

Scientific Panel on Plant Health

Minutes of the 107th Plenary meeting

Held on 30 November & 1 December 2022

EFSA, Parma,

(Agreed on 27 February 2023)

Participants

■ Panel Members

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

■ Hearing Experts

Camille PICARD (EPPO), Irene VLOUTOGLOU

European Commission

Leonard SHUMBE, Maria Belen MARQUEZ GARCIA, Filippa DI MARIA, Francoise MUNAUT (EC DG SANTE)

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

- **MESE Unit:** Olaf MOSBACH-SCHULZ

- **COMCO unit:** María TEJERO MARTÍN

- **EFSA Art. 36 Grants**

Alzbeta MIKULOVA (Università di Padova, Italy), LARENAUDIE Magali (ANSES)

- **EFSA Procurement**

Oresteia SFYRA (Greece)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from **Annemarie JUSTESEN**.

Partial apologies were received from **Juan NAVAS-CORTES, Philippe REIGNAULT** for not attending the first day and **Emilio STEFANI** from for not attending the second day of the plenary.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

3. Declarations of Interest Scientific Panel Members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², 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 106th Plenary meeting - WEB

The minutes of the 106th Plenary meeting were adopted by written procedure and were published on EFSA website.

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

5.1. Pest categorisation of *Icerya aegyptiaca*

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Icerya aegyptiaca* (Hemiptera: Sternorrhyncha: Monophlebidae), the Egyptian fluted scale, for the EU. This insect is established in several countries in tropical and subtropical regions of the world. Within the EU, the pest has not been reported. It is not listed in Annex II of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. It is highly polyphagous, feeding on plants in 128 genera and 66 families, with some preference for avocado (*Persea americana*), banana (*Musa* sp.), citrus (*Citrus* spp.), coconut (*Cocos nucifera*), common pear (*Pyrus communis*), fig (*Ficus* spp.), guava (*Psidium guajava*), maize (*Zea mays*), mango (*Mangifera indica*), white mulberry (*Morus alba*), and grapevine (*Vitis vinifera*). It has also been recorded feeding on tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*),

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

as well as on ornamental plants. Plants for planting and fruits, vegetables and cut flowers are the main potential pathways for entry of *I. aegyptiaca* into the EU. Climatic conditions and availability of host plants in parts of the EU where there are very few days of frost each year would likely allow this species to successfully establish and spread. Economic impact in cultivated hosts including citrus, grapes, maize, peppers, sunflowers, tomatoes and ornamental crops is anticipated if establishment occurs. Phytosanitary measures are available to reduce the likelihood of entry and spread. *I. aegyptiaca* 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 1 December 2023.

5.2. Pest categorisation of *Urocerus japonicus*

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Urocerus japonicus* (Hymenoptera: Siricidae), the Japanese horntail, for the territory of the EU. *U. japonicus* is not listed in Annex II of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 but was identified as an actionable pest in a commodity risk assessment of *Pinus thunbergii* artificially dwarfed plants from Japan. *U. japonicus* occurs across Japan and on the Korean Peninsula. It attacks fallen or weakened Japanese cedars, *Cryptomeria japonica*, and Japanese cypresses, *Chamaecyparis obtusa*. It has also been observed attacking *Pinus* spp., *Abies* spp., *Larix kempferi* and *Picea jezoensis*. The females oviposit into the sapwood. Eggs are deposited together with a symbiotic basidiomycete fungus, *Amylostereum laevigatum*. The larvae feed on wood infected by the fungus. All immature stages live in the hosts sapwood. The lifecycle of the pest lasts one year, sometimes two years. The wood of the host trees is discoloured by the fungus and therefore loses much of its economic value. *U. japonicus* can be carried in conifer wood, solid wood packaging material (SWPM) or plants for planting. Wood from Japan is regulated by 2019/2072 (Annexes VII and XI) whilst SWPM is managed by ISPM 15. The pathway plants for planting is largely closed by prohibition, with the exception of *Cryptomeria* spp. and specified bonsai plants for planting. Climatic conditions in several EU member states are conducive for establishment, but the main host plants are not very common in those areas, being only amenity trees, although the other hosts mentioned in the literature, *Pinus* spp., *Abies* spp., *Picea* spp. and *Larix* spp., are widespread. The introduction of *U. japonicus* is likely to decrease the quality of host wood, as in Japan. Phytosanitary measures are available to reduce the likelihood of entry and further spread, and there is a potential for biological control. *U. japonicus* 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 1 December 2023.

