PLANT HEALTH AND PESTICIDES RESIDUES UNIT

Scientific Panel on Plant Health

Minutes of the 101th Plenary meeting

Held on 30 and 31 March 2022

EFSA, Parma, WEBMEETING[1]

(Agreed on 4 May 2022)

Participants

Panel Members

Paula Baptista, Claude Bragard, Elisavet Chatzivassiliou, Katharina Dehnen-Schmutz, Francesco Di Serio, Paolo Gonthier, Josep Jaques Miret, Annemarie Justensen, 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, Antonio Vicent Civera, Jonathan Yuen and Lucia Zappalà

Hearing Experts

Françoise Petter (EPPO), Camille Picard (EPPO), Rob Tanner (EPPO)

European Commission

Filippa Di Maria, Maria Kammenou, Maria Belen Marquez Garcia, Françoise Munaut, Wolfgang Reinert, Leonard Shumbe (EC SANTE)

EFSA

MESE unit: Daniela Maurici, Olaf Mosbach Schulz; NIF Unit: Franz Streissl; PLANTS Unit: Caterina Campese, Ewelina Czwienczek, Alice Delbianco, Ciro Gardi, Ignazio Graziosi, Virag Kertesz, Andrea Maiorano, Luka Mustapic, Patricia Nascimento, Tobin Robinson, Evgenia Sarakatsani, Giuseppe Stancanelli, Emanuela Tacci, Sara Tramontini and Sybren Vos.

Art. 36 Grants and Tasking Grants

Neil Boonham (NCL, UK); Polona Kogovšek (NIB, SI), Roy Macarthur (FERA, UK); Antonella Cristofori, Fabiana Cristofolini, Elena Gottardini, Li Mingai and Claudio Varotto (FEM, IT); Martina Cendoya, Elena Lazaro and Antonio Vicent (IVIA, ES); Renaud Ioos (ANSES, FR); Yana Debono Grech and John Baptist Cassar (MSDC-PPD, MT); Luca

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

European Food Safety Authority
Via Carlo Magno 1A – 43126 Parma, Italy
Tel. +39 0521 036 111
info@efsa.europa.eu | www.efsa.europa.eu

Riccioni (CREA-DC, IT); Irene Vloutoglou (BPI, GR); Anna Vittoria Carluccio and Luisa Rubino (CNR-IPSP, IT).

- **Open Plenary Observers**

Christopher Alinda, Ivica Angelovski, Katica Arar, Eduardo Batista, Paola Battilani, Valentino Bergamaschi, Irena Bogoeva, Kyeepa Bosco, Jorge Alexandre Fernandes Capitão, Sarah Chérasse, Bénédicte Delarue, Naim Delijaj, Anais Galvan Domenech, Clovis Douanla-Meli, Hasenem Ertaş, Natasha Farrugia, Sara Fišer, Harshvardhan Gaikwad, Magdalena Gawlak, Immanuel Joseph Grima, Maira Grossi De Sa, Emilia Jabłońska, Eleni Kalageropoulou, Bart Kalksma, Aynur Karahan, Brendah Kembabazi, Rose Kembabazi, Dimosthenis Kizis, Meelis Kõiv, Zala Kogej, Svetla Kozelska, Conor McGee, Marta Magdolenova, Belén Martínez, Delia Maureen, Paola Minardi, Francesca Minarelli, Joel Mpawulo, Charles Mugabi, Emmanuel John Namasa, Laura Orzali, Dimitrios Papachristos, Silvia Pečková, Joanna Puławska, Zahra Rodney, Gianni Sacchetti, Mahsa Salehi, Ankica Sarajlic, Bernhard C. Schäfer, Thomas Schiefecker, Gritta Schrader, Oresteia Sfyra, Davide Carmelo Spadaro, Nikolay Spasov, Charles Ssembalirwa, Hassan Sseka, Hassan Ssekawuka, Silvia Travella, Darren Vella, Viliana Vasileva.

1.0 Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the meeting participants.

2.0 Brief introduction of the Panel members, EFSA PLH team, observers and other participants

The Panel members and EFSA staff were introduced to the participants. The observers were welcomed to the plenary.

3.0 EFSA Guidelines for Observers

The EFSA guidelines for observers were presented.

4.0 Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

5.0 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 2.

6.0 Report on written procedures since 100th PLH Plenary meeting

6.1 100th Plenary minutes, agreed by written procedure

A report on the agreement by written procedure of the minutes of the 100th PLH Panel plenary meeting was presented.

