



Scientific Panel on Plant Health

Minutes of the 104th Plenary meeting

Held on 07-08 July 2022

EFSA, Parma,

(Agreed on 29 July 2022)

Participants

■ Panel Members

Claude BRAGARD (Chair), Paula BAPTISTA, Elisavet CHATZIVASSILIOU, Francesco DI SERIO, Paolo GONTHIER, Josep JAQUES, Annemarie JUSTESEN, Alan MACLEOD, Christer MAGNUSSON, Panagiotis MILONAS, Juan NAVAS-CORTES, Stephen PARNELL, Roel POTTING, Philippe REIGNAULT, Hans-Hermann THULKE, Wopke VAN DER WERF, Antonio VICENT CIVERA, Jonathan YUEN, Lucia ZAPPALÀ

■ Hearing Experts

Françoise PETTER (EPPO), Camille PICARD (EPPO), Wolfgang REINERT (EC DG SANTE), Irene VLOUTOGLOU (BPI, Greece)

■ European Commission

Wolfgang REINERT (EC DG SANTE)

■ EFSA

PLANTS Unit: Melanie CAMILLERI, Caterina CAMPESE, Ewelina CZWIENCZEK, Alice DELBIANCO, Agata KACZMAREK, Tomasz KALUSKI, Virag KERTESZ, Ciro GARDI, Ignazio GRAZIOSI, Andrea MAIORANO, Patricia NASCIMENTO, Marco PAUTASSO, Tobin ROBINSON, Evgenia SARAKATSANI, Giuseppe STANCANELLI, Emanuela TACCI, Francesco VIOLI; **COM** Unit: Maria MARTIN-TEJERO; **MESE** Unit: Olaf MOSBACH-SCHULZ, Klara NICOVA; **NIF** Unit: Franz STREISSL.

■ EFSA Art. 36 Grants

Alzbeta MIKULOVA (Università di Padova, Italy), Davide RASSATI (Università di Padova, Italy)

■ EFSA Procurement

Oresteia SFYRA (Greece)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from **Emilio STEFANI**.
Partial apologies were received from **Antonio VICENT CIVERA** for attending physically only on the second day of the plenary.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with minor changes.

3. Declarations of Interest Scientific Panel Members

None of the Panel Members declared a conflict of interest or potential ones.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 103rd Plenary meeting held on 18-19 May 2022, WEB

The minutes of the 103rd Plenary meeting held on 18-19 May 2022 were adopted by written procedure on 9 June 2022 and were published on EFSA website.

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

5.1. Quantitative Pest Risk Assessment (QPR) of *Amyelois transitella* (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) (EFSA-Q-2021-00748)

Various presentations on entry, establishment (including climate suitability), spread and impact were given on the pest risk assessment for the EU territory of *Amyelois transitella*, the navel orange worm. The Panel was also informed that, together with the publication of the scientific opinion on EFSA Journal, its Appendix on "EU climate suitability for *Amyelois transitella*" will be published on the ZENODO platform (see also item 6.2).

During the discussion of the quantitative pest risk assessment (QPR), the Panel agreed to use precise numbers instead of rounded numbers, as it is current practice also for the scientific opinions on High Risk Plants commodity risk assessment. It was also discussed that, for communication of results, the quantitative approach of the 2018 PLH Panel guidance on quantitative pest risk assessment should be applied, as much as possible and particularly in abstract and conclusions, without introducing qualifiers/qualitative ratings, when the meaning of these was not defined in the opinion. Minor editorial improvements were also suggested. Given that this is the first QPR of this new mandate finalised by the Panel, it was also agreed that the typesetting version of the opinion will be made available to the Panel.

