



Scientific Panel on Plant Health

Minutes of the 103rd Plenary meeting

Held on 18-19 May 2022

EFSA, Parma, WEBMEETING¹

(Agreed on 9 June 2022)

Participants

■ Panel Members

Paula Baptista, Claude Bragard (chair), Elisavet Chatzivassiliou, Francesco Di Serio, Annemarie Fejer Justesen, 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, Antonio Vincent Civera, Jonathan Yuen and Lucia Zappalà

■ Hearing Experts

Camille Picard and Françoise Petter (EPPO; Luigi Ponti, (ENEA, Italy); Quirico Migheli (UNISS, Italy)

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives

Filippa Di Maria, Maria Belen Marquez Garcia, Maria Kamenou, Panagiota Mylona, Wolfgang Reinert and Leonard Shumbe (EC DG SANTE); Andrea Toreti (EC DG JRC)

■ EFSA

PLANTS Unit: Caterina Campese, Melanie Camilleri, Ewelina Czwieniczek, Alice Delbianco, Ciro Gardi, Ignazio Graziosi, Agata Kaczmarek, Tomasz Kaluski, Virag Kertesz, Andrea Maiorano, Luka Mustapic, Patricia Nascimento, Marco Pautasso, Evgenia Sarakatsani, Giuseppe Stancanelli, Sara Tramontini, Sybren Vos and Francesco Violi.

RAL Unit: Martina Capelli

COM Unit: Maria Tejero Martin

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



NIF Unit: Franz Streissl

MESE unit: Olaf Mosbach Schulz

■ EFSA Tasking Grant

Alzbeta Mikulova (Università di Padova, IT)

■ EFSA Procurement

Oresteia Sfyra (Greece)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the meeting participants. Partial apologies were received from Alan Mac Leod (for not being able to attend items 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 5.3 and 5.4 on 18 May afternoon), Lucia Zappalà (for not being able to attend items 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 5.5 and 7 on 19 May morning), and Wopke Van der Werf (for not being able to attend items 6.1 and 6.2 on 18 May afternoon).

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 Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, 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. 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 102nd Plenary meeting held on 29 April 2022, WEB

The minutes of the 102nd Plenary meeting were sent for agreement by written procedure by 20 May 2022.

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



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

5.1. Discussion on climate changes scenarios for quantitative pest risk assessment

Presentations and discussion on climate change impact assessment were held to discuss the application of this type of analysis in the context of the current EC SANTE mandate on pest risk assessment, where EFSA is requested to pilot the application of climate change scenarios in the quantitative pest risk assessment conducted for *Xanthomonas citri* pv. *viticola*, *Leucinodes orbonalis* and *Leucinodes pseudorbonalis*.

5.1.1. Introduction to climate change impact assessment (Andrea Toreti, EC DG JRC)

Andrea Toreti (climatologist from the Joint Research Center of the EU Commission) gave a presentation about the basis of climate change impact assessment.

5.1.2. An example of climate change application by applying demographic models for plant pest invasions (Luigi Ponti, ENEA (IT))

Luigi Ponti (researcher at ENEA, Italy) presented an introduction to the use of demographic models for plant pests, including their pro/cons, and showed the results on climate change impact assessment for some insect pests taken as a case study.

5.1.3. Climate suitability for *Xanthomonas citri* pv. *viticola* and proposed approach for climate change scenarios in quantitative pest risk assessment (Andrea Maiorano, EFSA).

The draft climate suitability analysis for *Xanthomonas citri* pv *viticola*, i.e. the first case study on which the climate change impact analysis will be conducted, was presented and discussed with the Panel.

The final discussion focused on the elements to be considered to conduct climate change impact studies within the EFSA quantitative pest risk assessment methodology, including: scenarios, climate data (source, bias correction, downscaling, etc...), selection of the climate data, time horizon for the assessment. It was agreed to further discuss the topic with the Panel, aiming at the development of a standard approach for climate change studies in plant health risk assessment.