7.0 Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption

7.1 Art. 29 Scientific opinion on Pest categorisation of High plains wheat mosaic virus (EFSA-Q-2021-00780)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health conducted a pest categorisation of High Plains wheat mosaic virus (HPWMoV) for the EU territory. The identity of HPWMoV, a member of the genus Emaravirus (family Fimoviridae), is well established and reliable identification methods are available. The pathogen is not included in the EU Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072. HPWMoV has been reported from Argentina, Australia, Canada, Ukraine and USA, and it is not known to be present in the EU. HPWMoV infects plant species of the family Poaceae (i.e., wheat, maize and several other cultivated or wild Poaceae species). It is the causal agent of High Plains disease of wheat and maize, inducing symptoms ranging from mild to severe mosaic, chlorosis and necrosis in wheat, and chlorotic streaks in maize plants. The virus is transmitted by the wheat curl mite *Aceria tosichella*, which is present in the EU. HPWMoV transmission via seeds was reported to occur in sweet corn. Sweet corn seeds for sowing were identified as the most relevant pathway for entry of HPWMoV into the EU. Seeds from other hosts and viruliferous wheat curl mites were identified as entry pathways associated with uncertainties. Machinery not appropriately cleaned may move infected seeds and/or parts of cereals infested by viruliferous mites. Cultivated and wild hosts of HPWMoV are distributed across the EU. Would the pest enter and establish in the EU territory, economic impact on the production of cultivated hosts is expected. Phytosanitary measures are available to prevent entry and spread of the virus in the EU. HPWMoV 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 31 March 2022.

7.2 Art. 29 Scientific opinion on Pest categorisation of *Aulacaspis tubercularis* (EFSA-Q-2021-00247)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Aulacaspis tubercularis* (Hemiptera: Diaspididae), the white mango scale, for the EU. *A. tubercularis* is a tropical species that originates from Asia but is now established in several tropical and subtropical regions throughout the world. It also occurs within the EU and is established in Italy, Portugal and Spain. *A. tubercularis* is not listed in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. It is polyphagous, feeding on plants in more than 37 genera in 23 families and is most frequently reported on mango (*Mangifera indica*). Indeed, it is considered one of the key pests of mango crops around the world. No evidence was found indicating damage to crops other than mango. *A. tubercularis* is established in southern Spain (Andalusia) with four overlapping generations and two population peaks, one in summer and another in autumn. Andalusia is the main mango producing area of the EU and A. *tubercularis* can cause losses through downgrading of fruit. 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 and fruits provide potential pathways for further entry and spread.

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 further spread. *A. tubercularis* 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 was adopted on 31 March 2022.

7.3 Art. 29 Scientific Opinion on Commodity risk assessment of *Malus domestica* – Turkey (EFSA-Q-2019-00790)

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 dormant grafted plants, rootstocks, budwood and scions of *Malus domestica* imported from Turkey, taking into account the available scientific information, including the technical information provided by Turkey. All pests associated with the commodities were evaluated against specific criteria for their relevance for this opinion. Two quarantine pests (*Lopholeucaspis japonica* and tomato ringspot virus), one protected zone quarantine pest (*Erwinia amylovora*) and eight non-regulated pests (*Calepitrimerus baileyi, Cenopalpus irani, Cicadatra persica, Diplodia bulgarica, Hoplolaimus galeatus, Malacosoma parallela, Pratylenchus loosi, and Pyrolachnus pyri)* that fulfilled all relevant criteria were selected for further evaluation. For *E. amylovora,* special requirements are specified in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. Based on the information provided in the dossier, the specific requirements for *E. amylovora* were not met. For *Anoplophora chinensis*, special measures are specified in Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2012/138. The exporting country does meet the requirement for a certificate regarding plants for planting that originate from Turkish provinces other than Istanbul. For the ten remaining selected pests, the risk mitigation measures proposed in the technical dossier from Turkey were evaluated taking into account the possible limiting factors. For the selected 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 degree of pest freedom varies among the pests evaluated, with *D. bulgarica* being the pest most frequently expected on the imported plants. The Expert Knowledge Elicitation indicated with 95% certainty that between 9,863 and 10,000 bundles (consisting of 10 or 25 plants each) per 10,000 would be free from *D. bulgarica*.

The scientific opinion was adopted on 31 March 2022.

