PLANT HEALTH AND PESTICIDES RESIDUES UNIT

Scientific Panel on Plant Health

Minutes of the 99th Plenary meeting

Held on 26-27 January 2022

EFSA, Parma, WEBMEETING[1]

(Agreed on 17 February 2022)

Participants

Panel Members

Paula Baptista, Claude Bragard, Elisavet Chatzivassiliou, 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, Emilio Stefani, Hans-Hermann Thulke, Wopke Van der Werf, Jonathan Yuen and Lucia Zappalà

Hearing Experts

Katharina Dehnen-Schmutz, Camille Picard (EPPO), Anne-Sophie Roy (EPPO), Francoise Petter (EPPO), Muriel Suffert (EPPO)

European Commission and/or Member States representatives

Filippa DI MARIA, Panagiota MYLONA, Wolfgang REINERT and Leonard SHUMBE (EC SANTE)

EFSA

PLANTS Unit: Caterina Campese, Ewelina Czwienczek, Alice Delbianco, Ciro Gardi, Ignazio Graziosi, Virag Kertesz, Svetla Kozelska, Andrea Maiorano, Luka Mustapic, Patricia Nascimento, Tobin Robinson, Evgenia Sarakatsani, Giuseppe Stancanelli, Emanuela Tacci, Sara Tramontini and Sybren Vos

GMO Unit: Franz Streissl

[1] All meetings were rescheduled to web meetings due to Covid-19

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- **Art. 36 Grant & Procurement**

  Vittorio Rossi, Maria Chiara Rosace, Giulia Mattion (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Piacenza, IT); Andrea Battisti, Lorenzo Marini, Giacomo Cavalotti (Università di Padova, IT); Martina Cendoya (IVIA, Valencian Institute for Agricultural Research, IT), Jacques Mahillon, Marie Verhaegen, Thomas Bergot (Earth&Life Institute, UCLouvain)

- **EFSA Tasking Grant**

  Alzbeta Mikulova (Università di Padova, IT)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the meeting participants. Apologies were received from Emilio Stefani.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest Scientific Panel Members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled in by the Scientific Panel Members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting had been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 98th Plenary meeting held on 16 December 2021, WEB

The minutes of the 98th Plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 11 January 2022.

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

5.1. Art. 29 Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation *Zaprionus indianus* (EFSA-Q-2021-00380)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Zaprionus indianus* (Diptera: Drosophilidae), the African fig fly for the territory of the EU. This species successfully colonized the Indian subcontinent more than four decades ago, and more recently South and North America. Within the EU, the pest occurs in Cyprus, Malta, Portugal (Madeira) and Spain (Canary Islands and Andalusia). *Z. indianus* is not listed in Annex II of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. The larvae of this fly feed on more than 80 plant species both cultivated and non-

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

cultivated. Females produce around 60-70 eggs. Egg laying mostly occurs in decaying fruit or fruit with injuries or mechanical damage. However, *Z. indianus* can oviposit on undamaged healthy fruit such as figs, strawberries and guavas which provide a potential pathway for entry into the EU. Lower temperature thresholds are around 9-10°C. Optimum development occurs at 28°C. The number of generations per year varies from 12 to 16. Climatic conditions in many EU member states and host plant availability in those areas are conducive for establishment. The introduction of *Z. indianus* is expected to have an economic impact in the EU especially on fig and strawberry production. Damage caused by other fruit flies (Drosophilidae and Tephritidae) could be increased by mixed infestations. Phytosanitary measures are available to reduce the likelihood of entry and further spread. *Z. indianus* satisfies all of 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 on 27 January 2022.

Art. 29 Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation *Pseudococcus cryptus* (EFSA-Q-2021-00705)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Pseudococcus cryptus* Hempel (Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae), the citriculus mealybug, for the EU. *P. cryptus* originates from Southeast Asia but is now established in East Africa, the Middle East and South America. The pest is not currently known to occur in the EU (there was a record once, in 2006, in a zoo/botanical garden from southern Spain). *P. cryptus* is not listed in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. It is polyphagous, feeding on plants in more than 90 genera in 51 families, and exhibits a preference for citrus (*Citrus* spp.) and palms (especially *Cocos nucifera*, *Elaeis guineensis* and *Areca catechu*). It is an important pest of citrus in Japan and parts of the Middle East, although in Israel it is controlled by natural enemies. It is sexually reproductive, has six overlapping generations each year in Israel, and each female lays up to approximately 150 eggs, depending on temperature and host species. The main natural dispersal stage is the first instar, which crawls over the host plant or may be dispersed further by wind and animals. Plants for planting, fruits, vegetables and cut flowers provide potential pathways for entry into the EU. Climatic conditions in EU member states around the Mediterranean Sea where there is host plant availability, especially citrus, are conducive for establishment. The introduction of *P. cryptus* is expected to have an economic impact in the EU through reduction in yield and quality of important crops (mainly citrus) and damage to various ornamental plants. Phytosanitary measures are available to reduce the likelihood of entry and further spread. *P. cryptus* meets 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 on 27 January 2022.