5.3. Pest categorisation of *Xylella taiwanensis*

The EFSA Plant Health Panel performed a pest categorisation of *Xylella taiwanensis*, a Gram-negative bacterium belonging to the Xanthomonadaceae. The pathogen is a well-defined taxonomic entity and it is the causal agent of the pear leaf scorch. *X. taiwanensis* is present in subtropical and temperate areas of the island of Taiwan, where it affects low chilling pear cultivars of the species *Pyrus pyrifolia* (Asian pear). No other plant species are reported to be affected by the pathogen. The pathogen is not known to be present in the EU territory and it is not included in the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. The main pathway for the entry of the pathogen into the EU territory is host plants for planting (except seeds); another possible pathway might be represented by putative insect vectors, though their identity remains unknown. The cultivated area of *P. pyrifolia* in the EU territory is very limited. Conversely, the genetically related *P. communis* is widely cultivated in most EU Member States and there is no information so far on the susceptibility of its several cultivars. Should the pest establish in the EU, economic impact is expected, provided that suitable insect vectors are present and *P. communis* is as susceptible to infection as *P. pyrifolia*. Phytosanitary measures are available to prevent the introduction and spread of the pathogen into the EU, since plants for planting from Taiwan is a closed pathway; nonetheless, putative vectors, if confirmed and identified, may represent an additional risk of the pathogen's introduction and spread. The lack of knowledge on whether *X. taiwanensis* can infect *P. communis*, the identity and presence of suitable vectors in the EU lead to key uncertainties on entry, establishment, spread and impact. *X. taiwanensis* satisfies 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 1 December 2023.

5.4. Pest categorisation of *Lasiodiplodia pseudotheobromae*

The EFSA Plant Health Panel performed a pest categorisation of *Lasiodiplodia pseudotheobromae*, a clearly defined fungus of the family *Botryosphaeriaceae*, which was first described in 2008 as a cryptic species within the *L. theobromae* complex. The pathogen affects a wide range of woody perennial crops and ornamental plants causing root rot, damping-off, leaf spots, twig blight, cankers, stem-end rot, gummosis, branch dieback, and pre- and post-harvest fruit rots. *Lasiodiplodia pseudotheobromae* is present in Africa, Asia, North and South America, and Oceania and has also been reported from Spain with a restricted distribution. However, there is uncertainty on the status of the pathogen worldwide and in the EU because in the past, when molecular tools (particularly multigene phylogenetic analysis) were not available, the pathogen might have been misidentified as *L. theobromae*. *Lasiodiplodia pseudotheobromae* is not included in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 and there are no interceptions in the EU. Because of the very wide host range of the pathogen, this pest categorisation focused on those hosts for which there is robust evidence that the pathogen was formally identified by a combination of morphology,

pathogenicity and multilocus sequence analysis. Plants for planting, including seeds, fresh fruits and bark and wood of host plants as well as soil and other plant growing media are the main pathways for the further entry of the pathogen into the EU. Host availability and climate suitability factors occurring in parts of the EU are favorable for the further establishment of the pathogen. In the area of its present distribution, including Spain, the pathogen has a direct impact on cultivated hosts. Phytosanitary measures are available to prevent the further introduction and spread of the pathogen into the EU. *Lasiodiplodia pseudotheobromae* satisfies the criteria that are within the remit of EFSA to assess for this species to be regarded as potential Union quarantine pest.

The opinion was adopted on 1 December 2023.

