PLANT HEALTH AND PESTICIDES RESIDUES UNIT

Scientific Panel on Plant Health

Minutes of the 105th Plenary meeting

Held on 28 & 29 September 2022

EFSA, Parma,

(Agreed on 20 October 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, Roel POTTING, Philippe REIGNAULT, Hans-Hermann THULKE, Wopke VAN DER WERF, Antonio VICENT CIVERA, Jonathan YUEN, Lucia ZAPPALÀ

- **Hearing Experts**

  Camille PICARD (EPPO),

  European Commission

  Leonard SHUMBE (EC DG SANTE),

- **EFSA PLANTS** Unit: Alexia ANTONIOU, Melanie CAMILLERI, Ewelina CZWIENCZEK, Alice DELBIANCO, Ciro GARDI, Ignazio GRAZIOSI, Agata KACZMAREK, Tomasz KALUSKI, Virag KERTESZ, Julia LOPEZ MERCADAL, Andrea MAIORANO, Marco PAUTASSO, Tobin ROBINSON, Eugenio ROSSI Evgenia SARAKATSANI, Giuseppe STANCANELLI, Franz STREISSL, Emanuela TACCI, Sybren VOS

  MESE Unit: Olaf MOSBACH-SCHULZ, Klara NICOVA;

  EFSA Art. 36 Grants

  Alzbeta MIKULOVA (Università di Padova, Italy),

  EFSA Procurement

  Oresteia SFYRA (Greece)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from **Stephen PARNELL**
Partial apologies were received from **Lucia ZAPPALÀ** for not attending the first day and from **Philippe REIGNAULT** for not attending 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

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[1] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[2], 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 103rd Plenary meeting held on 18-19 May 2022, WEB

The minutes of the 104th Plenary meeting held on 7 – 8 July were adopted by written procedure and were published on EFSA website.

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

5.1. Commodity risk assessment of *Ligustrum delavayanum* topiary plants grafted on *Ligustrum japonicum* from the UK (EFSA-Q-2021-00795 and EFSA-Q-2021-00796)

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 evergreen 3–20 years old topiary plants of *Ligustrum delavayanum* grafted on *L. japonicum* in pots imported from the UK, taking into account the available scientific information, including the technical information provided by the UK. All pests associated with the commodity were evaluated against specific criteria for their relevance for this Scientific Opinion. One EU quarantine pest (*Scirtothrips*

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

dorsalis), one Protected zone quarantine pest (*Bemisia tabaci* European populations) and two non-regulated pests (*Diaprepes abbreviatus* and *Epiphyas postvittana*) fulfilled all relevant criteria and were selected for further evaluation. For the selected pests, the risk mitigation measures described in the technical dossier from the UK were evaluated taking into account the possible limiting factors. For these pests, an expert judgement was 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, *E. postvittana* was the pest most frequently expected on the commodity. The Expert Knowledge Elicitation indicated, with 95% certainty, that 9,724 or more topiary plants in pots per 10,000 would be free from *E. postvittana*.

The opinion was adopted on 28/09/2022

5.2. Correction – addendum – of commodity risk assessment of Malus - Turkey

The opinion on *Malus domestica* plants from Turkey was previously adopted by the PLH Panel on 31 March 2022 and published on 5 May 2022. However, following new evidence on the distribution of some plant pests in Turkey (from the upcoming opinion on Commodity risk assessment for *Prunus persica* and *Prunus dulcis* plants from Turkey and from recent literature), the Panel has reviewed the *Malus domestica* – Turkey commodity risk assessment and deemed necessary to consider also additional actionable pests (*Didesmococcus unifasciatus, Euzophera semifuneralis, Maconellicoccus hirsutus, Pochazia shantungensis, Russelaspis pustulans*) in its assessment. This amendment will be published as an addendum type correction in the EFSA Journal.

The Panel approved the amendment on 29/09/2022.