5.2. Presentation and discussion on comments received on the published Scientific Opinion on “Commodity risk assessment of *Citrus* L. fruits from South Africa for *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* under a systems approach”

EFSA was mandated in 2020 by the European Commission to perform a commodity risk assessment of *Citrus* L. fruit from South Africa for *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (false codling moth, FCM) under a systems approach.

Therefore, the PLH Panel assessed the likelihood of pest freedom for FCM on citrus fruit at the point of entry in the EU considering the systems approach proposed by South Africa. The available



information provided by the Directorate Plant Health of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) of the Republic of South Africa and additional published scientific evidence were considered by the PLH Panel for its assessment. This included especially the recalculation of a pathway model described in Moore et al. (2016) and Hattingh et al. (2020), used by South Africa to support the efficiency of their systems approach. The final assessment was based on a thorough review and evaluation of the measures applied in all steps of the systems approach, including the pathway model but not limited to this. The EFSA PLH Panel Scientific Opinion on "Commodity risk assessment of *Citrus* L. fruits from South Africa for *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* under a systems approach" was adopted by the PLH Panel on 8 July 2021 and published on the EFSA Journal on Wiley online platform on 19 August 2021 (PLH Panel, 2021).

On 3 February 2022 EFSA received a letter from DALRRD, including comments on the scientific opinion (PLH Panel, 2021) provided by two South African anonymous scientists. The comments provided by DALRRD were shared, reviewed in depth and discussed with the PLH Panel. The main comments were specific and regarded: i) the monitoring system for the level of FCM infestation applied in South Africa in the orchard; ii) the monitoring system for the level of FCM infestation applied in South Africa at the packing house; iii) the efficacy of the temperature treatment during shipping on FCM mortality, including the mortality data on fruit and artificial diet; iv) the methodology used by EFSA to recalculate the pathway model described in Moore et al. (2016) and Hattingh et al. (2020). Some of the comments provided a general criticism but without details.

Clarifications in response to the specific comments were discussed and agreed with the Panel. It was noted that, although, according to the systems approach and to the comments provided by DALRRD in February 2022, there should be extensive data available on the citrus production, the samplings and the inspections in the orchards and at the packing houses in South Africa, and on the transport conditions of citrus fruit from South Africa to Europe, these data, which would have been very helpful for the quantification of the likelihood of pest freedom for FCM on citrus fruit at the point of entry in the EU, were not made available to EFSA by DALRRD. Also, a request by EFSA for a hearing of South African experts at the onset of the assessment was not accepted by DALRRD. As a consequence, several aspects of the systems approach which are actually in place, remained unclear and resulted in high uncertainties in the commodity risk assessment (PLH Panel, 2021).

It was concluded that the comments provided by DALRRD on 3 February 2022 did not clarify the uncertainties identified in the Scientific Opinion nor did they provide additional evidence, therefore the content and the conclusions of EFSA PLH Panel (2021) remain unchanged.

Following this discussion, EFSA will reply to DALRRD providing clarifications on the comments received and remaining open to evaluate new evidence on the systems approach, when this would be provided by DALRRD through the EC SANTE services.

5.3. Updates from Working Groups on High Risk Plants commodity risk assessment

The Panel was updated about the progress of the Working Groups on High Risk Plants commodity risk assessment section I, section II and section III.

5.4. Updates from Working Groups on quantitative pest risk assessment.

The Panel was updated about the progress of the Working Group on Quantitative pest risk assessment (QPRA) Section 1 on the quantitative pest risk assessment for *Amyelois transitella*.

The Panel was updated about the progress of the Working Group QPRA Section 2: the WG has continued the PRA on *Xanthomonas citri* pv. *viticola*, focusing on establishment, spread & impact. The Expert Knowledge Elicitations on spread & impact will be continued in June, with a potential discussion for possible adoption at the July plenary.