7.4 Art. 29 Scientific Opinion on Commodity risk assessment of *Prunus domestica* – Ukraine (EFSA-Q-2020-00438)

The discussion for possible adoption of this draft scientific opinion was postponed to a next plenary, because of the need to assess an additional actionable pest (*Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *pruni*).

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

8.1 Short update from Working Groups (WG): WG on arthropods pest categorisation and WG on plant pathogens pest categorisation; WG on High Risk Plants section I, WG on High Risk Plants section II and WG on High Risk Plants section III

The Panel was updated on the ongoing activities of the two pest categorisation Working Groups. The Arthropods WG is finalising the categorisations on *Russellaspis pustulans* and *Oligonychus perseae*. These two draft opinions will be circulated shortly to the panel for their review. The Plant Pathogens WG is finalising the draft opinions on Capsicum chlorosis orthotospovirus and *Fusarium pseudograminearum* which will be tabled for adoption at a next plenary meeting.

The Working Groups on High Risk Plants commodity risk assessment section I, section II and section III presented their ongoing activities and updated work plans.

Replies to questions from observers

See Annex 1

9.0 Presentation of EFSA Art 36 Grant projects

9.1 Presentation of the final results of the EFSA Art 36 Grant project on "SMART surveillance of airborne fungal plant pathogens" (GP/EFSA/AFSCO/2017/04)

The EFSA funded project on "SMART surveillance of airborne fungal plant pathogens" was presented to the Panel. This project was funded by an EFSA Art. 36 Thematic Grant (https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/art36grants/article36/170502-0). The institutions participating to this project were Fera (UK) (coordinator until March 2021), NIB (SI) (coordinator since March 2021), University of Newcastle (UK), IVIA (ES), FEM (IT) and MSDC-PPD (MT). Two partner projects were also funded by EFSA in Greece and Italy and respectively conducted by BPI (GR) and CREA-DC (IT) in closed coordination with the SMART project.

For quarantine pests, early detection is the key to successful eradication and containment. As pests spread within a region the scale of the problem increases and the potential to eradicate or contain them is diminished. This is exacerbated by pests in the open environment, especially fungal pathogens transmitted by air-borne spores. The SMART project, together with its partner projects in Greece and Italy, has focused on the use of aerobiology linked to molecular diagnostics to investigate for the detection of *Phyllostica citricarpa* (citrus black spot) and *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (ash dieback). Sampling sites have been established for *P. citricarpa* in Malta and Italy and for *P. paracitricarpa* in Greece in the same locations where Guarnaccia et al. (2017) reported the finding of these fungi from leaf litter. For *H. fraxineus* the project selected a study area in Northern Italy and some measurement points belonging to the Italian pollen

network where samples were collected and analysed. DNA extraction protocol from conidia on spore trap tapes and on filters used for filtration of rain was evaluated and optimised. Available qPCR assays were evaluated and a new qPCR assay was established, specific for detection of *P. citricarpa* and its discrimination from other closely-related *Phyllosticta* species (e.g. *P. paracitricarpa*). An assay for *H. fraxineus* detection and control assays was introduced. The limit of detection of qPCR for *P. citricarpa* on spore trap tapes was estimated as between 10 and 100 spores and may detect the presence of smaller numbers of conidia. The optimised protocol for NGS with two barcodes, ITS1 and TEF1, will detect the presence of *P. citricarpa* on a daily spore trap tape where 1000 conidia are present. The NGS method also enables detection and identification of other fungi based on the ITS1 region. A set of aerobiological samples verified by optical microscopy to contain *H. fraxineus* spores were prepared and sent for sequencing. This study outlined the modelling framework and provided first estimates of spore trap deployment within a citrus orchard landscape. The technology was compared to traditional detection methods (visual inspection). Presentations were given by: Neil Boonham (NCL University, UK), who presented an overview of the project; Polona Kogovšek (NIB, SI), who summarized the main methodological issues and results regarding the method development and survey results for the citrus black spot case study; Roy MacArthur (Fera, UK), who presented how to evaluate the uncertainty in the project results relevant to citrus black spot; Claudio Varotto (FEM, IT), who presented the methodology used in the ash dieback study and summarized the main results. The project concluded it activities in March 2022 and its final report is currently under preparation for publication soon on EFSA Journal Supporting Publications series on Wiley online platform.