The EFSA Plant Health Panel has performed a pest risk assessment of *Amyelois transitella* (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae), the navel orange worm, for the EU, following a request from the European Commission. The quantitative assessment focused

on pathways and likelihood of introduction, climatic conditions and cultivation of hosts allowing establishment, spread, and impact. *A. transitella* is a common pest of almonds, pistachio and walnuts in California, which is the main source for these nuts imported into the EU. Based on size of the trade and infestation at origin, importation of walnuts and almonds from the USA were identified as the most important potential pathways for entry of *A. transitella*. Using pathway modelling and expert knowledge elicitation, over the next five years the number of infested nuts entering each year was estimated as 193-27,000 [90% credibility range (CR)] with a median estimate of 2,366 infested nuts per year. However, due to small likelihoods of transfer, of mating upon transfer, and of survival of founder populations, the number of established founder populations per year was estimated having a median of 0.00064 per year (0.000011-0.037 per year; 90% CR). Accordingly, the expected period between founding events resulting in establishment would have a median estimate of 1,560 years (27-95,000 years; 90% CR). The main uncertainties are linked to the processes of transfer of the insect to the hosts and to the establishment of founder populations by successfully transferring insects. Climate matching and CLIMEX modelling indicate that conditions are most suitable for establishment in southern Europe, especially around the Mediterranean. Spread by natural means was assessed to be a few km per year (0.8-19.3 km/year; 90% CR) with a median rate of 5.6 km/year, after an initial lag period of a few years (1.7-6.2 years; 90% CR) following the establishment of a founder population. If the insect did establish, yield losses in infested areas are expected to be 0.23-6.4% in almonds under intensive production (median: 2.0%) or 0.17-2.9% under traditional production (median: 0.9%); 0.13-4.0% in pistachios (median: 1.3%) and 0.08-3.3% in walnuts (median: 1.1%). A scenario requiring imports to be transported under chilled conditions was shown to provide potential to further reduce the likelihood of entry. The opinion was adopted on 8 July 2022.

Pest categorisation of *Dendrolimus superans* (EFSA-Q-2022-00075)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Dendrolimus superans* Butler (Lepidoptera: Lasiocampidae), the larch caterpillar, for the EU territory. *D. superans* is a major pest of conifer forests in Japan, northeast China and non-European Russia. However, reports of damage are to conifer species not grown in EU forestry. *Larix gmelinii* and *Pinus pumila* are regarded as major hosts. Eggs are laid on host needles and developing larvae feed on host foliage. Larvae overwinter in the soil. In its native range, *D. superans* usually takes one or two years to develop. In principle, host plants for planting and plant products, such as cut branches and wood with bark, could provide pathways into the EU. However, prohibitions on the import of *Abies*, *Cedrus*, *Larix*, *Picea*, *Pinus* and *Tsuga* from areas where *D. superans* occurs closes such pathways. Nevertheless, a derogation for specific dwarfed *Pinus* plants from Japan exists. Climates similar to those in some of its existing range occur in the EU. Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) is a known host in Japan although reports of any impact are lacking. Experiments on the related species *D. sibiricus* indicated that larvae were able to develop on forestry conifer species occurring in the EU, but which are found outside the native range of *D. sibiricus*. Were *D. superans* to be

introduced into the EU, impacts on *P. abies* are possible and it is conceivable that *D. superans* could expand its host range, as seems possible with *D. sibiricus*. However, this remains uncertain. Other hosts are grown in the EU as ornamentals or amenity trees. *D. superans* satisfies all the criteria that are within the remit of EFSA to assess for it to be regarded as a potential Union quarantine pest. Some uncertainty exists over the magnitude of potential environmental and economic impacts.

The opinion was adopted on 8 July 2022.

5.2. Pest categorisation of *Pulvinaria psidii* (EFSA-Q-2022-00076)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Pulvinaria psidii* (Hemiptera: Coccidae), the green shield scale, for the EU. *P. psidii* was originally described from Hawaii on *Psidium* sp. and it is now established in many countries in tropical and subtropical regions of the world. Within the EU, the pest has been reported from mainland Spain and the Canary Islands. *P. psidii* is not listed in Annex II of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. It is highly polyphagous, feeding on 230 plant species belonging to more than 70 botanical families with preference for avocado (*Persea americana*), citrus (*Citrus* spp.), coffee (*Coffea* sp.), guava (*Psidium guajava*), litchi (*Litchi chinensis*), mango (*Mangifera indica*), mulberry (*Morus* sp.), and pomegranate (*Punica granatum*). It has also been recorded feeding on some solanaceous plants: tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) and pepper (*Capsicum annuum*), as well as on ornamental plants. Climatic conditions and availability of host plants in southern EU countries would most probably allow this species to successfully establish and spread. Economic impact in cultivated hosts including citrus, mangoes, mulberries, as well as vegetable and ornamental crops is anticipated if establishment occurs. Indeed, *P. psidii* has already been reported causing damage to *Melia azedarach*, a widely used ornamental tree that lines streets in Valencia. There is contradictory information regarding impact in mangoes in Spain. This could be due to the relatively recent establishment of the pest. Phytosanitary measures are available to reduce the likelihood of entry and further spread. *P. psidii* 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 8 July 2022.