5.5. Updates from Working Groups on pest categorisation

The Panel was updated about the progress of the Arthropod Working Group. The WG is currently working on the pest categorisations of *Dendrolimus superans*, *Pulvinaria psidii* and *Penthimiola bella*. These draft opinions will be circulated for panel review in June and are due for adoption at the July plenary meeting.

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

6.1. Pest categorisation of *Atalodera andina* (EFSA-Q-2021-00703)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Atalodera andina* (Nematoda: Heteroderidae) for the European Union (EU) territory. *A. andina* belongs to the order Rhabditida, subfamily Ataloderinae. This species has not been reported from the EU. It is not included in the EU Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072. It is present in the area of the Lake Titicaca of both Peru and Bolivia and in valleys of the region. There is a report in literature stating that specimens were obtained from Chile and identified as *A. andina* but details on their geographical origin were not given. The identity of *A. andina* is well established and methods of its identification are available. Natural hosts include the tuber crops *Ullucus tuberosus*, *Oxalis tuberosa* and the Andean potato (*Solanum tuberosum* subsp. *andigenum*). Experimental hosts include plants of the genus *Brassica* (such as *B. oleracea*, *B. napus*, *B. campestris*), sugar beet, tomato and clover. Pathways of entry are host plants for planting including seed tubers, subterranean parts of plants intended for consumption, soil as such or attached to plants for planting, machinery or footwear, soil in packaging (bags). Suitable climates exist in the EU but their extent is uncertain and depends on assumptions made on the occurrence of the pest around Lake Titicaca. In the EU, potato, which is grown on about 1 500 000 ha annually, is expected to be the main host of the nematode. Soil and plants for planting are prohibited from import to the EU from third countries where the pest is known to occur. However, this does not cover hosts of *A. andina* other than species of Solanaceae. The nematode has been reported to damage Andean potato crops, although this has not been quantified. Following its introduction in the EU, *A. andina* is expected to cause impacts on potato (*S. tuberosum* subsp. *tuberosum*), although there is uncertainty on the magnitude of this impact. Also damage on other hosts cannot be excluded. Therefore, the Panel concludes that *A. andina* 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 19 May 2022.

6.2. Commodity risk assessment of *Prunus domestica* plants grafted on *Prunus cerasifera* from Ukraine (EFSA-Q-2020-00436)

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 plants of *Prunus domestica* grafted on *Prunus cerasifera* imported from Ukraine, taking into account the available scientific information, including the technical information provided by Ukraine. All pests associated with the commodity were evaluated against specific criteria for their relevance for this opinion. One quarantine pest (*Lopholeucaspis japonica*), two protected zone quarantine pests (*Erwinia amylovora* and *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *pruni*) and one non-regulated pest (*Eotetranychus prunicola*) that fulfilled all relevant criteria were selected for further evaluation. For these four pests, the risk mitigation measures proposed in the technical



dossier from Ukraine 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 *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *pruni* being the pest most frequently expected on the imported plants. The Expert Knowledge Elicitation indicated with 95% certainty that between 9,870 and 10,000 bundles (consisting of 10 plants each) per 10,000 would be free from *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *pruni*.

The opinion was adopted on 19 May 2022.

6.3. Commodity risk assessment of *Berberis thunbergii* potted plants from Turkey (EFSA-Q-2020-00089)

The European Commission requested the EFSA Panel on Plant Health to prepare and deliver risk assessments for commodities listed in the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 as 'High-risk plants, plant products and other objects'. This Scientific Opinion covers plant health risks posed by potted plants (2 to 3 years old) of *Berberis thunbergii* produced in nurseries and imported into the EU from Turkey, taking into account the available scientific information, including the technical information provided by the NPPO of Turkey. The relevance of any pest for this Opinion was based on evidence following defined criteria. Two species, the EU-quarantine pest *Bemisia tabaci* and the Non-Regulated pest *Malacosoma parallela* fulfilled the relevant criteria and were selected for further evaluation. For these pests, the risk mitigation measures proposed in the technical dossier from Turkey 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* being the pest most frequently expected on the imported plants. The Expert Knowledge Elicitation indicated, with 95% certainty, that between 9,928 and 10,000 plants per 10,000 would be free of *B. tabaci*. The role of *Berberis thunbergii* as possible host of *Puccinia* spp. is discussed in the body of the opinion.