9.2 Presentation of the interim results of the EFSA Art 36 Grant project on "Suitability of Mediterranean citrus production areas for *Phyllosticta citricarpa*: epidemiological studies in Tunisia". (GP/EFSA/ALPHA/2019/04)

The EFSA funded project on "Suitability of Mediterranean citrus production areas for *Phyllosticta citricarpa*: epidemiological studies in Tunisia" was presented to the Panel. This project was funded by an EFSA Art. 36 Grant aimed to reduce risk assessment uncertainty (https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/art36grants/article36/gpefsaalpha201904-reduce-risk-assessment). The institutions participating to this project were IVIA (ES) (coordinator), NIB (SI), ANSES (FR), ISA-CM (TN) and ANPR (TN). Presentations on the intermediate results of this project were given by: Antonio Vicent (IVIA, ES), who presented an overview of the project and, on behalf of Naima Boughalleb-M'Hamdi (ISA-CM, TN), the epidemiological studies carried out on the recently reported outbreak of citrus black spot in Tunisia; Elena Lazaro (IVIA, ES), who summarized preliminary results on climate suitability modelling for citrus black spot.

A general discussion of the two EFSA Art. 36 Grant projects on "SMART surveillance of airborne fungal plant pathogens" and on "Suitability of Mediterranean citrus production areas for *Phyllosticta citricarpa*" was held with the Panel.

Replies to questions from observers

The questions asked by observers and the corresponding answers are summarized in Annex 1.

DAY 2: 31 March 2022 9:00-13.00

7. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption (continues)

7.6 Art. 29 Scientific Opinion on Commodity risk assessment of Uganda- *Jasminum polyanthum* (EFSA-Q-2021-00403)

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 unrooted cuttings of *Jasminum polyanthum* that are imported from Uganda, taking into account the available scientific information, including the technical information provided by the NPPO of Uganda. The relevance of any pest for this opinion was based on evidence following defined criteria. Six species, two EU-regulated pests *(Bemisia tabaci,* non-European populations and *Scirtothrips dorsalis)* and four EU non-regulated pests (*Coccus viridis, Diaphania indica, Pulvinaria psidii* and *Selenaspidus articulatus)*, fulfilled all relevant criteria and were selected for further evaluation. For these pests, the risk mitigation measures proposed in the technical dossier from Uganda 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 *B. tabaci* and *S. dorsalis* being the pests most frequently expected on the imported plants. The Expert Knowledge Elicitation indicated, with 95% certainty, that between 9,950 and 10,000 plants per 10,000 would be free of *B. tabaci.*
The scientific opinion was adopted on 31 March 2022.

7.7 Art. 29 Scientific Opinion on Commodity risk assessment of China- *Acer palmatum* (EFSA-Q-2020-00109)

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 2-year-old bare rooted plants for planting of *Acer palmatum* grafted on rootstocks of *Acer davidii* imported from China to the EU, taking into account the available scientific information, including the technical

information provided by China. All pests associated with the commodity were evaluated against specific criteria for their relevance for this opinion. Twenty-two pests that fulfilled all relevant criteria were selected for further evaluation. For twenty pests, the risk mitigation measures described in the technical dossier from China 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. While the estimated degree of pest freedom varied among pests, *Lopholeucaspis japonica* was the pest most frequently expected on the commodity. The Expert Knowledge Elicitation indicated, with 95% certainty, that 9,336 or more bare rooted plants per 10,000 will be free from *Lopholeucaspis japonica*. For *Anoplophora chinensis* and *Anoplophora glabripennis*, the Panel considers that China applies the relevant measures as specified in Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2012/138 and Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/893.

The scientific opinion was adopted on 31 March 2022.

8. Feedback from Scientific Panel including their Working Groups, Scientific Committee, EFSA and European Commission (continues)

8.2 Progress report on Quantitative Pest Risk Assessment for *Amyelois transitella* (WG QPRA 1)

The Panel was updated about the progress of the Working Group.

8.3 Progress report on Quantitative Pest Risk Assessment for *Xanthomonas citri* pv. *viticola* (WG QPRA 2)

The Panel was updated about the progress of the WG. The key results from the entry model for the two studied pathways (fresh grapes and Vitis plants for planting for research/breeding purposes) were presented. An update was also provided on the establishment assessment, as well as the plan for the expert knowledge elicitation on spread & impact.