5.5. Commodity risk assessment of *Prunus persica* and *Prunus dulcis* plants from Türkiye

The EFSA Plant Health Panel performed a commodity risk assessment of *Prunus persica* and *Prunus dulcis* plants from Türkiye. This Scientific Opinion covers plant health risks posed by plants of *Prunus persica* and *P. dulcis*, as budwood/graftwood, rooted, or grafted on rootstocks of either *P. persica*, *P. dulcis*, *P. armeniaca*, *P. davidiana* or their hybrids, imported from Türkiye, taking into account the available scientific information, including the technical information provided by Türkiye. All pests associated with the commodity were evaluated against specific criteria for their relevance for this opinion. Four quarantine pests (peach rosette mosaic virus, tomato ringspot virus, *Anoplophora chinensis*, *Scirtothrips dorsalis*,) and fourteen non-regulated pests (*Hoplolaimus galeatus*, *Lasiodiplodia pseudotheobromae*, *Neoscytalidium dimidiatum*, *Neoscytalidium novaehollandiae*, *Didesmococcus unifasciatus*, *Euzophera semifuneralis*, *Lepidosaphes malicola*, *Lepidosaphes pistaciae*, *Maconellicoccus hirsutus*, *Malacosoma parallela*, *Nipaecoccus viridis*, *Phenacoccus solenopsis*, *Pochazia shantungensis*, *Russellaspis pustulans*) that fulfilled all relevant criteria were selected for further evaluation. For these eighteen pests, the risk mitigation measures proposed in the technical dossier from Türkiye 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 fungi from Botryosphaeriaceae family (*L. pseudotheobromae*, *N. dimidiatum* and *N. novaehollandiae*) being the pests most frequently expected on the imported plants. The Expert Knowledge Elicitation indicated with 95% certainty that between 9,813 and 10,000 bundles (consisting of 10 or 25 plants each) per 10,000 would be free from the above-mentioned fungi in the Botryosphaeriaceae family.

The opinion was adopted on 1 December 2023.

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

6.1. Feedback from EFSA: update on climate suitability assessment for pest categorisation and pest risk assessment and repository on Zenodo platform

Andrea Maiorano, Eugenio Rossi and Alex Gobbi provided an extensive presentation on the current state of the climate suitability analysis for pest categorisation and quantitative pest-risk assessment at the PLH Unit. The group was first introduced, then a detailed description of the systematic literature search used for PC and QPRA was performed. After the literature search, different approaches of climate suitability were presented to the audience including Koppen-Geiger climatic classification, CLIMEX and degree-days calculation. Finally, a practical live demonstration of the use of newly developed web-based tools (SCANCLIM and DDMAP) was conducted on the R4EU platform.

Second mandate on Priority pests: an overview Panel was updated with the status of the ongoing second mandate dedicated to priority pests. The mandate is divided in three main tasks

TASK A (finalised, as deadline was November 2022): *EFSA is requested to provide scientific and technical support to DG JRC for the analysis of all Union Quarantine pests (provision of hosts for all Union quarantine pests, based on the EPPO Global Database, if information is available, or other sources).* The obtained file with data extraction on the different hosts has been presented and shared with the Panel.

TASK B (deadline June 2023): *EFSA is requested to provide scientific and technical support to DG JRC when shortlisting candidate priority pests, including the assessment of the spread and impact (in line with EFSA's quantitative risk assessment methodology).* EFSA is ensuring consistency on the applied methodology with the other ongoing mandates, in particular qPRA.

TASK C (deadline October 2024): *EFSA is requested to conduct fully-fledged Expert Knowledge Elicitation for the short list of up to 30 candidate priority pests to support DG JRC in the assessment for their potential inclusion in the list of Priority Pests under Regulation (EU) 2019/1702. The information available for the 28 pests already assessed for their potential inclusion as priority pests could be reviewed, if needed, to ensure consistency of the applied methodology.* This activity will soon start with the support of the contractor selected from the call "Priority pests: data and evidence collection in support to the pest specific assessments" (GP/EFSA/PLANTS/2022/06) and further updates to the Panel will follow.

6.2. Feedback from WG QPRA 1 (Quantitative pest risk assessment – section 1): update on QPRA for *Elasmopalpus lignosellus*

The chair of the WG updated the Panel on the progress of the WG on the risk assessment of *Elasmopalpus lignosellus* (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae). The group narrowed down the list of the potential pathways and will most probably use the high risk methodology to deal with the entry part.

6.3. Feedback from WG QPRA 2 (Quantitative pest risk assessment – section 2): update on QPRA for *Citripestis sagittiferella*

The chair of the WG updated the Panel about the progress of the WG on the risk assessment of *Citripestis sagittiferella*. The main results from the entry model were presented, and the main issues concerning the establishment assessment were discussed. The workplan for rest of the mandate was shown.

6.4. Feedback from WG QPRA 3 (Quantitative pest risk assessment – section 3): update on the partial quantitative pest risk assessment for *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (false codling moth, FCM) -assessment of the probability of introduction of FCM with cut roses import

The chair of the WG presented the progress of the WG on the opinion whether the importation of cut flowers of roses (*Rosa* sp.) into the EU constitutes a potential pathway for the introduction of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (Meyrick).