5.2. Art. 29 Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation *Toumeyella parvicornis* (EFSA-Q-2021-00706)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Toumeyella parvicornis* (Cockerell) (Hemiptera: Coccidae) for the European Union (EU) territory. This species is not included in EU Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072. *T. parvicornis* is a soft scale insect native to North America and has been introduced to the Caribbean region and the EU. It has been present in Italy since 2014 (Abruzzo, Campania, Lazio, and Apulia regions) and in France since 2021 (Provence–Alpes–Côte d'Azur region) and is under official control. It develops on *Pinus* spp. (Pinaceae), feeding on the needles and twigs, especially on new growth. It is sexually reproductive, has one or more generations each year (three in southern Italy), and adult females overwinter on the *Pinus* needles. It has a high fecundity, up to 1014 eggs per female in Italy, with

an average of 199 eggs for the summer generation and 730 for the overwintering generation. The main natural dispersal stage is the first instar, which crawls over the plant or may be dispersed further by wind and animals. The species can be transported over longer distances with plants for planting. Large populations cause yellowing, needle loss, reduction in growth and recruitment, flagging, dieback, and tree mortality. It has had a significant impact to *P. pinea* (stone pine) in Italy and caused a catastrophic decline of *P. caribbea* var. *bahamensis* (Caribbean pine) in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Adult and immature *T. parvicornis* could enter the EU with *Pinus* plants for planting, however, the import of Pinus from third countries where the scale is found is prohibited. 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. *T. parvicornis* 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 on 27 January 2022.

5.3. Art. 29 Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation on Plicosepalus acaciae (EFSA-Q-2021-00704)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Plicosepalus acaciae* (Zuccarini) Wiens & Polhill), the acacia strap flower, a hemiparasitic plant of the family Loranthaceae parasitising woody plants. Host plants include several species of the genera *Vachellia, Tamarix* and *Ziziphus* and various fruit crops. *P. acaciae* is present in the Middle East and Eastern Africa and is not known to occur in the EU. *P. acaciae* has a long flowering period of about 10 months, from June to April the following year, during which flowers are pollinated by insects and birds. *P. acaciae* produces single seeded red berries that are eaten by birds, which then disseminate the seeds. The only known bird observed to disseminate the seeds of *P. acaciae* is *Pycnonotus xanthopygos*, which has been recorded just once (Spain) but it is not established in the EU. *P. acaciae* could enter into the EU with host plants for planting. Host plants are present and suitable climatic conditions occur in parts of the EU. If a suitable bird would adapt to transfer the seeds, establishment and spread of *P. acaciae* within the EU would be possible. If *P. acaciae* would be able to establish and spread, impacts on some crop plants (e.g. *Juglans regia*, *Ficus carica, Punica granatum, Pistacia vera*), ornamental plants, as well as native vegetation could occur. *P. acaciae* fulfils the criteria that are within the remit of EFSA to assess for this species to be regarded as a potential Union quarantine pest. Uncertainty remains on bird species other than *P. xanthopygos* transferring *P. acaciae*, the magnitude of potential impacts, and the host range.
The opinion was adopted on 27 January 2022

5.4. Art.29 Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation on Atalodera andina (EFSA-Q-2021-00703)

Following a discussion on the uncertainties identified in the opinion it was decided to postpone the adoption to a next plenary meeting after more information from South America were sought.

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

6.1. Update from WG Arthropods pest categorisation

The WG chair updated the panel on work progress since the last plenary meeting. The WG is finalising the pest categorisations on *Sirex nitobei*, *Amathynetoides nitidiventris* and *Malacosoma disstria*. These 3 draft opinions will be circulated to the panel for their review before the planned adoption in February. The WG aims at delivering in total 45 pest categorisations until the deadline of March 2023.

6.2. Update from WG Plant pathogens pest categorisation

The WG chair provided an overview on the progress made by the WG pathogen pest categorisation since the last plenary meeting. The Panel was informed about the pest categorisations which are planned to be delivered in the next PLH plenary meetings and the ongoing activity of developing a group pest categorisation for *Colletotrichum* species.

6.3. Update from WG Quantitative pest risk assessment (QPRA) 1

The WG Chair updated the PLH Panel on the progress on 'Quantitative risk assessment of *Amyelois transitella* (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae)' since last plenary meeting. Central questions for entry and definitions were explained. Risky pathways are those that result in the highest number of pest transfers in the EU per year due to bringing large number of pest units to suitable hosts or habitat in the EU territory. The WG is assessing what is for those pathways the number of pest units that will come into contact with suitable hosts in the EU territory per year in the next five (or 10) years. New insights regarding *Amyelois* and commodity were obtained from the hearing experts. The WG is developing nuts and fruits evidence dossiers for this assessment.