8.4 Update from EFSA Horizon Scanning for new and emerging plant pests

An update was provided on the EFSA Horizon scanning activities for early identification of new and emerging plant pests from literature and media news, including the presentation of the new joint monthly newsletter covering news from both type of sources. The newsletters can be consulted in the open access EFSA Journal virtual issue on Horizon Scanning for Plant Health on the Wiley Online Platform at https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.2903/(ISSN)1831-4732.Horizon-scanning-for-plant-health.

8.5 Update from EFSA Scientific Committee and discussion on proposals for Scientific Committee Work Programme 2022-2024

Topics already identified for the Scientific Committee work programme 2022-2024 were presented and discussed with the Panel.

The following were highlighted for their relevance for the Plant Health Panel and suggested for consideration by the Scientific Committee for its work programme:

- Expert Knowledge Elicitation (EKE): the update of the EKE guidance is supported by the Panel. One key element identified from PLH Panel EKE experience is the need for tools and guidance to ensure repeatability/comparability of elicitations on same/similar topics. This might require development of training of WGs with standard examples/ exercises and consideration in EKE evidence dossiers of results of previous EKEs done on same/similar questions.
- Risk benefit: there is an interest in extending this guidance to plant health. PLH Panel has conducted in the past a risk benefit analysis, although not quantitative, for an intentional release of an invertebrate biological control agent (see https://www.efsa.europa.eu/it/efsajournal/pub/4079). Risk benefit is also very linked to sustainability assessment.
- Sustainability and smart plant protection: to fulfil the EU Green Deal objectives and the FAO sustainable development goals, plant health and plant protection (including quarantine plant health, smart application of pesticides, integrated pest and disease management, biological control) will play a major role in sustainability of agriculture, conservation of the environment, biodiversity and food safety. It is important to prepare to support the Green Deal objectives and the FAO sustainability goals with guidances or scientific advice on sustainability assessment, as well as on smart plant protection (to reduce pesticide use without affecting/diminishing EU food production and food security).

8.6 New Mandates

A summary of the new mandates, recently received from European Commission DG SANTE and accepted by EFSA, was presented. The new mandates are assigned to an existing Working Group or, when this is not possible, a new Working Group is created.

- The new mandate on the assessment of the likelihood of pest freedom from Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) for ash logs treated with sulfuryl fluoride for import into the EU, related to a request of derogation from the EU plant health law, was assigned to the existing WG on High Risk Plants section II, that is already dealing with commodity risk assessment and assessment of likelihood of pest freedom at entry for forestry plants.
- The new mandate on the assessment of the probability of entry of pests with the import of unrooted cuttings of the genera *Petunia* and *Calibrachoa* from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Kenya and Uganda to the EU, related to a request of derogation from the import ban of Solanaceous plants in the EU plant health law, was assigned to the existing WG on High Risk Plants section I, that is already dealing with commodity risk assessment and assessment of likelihood of pest freedom at entry for ornamental plants. This assessment is linked to previous work conducted by the Panel on categorisation of non-EU viruses of potato.
- The new mandate on the assessment of the probability of introduction of the False Codling Moth (FCM, *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*) via the pathway of import of cut flowers of roses from areas of pest's occurrence has been identified as a question for a partial quantitative pest risk assessment assessing the probabilities

of entry, transfer and establishment of FCM via the cut flowers pathway. As it was not possible to assign this mandate to one of the two already existing WGs on quantitative pest risk assessment, due to their current already heavy workload, a new WG was created to deal with this mandate: the WG on quantitative pest risk assessment (QPRA) section III, with the Panel members Panagiotis Milonas and Hans Hermann Thulke respectively nominated as WG Chair and Vice-Chair.

8.7 Feedback from EC SANTE

The EC SANTE representative provided a good and positive feedback on the work of the EFSA Plant Health panel to support with scientific advice the EU plant health law.

8.8 Update on new and upcoming EFSA art 36 Grants

New and upcoming EFSA Art. 36 Grants were presented.

8.9 Calendar of PLH panel plenary meetings 2022

The Panel was reminded of the calendar of PLH Panel plenary meetings in 2022, with physical (not virtual) meetings at EFSA Parma planned for the plenaries of 7-8 July 2022 and 28-29 September 2022 (it is recommended however to wait for the official invitation by EFSA before booking accommodation).

