

Scientific Panel on Plant Health

Minutes of the 102nd Plenary meeting

Held on 29 April 2022

EFSA, Parma, WEBMEETING¹

(Agreed on 20 May 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, Roel Potting, Emilio Stefani, Hans-Hermann Thulke, Jonathan Yuen and Lucia Zappalà

■ Hearing Experts

Camille Picard (EPPO)

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives

Panagiota Mylona, Maria Belen Marquez Garcia, Wolfgang Reinert and Leonard Shumbe (EC SANTE)

■ EFSA

PLANTS Unit: Caterina Campese, Ewelina Czwieczek, 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

NIF Unit: Franz Streissl

MESE unit: Olaf Mosbach Schulz

■ EFSA Tasking Grant

Luisa Rubino (CNR, IT)

■ EFSA Procurement

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



Oresteia Sfyra

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the meeting participants. Apologies were received from Stephen Parnell, Philippe Reignault and Wopke van der Werf.

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 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 1.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 101st Plenary meeting held on 30-31 March 2022, WEB

The minutes of the 101st Plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 5 May 2022.

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

5.1. **Art. 29 Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation of Capsicum chlorosis orthotospovirus (EFSA-Q-2022-00100)**

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health conducted a pest categorisation of Capsicum chlorosis virus (CaCV) for the EU territory. The identity of CaCV, a member of the genus Orthotospovirus (family Tospoviridae), is established and reliable detection and identification methods are available. The pathogen is not included in the EU Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072. CaCV has been reported in Australia, China, India, Iran, Taiwan, Thailand and USA (Hawaii). In the EU, it has been reported once in Greece (Crete Island). The NPPO of Greece reported that CaCV is no longer present in Greece. CaCV infects plant species in the family Solanaceae (i.e. pepper, tomato) and several species of other families, including ornamentals. It may induce severe symptoms on its hosts, mainly on leaves and fruits, which may become unmarketable. The virus is transmitted in a persistent propagative mode by the thrips *Ceratothripoides claratris*, *Frankliniella schultzei*, *Microcephalothrips abdominalis* and *Thrips palmi*. *C. claratris* and *T. palmi* are EU quarantine pests. *M. abdominalis* is known to be present in several EU member states and it is not regulated in the EU. Plants for planting, parts of plants, fruits and cut flowers of CaCV hosts, and viruliferous thrips were identified as the most relevant pathways for the entry



of CaCV into the EU. Cultivated and wild hosts of CaCV are distributed across the EU. Should the pest enter and establish in the EU territory, impact on the production of cultivated hosts is expected. Phytosanitary measures are available to prevent entry and spread of the virus in the EU. CaCV fulfils 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 was adopted on **29 April** 2022.

5.2. Art. 29 Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation of *Oligonychus perseae* (EFSA-Q-2022-00068)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Oligonychus perseae* (Acari: Prostigmata: Tetranychidae), the perseae mite, for the EU. *O. perseae* is a tropical species that originated in Mesoamerica and has now spread and established in California, Florida, Hawaii, Morocco, southern Europe, and Israel. Within the EU, it is established in Italy, Portugal and Spain. *O. perseae* is not listed in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. It is polyphagous, feeding on plants in 20 genera in 17 families. It is most frequently reported on avocado (*Persea americana*), where it is considered a key pest. No evidence was found indicating damage to other crops. *O. perseae* live on leaves and don't attack the fruit. Populations usually grow exponentially at the beginning of summer and decline at the end of this season. High population densities can cause severe defoliation, resulting in downgrading of fruit through sunburn. However, this type of damage is common only if trees additionally suffer from water stress. The lack of additional avocado pests in the EU, which facilitates the production of organic avocados, is jeopardised by the occurrence of this mite, as it may require pesticide applications. This is why *O. perseae* is considered an important pest of avocados in Spain, where more than 80% of EU avocado production occurs. Natural dispersal is restricted to neighbouring trees. However, human-assisted movement can result in long-distance spread. Plants for planting provide potential pathways for further entry and spread, including *O. perseae*-free EU MS where avocados are grown (i.e. Cyprus, France, Greece). Climatic conditions and availability of host plants in southern EU countries are conducive for establishment. Phytosanitary measures are available to reduce the likelihood of further entry and spread. *O. perseae* satisfies with no key uncertainties 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 was adopted on **29 April** 2022.