5.3. Pest categorisation of *Colletotrichum aenigma* (EFSA-Q-2022-00205), *C. alienum* (EFSA-Q-2022-00206), *C. perseae* (EFSA-Q-2022-00207), *C. siamense* (EFSA-Q-2022-00208) and *C. theobromicola* (EFSA-Q-2022-00209)

The EFSA Plant Health Panel performed a pest categorisation of *Colletotrichum aenigma*, *C. alienum*, *C. perseae*, *C. siamense* and *C. theobromicola*, five clearly defined fungi of the *C. gloeosporioides* complex causing anthracnose. The pathogens are widely distributed in at least three continents. *C. aenigma* and *C.*

siamense are reported from Italy and *C. alienum* from Portugal, including the Madeira Islands, with a restricted distribution. *C. perseae* and *C. theobromicola* are not known to be present in the EU. However, there is uncertainty on the status of the pathogens worldwide and in the EU because of the taxonomic re-evaluation of the genus *Colletotrichum* and the lack of specific surveys following the taxonomic re-evaluation of the genus *Colletotrichum*. The pathogens are not included in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 and there are no reports of interceptions in the EU. With the exception of *C. perseae*, which has a very limited number of hosts, the other four *Colletotrichum* species have relatively wide host ranges. Therefore, this pest categorisation focused on those hosts for which there is robust evidence that the pathogens were formally identified by a combination of morphology, pathogenicity and multilocus sequence analysis. Host plants for planting and fresh fruits are the main entry pathways of entry into the EU. Host availability and climate suitability factors occurring in some parts of the EU are favourable for the establishment of the pathogens. No yield losses have been reported so far in the EU, but in non-EU areas of their current distribution, the pathogens have a direct impact on cultivated hosts that are also relevant for the EU. Phytosanitary measures are available to prevent the further introduction and spread of *C. aenigma*, *C. alienum* and *C. siamense* into the EU as well as the introduction and spread of *C. perseae* and *C. theobromicola* into the EU. *C. aenigma*, *C. alienum*, *C. perseae*, *C. siamense* and *C. theobromicola* satisfy the criteria that are within the remit of EFSA to assess for these species to be regarded as potential Union quarantine pests.

The opinion was adopted on 8 July 2022.

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

6.1. Presentations and discussion of the Quantitative Pest Risk Assessment (QPRA) of *Xanthomonas citri* pv. *viticola* (EFSA-Q-2021-00748)

An update on the draft opinion on the quantitative risk assessment of *Xanthomonas citri* pv. *viticola* (Xcv) was presented. This pest causes bacterial canker of grapevine and is reported from Brazil, India and Thailand. The following scenarios were considered: scenario A0 (current practice) and A2 (additional RROs). For the fresh grape import pathway, scenario A0 results in an order of magnitude of about one introduction per ten years. The risk of Xcv entry due to import of *Vitis* plants for planting for research/breeding purposes is several orders of magnitude smaller than the risk of Xcv entry due to fresh grape import. This outcome is robust to the inclusion in the model of RROs. The key entry uncertainties include import volume, probability of sorting and transfer (for plants for planting), the disaggregation factor and probability of transfer (for fresh grapes), and the limited availability of epidemiological data. The extent of the climates suitable for Xcv establishment in the EU is uncertain. However, the risk of Xcv establishment is only slightly lower than the risk of Xcv entry. For

viticultural areas in the EU with average yearly temperature above 17°C, the lag phase is expected to vary between ca. 4 months and ca. 6.