5.3. Pest categorisation of *Dendrolimus spectabilis* (EFSA-Q-2022-00070)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Dendrolimus spectabilis* (Lepidoptera: Lasiocampidae), also known as the Japanese pine caterpillar, for the EU territory. *D. spectabilis* is native to China, Japan, and Korea. Its larvae primarily feed on the needles of *Pinus densiflora* and *Pinus thunbergii* and can also feed on *Pinus strobus*, *Pinus rigida*, *Pinus taeda*, and *Pinus tabuliformis*. The pest can have one or two generations per year; winter is mostly spent as fifth instar larvae in the soil. Adults emerge in July and August and females lay egg masses of 200 to 300 eggs on coniferous host needles. Natural enemies are described as significant factors of population density changes in Japan and the Republic of Korea. The pest can be detected visually, and there are morphological keys as well as molecular markers allowing identification. *D. spectabilis* could enter the EU, either as eggs, larvae or pupae in the foliage of plants for planting or cut branches, as larvae on wood with bark, or as overwintering larvae in the litter of potted plants. However, Annex VI of Regulation 2019/2072 prohibits the introduction of *D. spectabilis* hosts from countries and areas where the pest occurs. *D. spectabilis* occurs in climatic zones that are found in the EU, and the fact that it attacks the North American *P. strobus, P. taeda* and *P. rigida* in its Asian native area suggests a potential to shift to local pine species in the EU territory. There is uncertainty regarding the magnitude of impact of *D. spectabilis* on conifer species commonly

occurring in the EU. Notwithstanding this uncertainty, *D. spectabilis* 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 29/09/2022.

5.4. Pest categorisation of *Neomaskellia andropogonis* (EFSA-Q-2022-00079)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Neomaskellia andropogonis* (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae), the sugarcane whitefly, for the EU territory. *N. andropogonis* is a tropical and subtropical species that originates in south central Asia and has recently established in Iran and Iraq. *N. andropogonis* is not listed in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. It is oligophagous on Poaceae and most frequently reported on sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*), on which it has become an important emerging pest in western Iran. The larvae feed on the foliage and stalks and can cause a reduction of photosynthesis rate and growth. In heavy infestations, the sugar purity and content are greatly decreased. Honeydew egested by feeding *N. andropogonis* larvae can promote the growth of black sooty mould over the host. No evidence was found indicating economic damage to other grasses. The ornamental grass hosts *Andropogon* sp. and *Imperata cylindrica* are ornamental grasses in the subfamily Panicoideae which are exempt from a general prohibition on Poaceae entering the EU and, together with fresh sugarcane, provide potential pathways for entry. An estimated threshold for development from egg to adult of 7.2°C with approximately 500 degree days required for a generation suggests that climatic conditions, together with the availability of grass hosts in the southern EU, would support establishment. Adults disperse naturally by flying and all stages can be moved over long distances by the trade of infested plant material. The pest has the potential to impact sugarcane production in Portugal and Spain. *N. andropogonis* 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 high uncertainties regarding the likelihood of entry and the magnitude of potential impact within the EU as the insect is only recorded as an economically important pest in Iran, and its host range is poorly known and understood.

The opinion was adopted on 29/09/2022.

5.5. Pest categorisation of *Stenocarpella maydis* (EFSA-Q-2022-00388)

The EFSA Plant Health Panel performed a pest categorisation for the EU territory of *Stenocarpella maydis,* a clearly defined fungus causing seedling blight, stalk and ear rot in maize, its only confirmed main host. The pathogen occurs in many countries of North, Central and South America, Africa, Asia and Oceania where maize is grown commercially. It is present in the EU with restricted distribution (Czech Republic and Spain). *Stenocarpella maydis* is not included in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. Plants for planting (maize seeds) is the main pathway of entry and spread in the EU. Host availability and climate are favourable for the establishment of the pathogen in maize growing areas of the EU. The pathogen has a direct impact on yield and quality of maize production. Phytosanitary measures are available to mitigate further introduction and spread of the pathogen into the EU. The Panel concludes that *S. maydis* satisfies all the criteria to be regarded as a potential Union quarantine pest.