5.3. Art. 29 Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation of *Russellaspis pustulans* (EFSA-Q-2022-00036)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Russellaspis pustulans* (Hemiptera: Asterolecaniidae), the oleander pit scale, for the EU. *R. pustulans* occurs widely in tropical and subtropical areas of the world and is restricted to indoor plantings in cooler temperate regions. Within the EU, it has been reported in some literature from Cyprus, Italy and Malta though not confirmed by the NPPOs. *R. pustulans* is not listed in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. It is very polyphagous, feeding on plants in 69 families and exhibits a preference for fig (*Ficus carica*) and oleander (*Nerium oleander*). *R. pustulans* was observed completing up to three generations per year in Egypt, with peaks of presence in June, October and December. 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, cut branches and fruits provide potential pathways for entry into the EU. Climatic conditions in some parts of southern EU countries are favorable and host plants are available in those areas to support establishment. However, the



magnitude of impact following introduction is uncertain. Phytosanitary measures are available to reduce the likelihood of entry and further spread. *R. pustulans* does meet 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 was adopted on **29 April** 2022.

5.4. Addendum of Commodity risk assessment of *Juglans regia* - Moldova (EFSA-Q-2020-00532)

The scientific opinion on Commodity risk assessment of *Juglans regia* plants from Moldova was adopted by the PLH Panel on 25 March 2021 and published on 6 May 2021 at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/6570>.

However, following the highlighting in the recent opinion on Commodity risk assessment for *Malus domestica* plants from Moldova of the uncertainty on the occurrence in Moldova of non-EU populations of *Xiphinema rivesi*, the Panel has reviewed the *Juglans regia*-Moldova opinion and deemed necessary to add *Xiphinema rivesi* non-EU populations as a actionable pest and to conduct an EKE to assess the likelihood of pest freedom for this pest also for the *Juglans regia*-Moldova commodity.

In particular, the Panel concluded that the EU-quarantine pest *Xiphinema rivesi* non-EU populations fulfilled the criteria assessed by the Panel and hence was selected for further evaluation. For this pest, the risk mitigation measures described in the technical dossier from Moldova were evaluated taking into account the possible limiting factors. An expert judgement was given on the likelihood of pest freedom for this pest taking into consideration the risk mitigation measures, including uncertainties associated with the assessment. The Expert Knowledge Elicitation indicated, with 95% certainty, that 9,959 or more bare rooted plants per 10,000 will be free from *X. rivesi* non-EU populations.

This opinion with this modification, considered by EFSA as a re-publication type Type III – Addendum (when an opinion is updated based on new evidence), will be republished on EFSA Journal including an Addendum Note explaining the changes and that, to avoid confusion, the original version of the output has been removed from the EFSA Journal, and remains available on request.

The Addendum and the changes were agreed by the Panel on 29 April 2022.

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

6.1 Short update from Working Groups (WG): WG on High Risk Plants section II

The Panel was updated on the ongoing activities and the work plan of the Working Group High Risk Plants section II regarding the scientific opinion on the likelihood of pest freedom from Emerald Ash Borer for US ash logs treated with sulfur fluoride.

7. Any Other Business



The Panel was reminded of the deadline for registration to ONE conference and PLANTIBIO workshop.

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

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

- Pest categorisation of Capsicum chlorosis orthospovirus (EFSA-Q-2022-00100) (item 5.1)

He informed the Panel that he participates to the work on this opinion as coordinator of EFSA Art. 36 Tasking Grant Specific Contract. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, 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 5.1, 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 Contract.

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