6.5. Feedback from EFSA: update on EFSA grants and procurements; EFSA new reimbursement rules; new Call for EFSA Panels

Panel was updated with the status of EFSA grants and procurements. A detailed explanation on the new EFSA reimbursement rules effective from January.

Panel coordinator informed the Panel about the launch of the new call for EFSA panels and the spread the word through their network.

6.6. Feedback from Scientific Committee

Panel was updated on the status of the Scientific committee work.

6.7. Feedback from European Commission DG SANTE

Positive feedback was provided by the EC DG SANTE representative on the Panel activities and deliverables. DG SANTE also updated the Panel with the progress with the PLH Law.

6.8. Feedback from WG HRP 3 (High Risk Plants commodity risk assessment - section 3): update on commodity risk assessment of ware potatoes treated against *Tecia solanivora*; update on workplan

The chair of the WG updated the Panel about the progress of the WG on the opinion on the efficacy of a postharvest treatment aiming at eradication of all developmental stages of *Tecia solanivora* in ware potatoes as well as the update on the ongoing work with other dossiers, such as: *Prunus* sp. from Moldova, *Malus domestica* and *M. sylvestris* from the UK and *Malus domestica* from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

6.9. Feedback from WG HRP 1 (High Risk Plants commodity risk assessment - section 1): update on commodity risk assessment of Petunia and Calibrachoa plants from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Kenya and Uganda; update on workplan

The chair of the WG, Roel Potting, updated the Panel about the progress of the WG with a specific focus on the activities on the request for derogation to the import of petunia and calibrachoa unrooted cuttings from Guatemala. The same approach used for Costa Rica, Kenya and Uganda, for which the pest lists have already be drafted. An update on the status of the *Crataegus monogyna* dossier from UK was also provided.

6.10. Feedback from WG HRP 2 (High Risk Plants commodity risk assessment - section 2): update on commodity risk assessment of ash logs from USA treated with sulfuryl fluoride (SF) for Agrilus planipennis; update on work plan

The chair of the WG, Paolo Gonthier, updated the Panel about the progress of the WG on different dossiers from the UK – on *Acer* species, *Fagus sylvatica* and *Quercus* species. An update on the status of the ash logs treated with sulphuryl fluoride against Emerald ash borer dossier from the US was also provided.

6.11. Horizon scanning for plant health: update on a 5 years collaboration between ANSES and EFSA

Magali Larenaudie, on behalf of ANSES, the reconfirmed contractor supporting EFSA in the horizon scanning activity for plant health, provided the Panel with an overview about the last years achievements, process streamlining, and future developments.

ANSES was recently granted the contract “Request to provide a scientific and technical assistance on a horizon scanning exercise in view to crisis preparedness on plant health for the EU territory” (P/EFSA/PLANTS/2022/07) for the duration of four years.

6.12. Feedback from WG arthropods pest categorisation: update on the pest categorisation of non-EU Scolytinae of broadleaved trees; update on workplan

The WG chair updated the Panel on the ongoing categorisations and informed the Panel that the next two draft opinions on *Resseliella maxima* and *Nipaecoccus viridis* will be circulated for panel review shortly.

A short update was provided also on the outsourced project related to the pest categorisation of non-EU Scolytinae on non-coniferous hosts. The contractor from the Padova University is screening approximately 7500 species, collecting information on their biology, distribution, hosts and impacts.

6.13. Feedback from WG plant pathogens pest categorisation: update on workplan

The WG chair informed the panel on finalised and ongoing activities of the WG and on the planning of the delivery of opinions for possible adoption in the January plenary: Cowpea mosaic virus, *Coniella granati* and *Pantoea ananatis*.

6.14. Feedback from EFSA on participation to the EURL Insects and mites meeting

EFSA staff attended a workshop organised by the European Union Reference Laboratory (EURL) for Insects and Mites, which was a hybrid meeting (in Vienna and online). The EFSA PLH Risk Assessment and PLH Monitoring teams presented their work corresponding to the EURL activities, and also attended another session dedicated to fruit flies (Tephritidae) and their identification.

7. Any Other Business

The 2023 PLH plenary meeting calendar was shown again

ANNEX 1

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

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 persica* and *P. dulcis* plants from Türkiye (item 5.5.)

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 Independence³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁴, 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.d, 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.

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf