Scientific Panel on Plant Health

Minutes of the 96th Plenary meeting

Held on 21 October 2021, WEB

(Agreed on 05 November 2021)

Participants

- **Panel Members**

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

- **Hearing Experts**

  Camille Picard (EPPO), Emilio Stefani

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

  Filippa Di Maria, Panagiota Mylona, Wolfgang Reinert and Leonard Shumbe (EC SANTE).

- **EFSA**

  Alpha Unit: Caterina Campese, Martina Capelli, Ewelina Czwienczek, Alice Delbianco, Ciro Gardi, Ignazio Graziosi, Virag Kertesz, Svetla Kozelska, Nik Kriz, Andrea Maiorano, Luka Mustapic, Patricia Nascimento, Evgenia Sarakatsani, Giuseppe Stancanelli, Emanuela Tacci, Sara Tramontini and Sybren Vos.

  AMU Unit: Olaf Mosbach Schulz

  GMO Unit: Franz Streissl

- **Art. 36 Tasking Grant**

  Alzbeta Mikulova (University of Padova)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

1.1 EFSA guidelines for Panel plenary meetings open to observers

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. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption / endorsement

4.1 Art. 29 Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation *Oligonychus mangiferus* (EFSA-Q-2021-00379)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of the mango red spider mite, *Oligonychus mangiferus* (Rahman & Sapra, 1940) (Acari: Prostigmata: Tetranychidae), for the territory of the EU. This species is not included in the EU Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072. The polyphagous mite feeds on more than 50 host plants including tropical fruits such as mangoes and avocados and temperate fruits such as pears, peaches, pomegranates and grapes. It occurs in Africa, Asia, Oceania and south America. *O. mangiferus* is multivoltine and can develop throughout the year as long as temperatures are above 12°C. The species produces dense webs on the above-ground parts of their host plants, where all stages of development (egg, larva, nymph and adult) can be found. This species is considered a pest of mango, grapevine, lychee and pomegranate, mostly in areas with hotter climates than those occurring in the EU. Potential entry pathways for *O. mangiferus* include plants for planting with foliage, fruit and cut flowers. Plants for planting of a few hosts (i.e., *Pinus*, *Prunus*, *Pyrus*, *Rosa*, *Vitis* and Arecaceae), are banned from entering into the EU from countries where *O. mangiferus* is known to occur and can be considered as closed entry pathways. However, other plants for planting, as well as the fruit and the cut flowers pathways remain open. There are no EU records of interception. Should *O. mangiferus* enter the EU, the ample availability of hosts and the climatic conditions in the EU would most probably allow this species to successfully establish and spread, at least in southern MSs, where economic impact in different fruit production (e.g. pomegranate, mango, and grape) is anticipated. *O. mangiferus* 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 opinion was adopted by the PLH Panel on 21 October 2021.

4.2 Art. 29 Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation on *Crisicoccus pini* (EFSA-Q-2021-00378)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Crisicoccus pini* (Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae) for the European Union (EU) territory. This species is not included in the EU Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072. *C. pini*, a mealybug native to Japan, has spread to other parts of Asia, as well as to North America and Europe. It has been introduced to northern Italy (Emilia-Romagna), where it is under official control. It has also been mistakenly reported from France, although the report refers to a single finding in Monaco. It develops on *Abies, Keteleeria, Larix* and *Pinus* species (Pinaceae). It feeds on the needles, especially new growth. It is sexually reproductive, has one or more generations each year, and overwinters in the nymphal stage. The main natural dispersal stage is the first instar, which crawls over the plant or may be dispersed further by wind and animals. It can be transported over longer distances with plants for planting. Large populations cause yellowing, needle loss, reduction in growth and recruitment, dieback, and mortality. It has had a significant impact to *P. densiflora* (Japanese red pine) and *P. thunbergii* (black pine) in China, and *P. pinaster* (maritime pine) and *P. pinea* (stone pine) in Italy. Adult and immature *C. pini* could enter the EU with conifer plants for planting. The import of the host genera *Abies, Larix* and *Pinus*, from third countries is largely prohibited, although there are derogations for dwarfed *Pinus* coming from Japan and the Republic of Korea. The host genus *Keteleeria* may be imported with a phytosanitary certificate. Host availability and climate suitability indicate that most of the EU would be suitable for establishment. Phytosanitary measures are available to inhibit further introductions and slow the spread within the EU. *C. pini* satisfies all the criteria that are within the remit of EFSA to assess for it to be regarded as a potential Union quarantine pest.

The opinion was adopted by the PLH Panel on 21 October 2021.