Under the same scenario A0 (current practice), the rate of spread by natural means is assessed to be between ca. 25 and ca. 900 m/year. The spread rate would be considerably higher when considering movements of plants and cutting tools. The percentage of *Vitis* sp. plants infected by Xcv in production sites as yearly average over a 30-year production cycle is estimated to vary between ca. 1% and ca. 48% in table grapes (median: ca. 17%) and between ca. 0.6 and ca. 39% in wine grapes (median: ca. 12%). Impacts have been reported to be severe in Brazil and India, but the estimates provided here show that there is considerable uncertainty about whether similar levels of crop damage could occur in the EU.

The work on this draft opinion will progress in autumn with the addition of climate change scenarios, as requested in the EC mandate.

6.2. An EFSA repository for climate suitability products in Zenodo platform

The Panel was informed about the development of a repository for storing the outputs of the climate suitability analysis. The climate suitability outputs will be saved in the Zenodo platform and will include a document describing the methodology, the climate suitability report, a file including metadata on the document used to extract data on ecophysiology and distribution, a file including the observed global distribution of the pest, and maps in high resolution. This will support the use of data and models by other users and also enable an easier update of the climate suitability analysis when needed.

6.3. Presentation of the EFSA art. 36 project “SAPTREES” to investigate the European host range of *Saperda tridentata*

Saperda tridentata is a longhorn beetle species of the subfamily Lamiinae that is common in deciduous forests of eastern North America but which host range is still very uncertain. Due to the scarcity of data and the uncertainties on the host range in the EU of *S. tridentata*, the Panel, in its pest categorisation in 2019, was unable to conclude if *S. tridentata* would meet the post-entry criteria of establishment, spread and potential impact. To reduce these uncertainties, EFSA launched an Art. 36 Call for proposals to investigate the EU host range of *S. tridentata*, in particular on the host status for this insect of the European elm species, as well as of the European maple and poplar species. The grant was awarded to the SAPTREES project, with two EU project partners (University of Padova and CNR in Italy) and one subcontractor to conduct host range experiments in North America (National Research Council Canada). SAPTREES project aims at understanding whether the most common elm, maple and poplar species present in EU can be reproductive hosts for this longhorn beetle species, as this will help to understand whether this insect can successfully establish and spread into the EU and what could be its phytosanitary risk for the EU.

6.4. Update on EFSA Grants and Procurement in plant health

The Panel was informed on new EFSA GRANTS calls and updated on ongoing contracts.

6.5. Update from Working Groups on High Risk Plants commodity risk assessment section 1, 2 and 3

The Panel was updated on the status of the HRP activities, including the recently received dossiers on *Acer campestre*, *Acer palmatum*, *Acer platanoides* and *Acer pseudoplatanus* received from UK. An update on the assessment of the dossiers on *Petunia* and *Calibrachoa* was also presented.

6.6. Update from Working Groups on Arthropods and Plant pathogens pest categorisation

The Arthropod WG is currently working on the pest categorisations of *Dendrolimus spectabilis*, *Neomaskellia andropogonis* and *Penthimiola bella*. These three categorisations will be circulated for panel review at the beginning of September and are planned for adoption at the next plenary meeting.

The WG Pathogen categorisations will prepare the Chickpea chlorotic dwarf virus categorisation for the September plenary, while *Xylella taiwanensis* and *Stenocarpella maydis* for the October plenary meeting.

6.7. Update from Scientific Committee

The PLH Panel chair updated the Panel on the Scientific committee activities, last SC Plenary meeting was held just the days before this Plenary meeting, and it was an Open Plenary.

6.8. Feedback from EC DG SANTE

DG SANTE representative provided a positive feedback on the Panel activities and on their usefulness for the risk managers.

6.9. Report back from EFSA ONE conference

The Panel was informed on the ONE Scientific Conference organised by EFSA in Brussels, and in particular on the stimulating and constructive thematic session on Plant Health. The main figures and the key outcome of the EFSA ONE Conference, including the Plant Health thematic session (Protecting plants in the era of Global Change) and the side event Plantibio coordinated by UC Louvain (BE) were discussed.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 2023 PLH Plenary calendar.

The 2023 PLH Calendar draft was proposed and agreed with the Panel. Meeting invitations will follow soon.