Replies to questions from observers:

See Annex 1

ANNEX 1

Question 1:

An observer from Julius Kühn Institut (JKI, D) shared some information regarding *Diplodia bulgarica*, a pest mentioned in the commodity risk assessment for *Malus domestica* - Turkey. This fungus was found in Germany and JKI has done an Express PRA on it, concluding that it does not qualify as an Art. 29 organism (i.e. not a potential quarantine pest), since its spread is difficult to be controlled, it is most probably already widely spread, and it mostly affects weaker host plants. Subsequently, they also started a small monitoring project on it with one plant protection service of the German Laender. The fungus seems to be quite widely spread in apple trees and it seems to develop pathogenicity particularly in hot and dry summers.

Answer 1:

The Panel thanked the observer for this useful information, that will be considered when the EFSA PLH Panel will proceed with a pest categorisation for *Diplodia bulgarica.* In general, following the current mandate from European Commission DG SANTE on pest categorisation and pest risk assessment, all actionable pests identified by the High Risk Plants commodity risk assessment are then subjected to pest categorisation by EFSA to support further EU decision making on their possible quarantine listing.

Question 2:

With regard to the presentation of the EFSA Art 36 project on smart surveillance of airborne fungal plant pathogens, an observer from ANSES asked whether the leaf litter was analysed in the sites where Citrus black spot fungi were reported to be found in the leaf litter by Guarnaccia et al. (2017).

Answer 2:

The replies provided by the team of the SMART and partner projects (Delia Maureen from MSDC-PPD, MT; Luca Riccioni from CREA-DC, IT; Irene Vloutoglou from BPI, GR) informed that the analysis of the leaf litter was repeated in all monitored sites, with negative results for *P. citricarpa* and *P. paracitricarpa* for all tests conducted in the areas (in Italy, Malta and Greece), where *P. citricarpa* and *P. paracitricarpa* were previously reported in the leaf litter by Guarnaccia et al. (2017).

EFSA confirmed that also all the surveys conducted, following the report by Guarnaccia et al. (2027), by the National Plant Protection Organisations of Portugal, Italy, Malta and Greece, produced negative results for *P. citricarpa* (and *P. paracitricarpa* in Greece).

Question 3:

Information were asked about the effectiveness of the technical set-up of the spore samplers used in the SMART project, in particular on the limit of detection.

Answer 3:

Polona Kogovšek from NIB (SI) replied that the limit of detection (for qPCR) appeared to be sufficient to detect 10 conidia on a daily basis. There is still a question mark about the detection capability for ascospores (more stable and robust cell wall). For the whole sampling, it is difficult to reply – all steps from spore sampling to DNA testing need to taken into account.

Question 4:

After the opinion on *Jasminum polyanthum* from Uganda was adopted by the EFSA PLH Panel, what is now the rest of the process, and when can the import of the commodity into EU commence?

Answer 4:

After the adoption by the EFSA PLH Panel during this Plenary meeting, the opinion on commodity risk assessment of *Jasminum polyanthum* from Uganda will be sent for publication (approximately within 28 working days) in the EFSA Journal on the Wiley online platform and then published free access online.

The opinion will be then used by the European Commission (EC) to inform their risk management decision making process. In the EU, there is a clear separation between risk assessment (EFSA) and risk management (EC).

ANNEX 2

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 High plains wheat mosaic virus (EFSA-Q-2021-00780) (item 7.1)
- Commodity risk assessment of *Malus domestica* – Turkey (EFSA-Q-2019-00790) (item 7.3)
- Commodity risk assessment of *Prunus domestica* – Ukraine (EFSA-Q-2020-00438) (item 7.4)

He informed the Panel that he participates to the work on these opinions as coordinator of EFSA Art. 36 Tasking Grant Specific Contracts. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], 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 7.1, 7,3 and 7.4, 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.

With regard to this meeting, **Dr. Antonio Vicent** declared the following interest with regard to the EFSA Art. 36 Grants on:

- EFSA Art 36 Grant project on "SMART surveillance of airborne fungal plant pathogens" (GP/EFSA/AFSCO/2017/04) (item 9.1)
- EFSA Art 36 Grant project on "Suitability of Mediterranean citrus production areas for *Phyllosticta citricarpa*: epidemiological studies in Tunisia" (GP/EFSA/ALPHA/2019/04) (item 9.2)

He informed the Panel that he participates to the work on these two grants as member and coordinator of EFSA Art. 36 Grant Agreements. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[5], 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 9.1 and 9.2, however, he can participate to this agenda meeting to present the work he conducted within the related EFSA Art 36 Grant Agreements.

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