4.3 Art. 29 Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation on *Xanthomonas campestris pv viticola* (EFSA-Q-2021-00331)

The EFSA Plant Health Panel performed a pest categorisation of *Xanthomonas citri* pv. *viticola* (Nayudu) Dye, a Gram-negative bacterium belonging to the Xanthomonadaceae family. The pathogen is a well-defined taxonomic unit and is the causal agent of the leaf spot and bacterial canker of *Vitis vinifera*. This bacterium is present in India and Brazil, where it affects table grape cultivation; the same pathogen is able to cause a disease on *Azadirachta indica* and on some weed species. Reports indicate that the bacterium is present in Thailand as well. The pathogen has never been reported from the EU territory and it is not included in EU Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072. The pathogen can be detected on its host plants using direct isolation, serological or PCR-based methods. Its

identification is achieved using biochemical and nutritional assays, together with a multilocus sequence analysis based on seven housekeeping genes. The main pathway for the entry of the pathogen into the EU territory is plant propagation material. In the EU there is large availability of host plants, with grapevine being one of the most important crops in Europe and more specifically in its Mediterranean areas. Since *X. citri* pv. *viticola* is only reported in tropical and subtropical areas (BSh and Aw climatic zones according to the Köppen-Geiger classification), there is uncertainty whether the climatic conditions in the EU territory are suitable for its establishment. Nevertheless, due to the great importance of grapevine for the EU agriculture, any disease outbreak may have a high economic impact. Phytosanitary measures are available to prevent the introduction of the pathogen into the EU. *X. citri* pv. *viticola* 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 opinion was adopted by the PLH Panel on 21 October 2021.

4.4 Art. 29 Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation on Apium virus Y (EFSA-Q-2021-00421)

Following a request from the EU Commission, the EFSA Panel on Plant Health conducted a pest categorisation of Apium virus Y (ApVY) for the EU territory. The identity of the ApVY, a member of the genus *Potyvirus* (family *Potyviridae*), is well established and reliable detection methods are available. The pathogen is not included in EU Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072. ApVY, considered endemic in Australia, was reported also in New Zealand and USA. In the EU, the virus was identified in Germany and Slovenia. No information on adoption of official control measures is available. In natural conditions, ApVY infects plant species of the family Apiaceae (i.e. celery, coriander, dill, parsley, bishop's weed) in which it generally induces leaf symptoms and/or stunting. In some hosts (i.e parsley and poison hemlock), ApVY may be asymptomatic. The virus is transmitted in a non-persistent manner by the aphid *Myzus persicae* which is widespread in the EU. Although ApVY transmission through seeds has been experimentally excluded for some hosts (i.e. poison hemlock and celery), uncertainty exists for the other hosts because seed transmission is not uncommon for potyvirids. Plants for planting, including seeds for sowing, were identified as potential pathways for entry of ApVY into the EU. Cultivated and wild hosts of ApVY are distributed across the EU. Economic impact on the production of the cultivated hosts is expected if further entry and spread in the EU occur. Phytosanitary measures are available to prevent further entry and spread of the virus. Currently, ApVY does not fulfil the criterion of being absent or present with restricted distribution and under official control to be regarded as a potential Union quarantine, unless

official control is implemented. This conclusion is associated with high uncertainty regarding the current virus distribution in the EU.

The opinion was adopted by the PLH Panel on 21 October 2021.

4.5 Art. 29 Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation on Carrot thin leaf virus (EFSA-Q-2021-00422)

Following a request from the EU Commission, the EFSA Panel on Plant Health conducted a pest categorisation of carrot thin leaf virus (CTLV) for the EU territory. The identity of CTLV, a member of the genus *Potyvirus* (family *Potyviridae*), is well established and reliable detection methods are available. The pathogen is not included in the EU Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072. CTLV has been reported from the USA and Colombia. In the EU, the virus was reported in Germany and Slovenia and the NPPO of both countries confirmed these reports. No official national measures have been taken so far. In 2018, CTLV was reported from Greece on *Torilis arvensis* ssp. *arvensis*. Since then, no other reports exist. According to the NPPO, the virus did not establish in Greece. In natural conditions, CTLV infects plant species of the family Apiaceae (i.e. carrot, coriander, parsley and several wild weed species). The virus is transmitted in a non-persistent manner by the aphids *Myzus persicae* and *Cavariella aegopodii*, which are widely distributed in the EU. CTLV has been reported not to be transmitted by carrot seeds, while no information is available for the other hosts. Since transmission through seeds is not uncommon for potyvirids, it cannot be excluded that CTLV can be seed transmitted for some hosts.
Plants for planting, including seeds for sowing, were identified as potential pathways for entry of CTLV into the EU. Cultivated and wild hosts of CTLV are distributed across the EU. Economic impact on the production of cultivated hosts is expected if further entry and spread in the EU occur. Phytosanitary measures are available to prevent further entry and spread of the virus on its cultivated hosts.
Currently, CTLV does not fulfil the criterion of being absent or present with restricted distribution and under official control to be regarded as a potential Union quarantine, unless official control is implemented. This conclusion is associated with high uncertainty regarding the current virus distribution in the EU.

The opinion was adopted by the PLH Panel on 21 October 2021.

Annex

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

With regards to this meeting, Dr. Francesco Di Serio declared the following interest with regards to the draft Scientific opinions on:

- Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation on Apium virus Y
- Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation on Carrot thin leaf virus

He informed the Panel that he participates to the work on these opinions 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 items 4.4 and 4.5, however, he can participate to this agenda meeting to present the work he conducted as coordinator of the related EFSA Art 36 Tasking Grant Specific Contracts.

[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