The opinion was adopted on 29/09/2022

5.6. Pest categorisation of *Coleosporium phellodendri* (EFSA-Q-2022-00389)

The EFSA Plant Health Panel performed a pest categorisation for the EU territory of *Coleosporium phellodendri* Kom., a basidiomycete fungus belonging to the order *Pucciniales*, causing rust diseases on *Pinus* spp. (aecial host) and on *Phellodendron* spp. (telial host). *Coleosporium phellodendri* has been reported only from Asia (namely, China, Republic of Korea, Japan and Russia) and is not known to be present in the EU territory. The pathogen is not listed in Annex II of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072, an implementing act of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031, or in any emergency plant health legislation. The pathogen could enter into, become established in, and spread within the EU territory via host plants for planting and host plant parts (e.g., foliage, branches) other than seeds and fruits, respectively. Spread within the EU territory may also occur by natural means if *Phellodendron* spp. were present. Availability of the *Pinus* spp. and climate suitability factors occurring in the EU are favourable for the establishment of the pathogen in areas where *Phellodendron* spp. would also be present. Phytosanitary measures are available to prevent the introduction and spread of the pathogen in the EU. *Coleosporium phellodendri* does not satisfy all the criteria assessed by EFSA for consideration as a Union quarantine pest as no economic and environmental impact of this pathogen is expected without widespread presence of *Phellodendron* spp. in the EU.

The opinion was adopted on 29/09/2022

5.7. Pest categorisation of *Chickpea chlorotic dwarf virus* (EFSA-Q-2022-00312)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health conducted a pest categorisation of chickpea chlorotic dwarf virus (CpCDV) for the EU territory. The identity of CpCDV, a member of the genus *Mastrevirus* (family *Geminiviridae*) is established. Reliable detection and identification methods are available. The pathogen is not included in the EU Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072. CpCDV has been reported in Africa, Asia and Oceania. It has not been reported in the EU. CpCDV infects plant species in the family Fabaceae and several species of other families (Amaranthaceae, Brassicaceae, Caricaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Malvaceae and Solanaceae), including weeds. It may induce symptoms on its hosts, causing severe yield reduction. The virus is transmitted in a persistent, circulative and non-propagative manner by the leafhopper species *Orosius orientalis* and *O. albicinctus*, which are not regulated. *O. orientalis* is known to be present in some EU member states. Plants for planting (other than seeds), parts of plants and cut flowers of CpCDV hosts, and viruliferous leafhoppers were identified as the most relevant pathways for the entry of CpCDV into the EU. Cultivated and wild hosts of CpCDV 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. CpCDV fulfils 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 29/09/2022

5.8. Pest categorisation of *Penthimiola bella* (EFSA-Q-2022-00077)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Penthimiola bella* (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae), the citrus leafhopper, for the European Union (EU). *P. bella* is native to the Afrotropical region; it has spread to Israel (first reported in 1974), Lebanon, and was reported from Morocco in 2018. Within the EU, *P. bella* is established in Portugal (Algarve) where it was first found on sweet oranges in 2012, and then in Spain in 2020, also on sweet oranges. *P. bella* is not listed in Annex II of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. It is a polyphagous species reported, among cultivated hosts, on sweet orange, grapefruit and avocado. It is also described as being found on unspecified trees and bushes in savannahs, mountain forests and rain forests in Africa. Climatic conditions in some parts of southern EU countries are favorable and host plants are available in those areas to support establishment and spread. Despite being present in Portugal for over ten years, there is a lack of evidence of impacts hence the magnitude of impact following introduction is uncertain. Nevertheless, in South Africa *P. bella* was reported as being an economically important pest of citrus and to cause damage to avocado fruit during the early stages of development. Phytosanitary measures are available to reduce the likelihood of entry and further spread. Except for having uncertain economic or environmental impacts as a result of its introduction, *P. bella* satisfies all the other criteria that are within the remit of EFSA to assess for it to be regarded as a potential Union QP.

The opinion was adopted on 29/09/2022.

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

6.1. Feedback from the Working Groups on High Risk Plants

Updates on the activities of the three High Risk Plants (HRP) WGs were provided by the WG chairs and coordinators.

For WG HRP I an update was provided on WG composition and on the methodology adopted for the preparation of the *Petunia* and *Calibrachoa* pest lists and on the status of these dossiers.

For WG HRP II an update on the dossier on ash logs treated with sulfuryl fluoride against emerald ash borer (EAB) from the USA and on the High Risk Plants dossiers from UK (*Acer* spp., *Fagus sylvatica*, *Quercus* spp.) were provided. Dossiers from Ukraine are still on clock-stop.

For WG HRP III updates on the dossier on almond and peach trees from Turkey as well as on the dossiers from Moldova (*Prunus* L.) and UK (*Malus domestica*) were given.

