interpretations that would be revisited and discussed.

6.6 Decision on possible adoption of the pest categorisations of *Elasmopalpus lignosellus*, *Amyelois transitella* and *Citripestis sagittiferella*

The three pest categorisations opinions were adopted on 19 May 2021.

6.7 Introduction to the changes in the template for Commodity risk assessment

The template for High Risk Plants commodity risk assessment, after almost two years of application and after discussion with the Chairs of HRPs and Pest Categorisation WGs, has been reviewed and updated, considering also

the feedback received from EC DG SANTE liaison officers and its fitness for purpose for risk managers needs. The most relevant changes were related to the definition of the concept of "limited distribution" of a pest in EU and on the clarifications regarding the pests (species, isolates, populations) that are regulated as "non-European".

6.8 Art. 29 Scientific Opinion on Commodity risk assessment of *Juglans regia* plants from Turkey

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 two years old grafted bare rooted plants for planting of *Juglans regia* imported from Turkey, taking into account the available scientific information, including the technical information provided by Turkey. The relevance of any pest for this opinion was based on evidence following defined criteria. Two EU quarantine pests, *Anoplophora chinensis* and *Lopholeucaspis japonica*, and 3 pests not regulated in the EU, two insects (*Garella musculana, Euzophera semifuneralis*) and one fungus (*Lasiodiplodia pseudotheobromae*), 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 by considering the possible limiting factors. For these pests, an expert judgement was given on the likelihood of pest freedom taking into consideration the risk mitigation measures acting on the pests, including uncertainties associated with the assessment. While the estimated degree of pest freedom varied among pests, *L. pseudotheobromae* was the pest most frequently expected on the commodity. The Expert Knowledge Elicitation indicated, with 95% certainty, that 9,554 or more grafted bare rooted plants per 10,000 will be free from *L. pseudotheobromae*.

6.9 Discussion on possible endorsement of the changes in the template for Commodity risk assessment

The amended template for High Risk Plants commodity risk assessment, was circulated to the Panel and to EC for the commenting phase and for possible endorsement. The received comments were addressed and presented at the Plenary. Some further suggestions for a minor change was proposed by a Panel member. The proposed and amended template, according to the comments received, was endorsed by the Panel.

6.10 Decision on possible adoption of the Commodity risk assessment of *Juglans regia* plants from Turkey

The Commodity risk assessment of *Juglans regia* plants from Turkey was adopted on 19 May 2021.

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

7.1 Brief update from WGs on Pest Categorisation & workplan, (including actions taken following the EFSA process improvement initiative and workshop)

The Arthropod WG Chair gave an update on the work planned within the group for the next years following the new mandate from the EC. Approximately 52 arthropod pest categorisation should be finalised by March 2023. This list will be regularly updated with the new actionable pests from the outputs of the High Risk Plant WGs.

7.2 Brief update from High Risk Plants WGs (section 1, 2 and 3) & workplan

The status of the ongoing activities in the three WGs was presented using Gantt charts.

7.3 Brief update from FCM WG

A brief update was provided on the activities and work plan.

7.4 Feedback from EFSA process improvement initiative and workshop on Quantitative Pest Risk Assessment (QPRA)

This point was postponed to July Plenary.

7.5 QPRA: setting up of QPRA process and EFSA support activities; climate suitability assessment and new EFSA Art. 36 Tasking Grant Call; QPRA WGs and Chairs nomination by Panel Chair

The Panel was informed about the new mandate on quantitative pest risk assessment. Two EFSA Panel WGs will be handling this mandate, section 1 (chair: Wopke van der Werf; EFSA coordinator: Ewelina Cwienczek) mainly on insects and section 2 (chair: Antonio Vicent; EFSA coordinator: Marco Pautasso) mainly on pathogens. The two WGs will be supported regarding climate suitability by Andrea Maiorano (EFSA, Alpha Unit) and a dedicated tasking grant.

7.6 Feedback and activities update from Scientific Committee, including reminder on upcoming Uncertainty training

The Panel was informed about the Scientific committee activities

7.7 Feedback from the European Commission

The Panel was informed about the European commission activities: next PAFF meeting is focused on the discussion of the amendment of the Annexes.

7.8 Feedback on the 3rd European Conference on *Xylella fastidiosa* and XF-ACTORS (online 26-30 April 2021)

The Panel was informed about the outcome of the 3rd European conference on *X. fastidiosa* and XF-ACTORS final meeting that were held online end of April. Information summarizing the organization of the event, the audience, and the next *X. fastidiosa* conference that will probably take place in 2023 in Lyon were provided to the Panel.

8. Any other business

The Panel and EFSA thanked and farewelled Marië-Agnes and Katharina, who after 3 years as Panel members will not continue their memberships due to other work commitment.