The opinion was adopted on 19 May 2022.

6.4. Pest categorisation of *Amathynetoides nitidiventris* (EFSA-Q-2021-00708)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed the pest categorisation of the ulluco weevil, *Amathynetoides nitidiventris* (Hustache), for the EU territory. This species is not included in EU Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072. However, its only substantiated host, ulluco (*Ullucus tuberosus*), is included in Annex I of Regulation EU 2018/2019 as a high risk plant prohibited from entering the EU, pending risk assessment. In its native Andean region, *A. nitidiventris* is univoltine, with a lifecycle highly synchronized with the phenology of its host, reproduction and development take place during the development of tubers. Oviposition occurs in the soil. Larvae feed by tunneling into the tubers, which most of them abandon to pupate in the soil. A minority pupates in the tubers. Because adult *A. nitidiventris* are often found in other crops due to crop rotations and crop associations, this species has been mistakenly identified as a pest of other crops. In principle soil and tubers of ulluco could provide a pathway for *A. nitidiventris* into the EU. However, the soil pathway is closed and ulluco tubers are regulated as high risk plants. There are no EU records of interception. Should this weevil enter the EU, the rarity of its host, which is not known to be cultivated in EU MSs, would hamper establishment, spread, and



impact. As a consequence, *A. nitidiventris* does not satisfy all the criteria that are within the remit of EFSA to assess for it to be regarded as a potential Union quarantine pest. The criteria that are not met are the potential for establishment, spread, and economic or environmental consequences in the EU.

The opinion was adopted on 19 May 2022.

6.5. Pest categorisation of *Tetraleurodes perseae* ([EFSA-Q-2022-00071](#))

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Tetraleurodes perseae* (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae), the red-banded whitefly, for the territory of the EU. *T. perseae* is a tropical and subtropical species that originated in the Neotropical region and has now spread and established in the USA (California and Florida), Israel and Lebanon. *T. perseae* is not listed in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. It is oligophagous on Lauraceae and most frequently reported on avocado (*Persea americana*), on which it is considered a minor or secondary pest. No evidence was found indicating damage to other plants. *T. perseae* larvae develop on the foliage and don't attack the fruit. The number of generations per year varies between one and ten. High populations may promote the growth of black sooty moulds on the foliage and fruit, and adults feeding on the buds can lead to deformed immature leaves and premature leaf drop. However, *T. perseae* populations are usually effectively controlled by hymenopteran parasitoids, at least one of which (*Cales noacki*) is widespread in the EU. The producers of organic avocados in the EU could encourage the use of *C. noacki*, although occasional outbreaks of *T. perseae* could temporarily impact the fruit quality. Adults disperse naturally by flying and all stages can be moved over long distances by the trade of infested plant material. Plants for planting provide potential pathways for entry and spread in the EU. Climatic conditions and availability of host plants in southern EU countries are conducive for establishment. Phytosanitary measures are available to reduce the risk. *T. perseae* 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. However, this conclusion has a high uncertainty regarding magnitude of potential impact as the insect is a minor and sporadic pest in its current area of distribution.

The opinion was adopted on 19 May 2022.