6.2. Feedback from the Working Groups on Pest categorisation

WG Arthropods: The WG Chair updated the Panel on ongoing work. The group is finalising the pest categorisations on *Anoidiella orientalis*, *Matsucoccus massonianae* and *M. matsumarae* and will soon circulate it to the Panel for review before the October plenary meeting.

WG Pathogens: The WG Chair provided an overview on the opinions delivered by the WG within the current mandate and informed the Panel on the draft categorisations on which the WG is currently working on. The workplan until finalisation of the mandate in March 2023 was presented.

6.3. Feedback from the Working Groups on QPRA

WG QPRA section 1: The WG Chair showed to the Panel the progress on the data gathering (hosts, climates, control practices etc.) of *Elasmopalpus lignosllus* (Lepidoptera:Pyralidae).

WG QPRA section 2: The chair of the WG updated the Panel on the progress of the WG on the pest risk assessments of *Xanthomonas citri* pv. *viticola* and *Citripestis sagittiferella*. Some highlights of the climate change analysis for *X. citri* pv. *viticola* were shown.

6.4. Feedback from Scientific Committee [Claude Bragard]

PLH Panel chair provided feedback on various topics from last SC plenary meeting. In particular he reported the progress on the draft guidance on protocol development guidance, dealing with risk assessment for generic mandates. This document is currently under preparation and will be circulated to the Panel Members, if authorisation is given by EFSA, to provide feedback and comments for Panel discussion in November.

6.5. Feedback from the EFSA PLANTS PLH Monitoring Team: overview of activities

The different mandates from COM to EFSA on which the Plant health monitoring team is working have been presented. The work process of Horizon Scanning was presented with a particular focus on tools used for performing the tasks and the resources involved. In relation to the mandate on Priority pests to support the JRC-Sevilla with the ranking of quarantine pests, the two main steps of the project were presented i.e. the shortlisting of candidate priority pests and the fully fledged EKEs to assess spread and impact of the pests in the EU where climatic conditions are suitable for their establishment. In relation to the EFSA activities to support MSs with their surveillance planning and execution, the EFSA toolkit and its access were briefly presented as well as the ongoing work on two new mandates. In particular the further development of the toolkit to address all the EU quarantine pests, to tailor the current tools to Plant Health and also to address multi-pest surveys at crop level, were presented showing how a

dedicated relational database is pivotal in the toolkit. In addition, also the recent mandate for capacity building for EU Member States and Third countries on the statistically sound and risk-based surveys was mentioned. The importance to keep the Panel abreast of the progress on the different activities of the EFSA Plant health Monitoring team was highlighted.

6.6. Update on EFSA Grants & Procurement

The PLH Panel coordinator updated the Panel on the status of EFSA Grants & Procurement in plant health.

6.7. Feedback from EC DG SANTE

Positive feedback was provided by the EC DG SANTE representative on the Panel activities and deliverables. Clarifications were provided on the status of the Canary Islands in relation to the EU plant health law.

7. Other Scientific topics for discussion

7.1. Update on virus nomenclature from the International Committee on the Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV)

Luisa Rubino presented an update from the International Committee on the Taxonomy of Viruses on virus nomenclature.

8. New mandates

8.1. New mandates received July-September 2022 (treatment of ware potatoes against Tecia solanivora; completion of the EU apple pests database)

Two new mandates were presented to the Panel: one on a treatment of ware potatoes against *Tecia solanivora* short (deadline December 2022); another mandate on completion of the pilot project to gather information on pests of apple fruit in the EU, to support trade agreements with Third Countries (deadline September 2025).

9. Any Other Business

9.1. Short report from International Plant Health Conference, London 21-23 September

PLH Panel coordinator gave a report of the International Plant Health conference.

9.2. Feedback from HOMED project final meeting

The feedback was given from the Homed stakeholder's round table. Homed Knowledge Hub was demonstrated to the Panel members: https://homed-

project.eu/, as very useful source of information for pest risk assessments and for the surveillance.

9.3. International Pest Risk Research Group, Athens October 2022

Panel and PLH team were reminded about the International Pest Risk Research Group

9.4. Reminder of panel meetings dates

Panel was reminded of the upcoming plenary for 2022, and for the already confirmed plenary in 2023. First on-site Plenary is going to be in March.