6.4. Update from WG Quantitative pest risk assessment (QPRA) 2

The WG Chair updated the Panel about the progress of the WG in the risk assessment of *Xanthomonas citri* pv. *viticola*. Work is ongoing on the entry pathways to be quantified (including RROs), the climate data and the scenarios to be assessed regarding spread and impact.

6.5. Update from WG High Risk Plant section 1

The coordinator of the WG updated the Panel about the progress of the WG. The activities of the WG since the last plenary meeting focused on the finalisation of the Commodity risk assessment of *Jasminum polyanthum* unrooted cuttings from Uganda. The Panel was also informed on the dossier on *Ligustrum japonicum/delavayanum* received from UK.

6.6. Update from WG High Risk Plant section 2

The Chair of the WG updated the Panel about the progress of the WG. The activities of the WG since the last plenary meeting focused on the Expert Knowledge Elicitation for selected pests and pathogen of the Commodity risk assessment of *Acer palmatum* plants for planting grafted on rootstock of *Acer davidii* from China. The Panel was also informed on the status of four Ukraine dossiers.

6.7. Update from WG High Risk Plant section 3

The coordinator of the WG updated the Panel about the progress of the WG. The activities of the WG since the last plenary meeting focused on the finalisation of the Commodity risk assessment of *Malus domestica* plants from Moldova, where it was necessary to perform an EKE on *Xiphinema rivesi*, in light of information retrieved on the scientific literature on the possible presence of this pest in Moldova and considering the integration of information provided by the Moldovan NPPO. In addition to this, the WG has completed the EKE on the

actionable pests of *Malus domestica* from Turkey. The integration of information requested to UK in relation to the dossier on *Malus domestica* were received and verified.

6.8. Update on EFSA Grants & Procurements in Plant health

A presentation on EFSA Grants were given, in particular showing how to find in them in the EFSA website (**https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/engage**), how to apply and the scope of the different types of Grants available. An update of the currently open EFSA grants for plant health was given.

6.9. The Plantibio project: Reduce risk assessment uncertainties: data collection on antibiotics for control of plant pathogenic bacteria – presentation of an EFSA art. 36 project

The Plantibio project consortium representatives presented the objectives and the methodology used to retrieve information on the use of antibiotics as plant protection products on a worldwide scale and information on resistance to antibiotics in plant pathogenic bacteria. First results suggested that antibiotics are more widely used as plant protection products than expected. Specific examples on antibiotic substances used in plant protection and resistance mechanisms were presented. A symposium on antibiotic resistance in plant pathogenic bacteria will be organised as a satellite event in the EFSA One conference in June 2022. The objective is to present the EFSA Plantibio project and to trigger exchange on the use of antibiotics to control plant pathogenic bacteria, their resistance to antibiotics and alternative measures for controlling plant pathogenic bacteria. The target audience are scientists and stakeholders who could contribute to these topics.

6.10. The HoPPI Project: Hotspots for Plant Pests Introduction – presentation of an EFSA Art. 36 project

The HoPPI project consortium representatives showed to the PLH Panel the background, objectives and progress of the project. The HoPPI project defines what 'hotspots' are, focuses on the inventory of 'hotspots' for plant pests in the EU, develops a methodology for their identification and characterisation. It aims also to understand what determines hotspot factors to occur. The findings of the projects are going to be integrated into EFSA's quantitative risk assessments in the future. The discussion followed the presentation and possible new ways of collaborations were suggested and new sources shared with the HoPPI consortium.

6.11. New EC mandate on *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (probability of introduction - entry, transfer and establishment - via cut roses pathway)

The new EC mandate on the request to provide a scientific opinion for *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* introduction via the cut roses pathway was explained by the Commission, EFSA accepted this mandate on January 24, the deadline to produce one Scientific opinion is 24th October 2022.

6.12. Feedback from EC

The EC has recently completed its work to amending the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 as regards the listing of pests, prohibitions, and requirements for the introduction

into, and movement within, the Union of plants, plant products and other objects. After consultation, it was published on 22 December 2021 (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R2285). This legislative update was supported by the many new EFSA PLH Panel pest categorisations and EPPO PRAs.

6.13. Update on EFSA One conference

The Panel was informed on the EFSA Scientific Conference (ONE Conference), on the dates and on the program. Details, despite not final, were provided on the Plant Health thematic session, indicating the confirmed speakers.

7. Any Other Business

The Panel was reminded of the Panel plenary meetings calendar for 2022.