6.6. Pest categorisation of *Platypus apicalis* ([EFSA-Q-2022-00069](#))

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Platypus apicalis* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Platypodinae), an ambrosia beetle, also known as a pinhole borer, for the European Union (EU) territory. *P. apicalis* is a polyphagous pest native to New Zealand. Ambrosia beetles live inside tree wood but do not directly feed on plant tissue, instead larvae and adults feed on a symbiotic fungus (*Sporothrix nothofagi* which is pathogenic to *Nothofagus* spp.) vectored by adults and introduced when they bore tunnels into the host. *P. apicalis* feeds within a wide range of live, often stressed trees, in dead or dying hardwood and softwood trees, and fallen or felled trees. Successful reproduction can occur inside a number of living tree species including *Castanea sativa*, *Pinus* spp. and *Ulmus* spp. *P. apicalis* is not known to have established outside of New Zealand although findings have been reported in Australia. Whilst there are no records of interceptions of this species in the EU, platypodines are intercepted with solid wood packing material (SWPM) and *Platypus* species, but not *P. apicalis*, have been intercepted with wooden logs in Japan. Host plants for planting also provide a potential pathway. Hosts are grown widely across the EU in areas with climates comparable to those in New Zealand where the pest occurs suggesting that conditions in the EU are suitable for its establishment. If introduced into the EU, adults could disperse naturally



by flight, perhaps tens or hundreds of meters. The movement of infested wood and host plants for planting within the EU could facilitate spread. Economic impacts in forestry and timber industries would result from the galleries created by *P. apicalis* and from wood staining caused by the symbiotic fungus. Phytosanitary measures are available to inhibit the entry of *P. apicalis*. *P. apicalis* satisfies 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 19 May 2022.

6.7. Pest categorisation of *Fusarium pseudograminearum* (EFSA-Q-2022-00102)

The EFSA Plant Health Panel performed a pest categorisation of *Fusarium pseudograminearum* O'Donnell & T. Aoki. *F. pseudograminearum* is a soil-borne fungal pathogen, able to cause a disease known as Fusarium crown rot (FCR, also known as foot and root rot) and occasionally Fusarium head blight on small grain cereals, particularly *Triticum aestivum* L., *Triticum turgidum* L. spp. *durum* (Dest.), *Hordeum vulgare* L. and triticale (xTriticosecale). In addition, *F. pseudograminearum* has been isolated from soybean (*Glycine max* L.) and from some grass genera, such as *Phalaris*, *Agropyron* and *Bromus*, which represent potentially important inoculum reservoirs. This pathogen has been reported in arid and semi-arid cropping regions in Australia, New Zealand, North and South America, northern Africa and South Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. In the EU, it has been reported in Italy since 1994 and later in Spain on field-grown durum wheat, but uncertainty remains regarding the actual distribution of the pathogen in the EU. The pathogen is not included in the EU Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072. Seeds of host plants and soil and other substrates are the main pathways for the entry and spread of the pathogen into the EU. There are no reports of interceptions of *F. pseudograminearum* in the EU. Host availability and climate suitability occurring in the EU favour establishment of the pathogen and allow it to establish in areas from which it has not been reported. Phytosanitary measures are available to prevent the introduction of the pathogen into the EU, and additional measures are available to mitigate the risk of spread. In the non-EU areas of its present distribution, the pathogen has a direct impact on cultivated hosts (e.g. wheat, barley, triticale and soybean) that are also relevant for the EU. However, no crop losses have been reported so far in the EU. The Panel concludes that *F. pseudograminearum* satisfies all the criteria to be regarded as a potential Union quarantine pest.

The opinion was adopted on 19 May 2022.

7. Any Other Business

The Panel was reminded about meetings calendar (in particular on the upcoming July and September 2022 plenary meetings which will be held in EFSA in Parma) and the EFSA ONE conference.



ANNEX 1

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:

- Commodity risk assessment of *Prunus domestica* plants grafted on *Prunus cerasifera* from Ukraine (EFSA-Q-2020-00436)

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 Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management , 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 6.2, however, he can participate to this agenda item to present the work he conducted as coordinator of the related EFSA Art 36 Tasking Grant Specific Contract.

With regard to this meeting, **Dr. Stephen Parnell** declared the following general interest:

He informed the Panel that he has started a new employment on teaching and research at University of Warwick (UK). In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management , and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was deemed not to represent a Conflict of Interest (CoI), therefore the expert can participate and vote all items of this meeting agenda.