SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON PLANT HEALTH

112th Plenary meeting

28 April 2023
09:00-13:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 25 June 2023

Location: EFSA - Parma - Webconference

Attendees:

- PLH Panel Members:

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

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

EC SANTE: Panagiota MYLONA, Leonard SHUMBE (SANTE)

- **EFSA PLANTS Unit:**

João Filipe CAVALHEIRO, Matteo CROTTA, Ewelina CZWIENCZEK, Alice DELBIANCO, Spyridoula DIMITROPOULOU, Giulia FRATTINI, Ciro GARDI, Alex GOBBI, Agata KACZMAREK, Paraskevi KARIAMPA, Virag KERTESZ, Roumiana KURSTEVA, Julia LOPEZ MERCADAL, Andrea MAIORANO, Marco PAUTASSO, Eugenio ROSSI, Giuseppe STANCANELLI, Franz STREISSL, Emanuela TACCI

- Others:
  - **MESE Unit:** Olaf MOSBACH-SCHULZ
  - **EFSA Tasking Grant**: MIKULOVA Alzbeta
  - **EFSA Procurement contract:** Oresteia SFYRA (Greece)

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.
Apologies were received from Stephen Parnell

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups 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 out by the Working Group 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 of Interest made at the beginning of the meeting, please refer to the Annex I.

IV. Report on written procedures

Nothing to report

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Scientific opinion on pest categorisation of *Coleosporium eupatorii* EFSA-Q-2023-00281

The EFSA Plant Health Panel performed a pest categorisation of *Coleosporium eupatorii* Arthur ex Cummins, a clearly defined heteroecious fungus of the family Coleosporiaceae, causing rust diseases on five-needle *Pinus* spp. (aecial hosts) and on several genera of the Asteraceae family (telial hosts), such as *Eupatorium* spp. and *Stevia* spp. *Coleosporium eupatorii* is reported from Asia as well as North, Central and South America. It is not known to occur in the EU. The pathogen is not listed in Annex II of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 and has not been intercepted in the EU. The pathogen can be detected on its host plants by DNA sequencing. The main pathway for the entry of *C. eupatorii* into the EU is host plants for planting, other than seeds. In the EU, there is availability of aecial host plants, with *Pinus peuce*, *P. strobus* and *P. cembra* being the most important ones. There is a key uncertainty about whether European *Eupatorium* species (specifically *E. cannabinum*) are hosts of *C. eupatorii* and thus the ability of the pathogen to complete its life cycle, establish and spread in the EU. *Coleosporium eupatorii* could potentially spread within the EU by both natural and human-assisted means. The introduction of *C. eupatorii* into the EU is expected to have an economic and environmental impact. Phytosanitary measures are available to prevent the introduction and spread of the pathogen in the EU. *Coleosporium eupatorii* 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 28 April 2023.

5.2. Scientific opinion on pest categorisation of coconut cadang-cadang viroid EFSA-Q-2023-00174

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health updated its 2017 pest categorisation of coconut cadang cadang viroid (CCCVd) for the EU territory due to new data on its host range. The identity of CCCVd, a member of the genus *Cocadviroid* (family *Pospiviroidae*), is established and detection and identification methods are available. It is included as a quarantine pest for the EU in the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. CCCVd has been reported from the Philippines and Malaysia. It is not known to be present in the EU. The host range of CCCVd is restricted to Arecaceae species (palms), in particular, coconut palm (*Cocos nucifera*) to which it causes a lethal disease. Oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*) and buri palm (*Corypha utan*) are other natural hosts of CCCVd. Palm species of several genera, including *Phoenix* spp. and other species grown and/or cultivated in the EU, have been identified as potential hosts. The viroid is naturally transmitted at low rate by seeds and pollen and possibly by additional not yet identified natural transmission means. It can be transmitted through vegetative propagation applied to some palm species. Plants for planting including seeds of its hosts have been identified as the main entry pathway of CCCVd. Potential hosts of CCCVd are

present in the EU, therefore establishment is possible. Should the pest establish in the EU, an impact is expected, with uncertainty on its magnitude. The Panel identified the susceptibility of palm species grown in the EU as a key uncertainty potentially affecting the conclusion of this pest categorization. Nevertheless, the pest satisfies the criteria that are within the remit of EFSA to assess for this viroid to be regarded as potential Union quarantine pest.

The opinion was adopted on 28 April 2023.

5.3. Scientific opinion on probability of introduction of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta (false codling moth*) with cut roses EFSA-Q-2022-00033

Following a request from the European Commission, the EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a quantitative pest risk assessment to assess whether the import of cut roses provides a pathway for the introduction of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae) into the EU. The assessment was limited to the entry and establishment steps.

A pathway model was used to assess how many *T. leucotreta* individuals would survive and emerge as adults from commercial or household wastes in an EU NUTS2 region climatically suitable in a specific season. This pathway model for entry consisted of three components: a cut roses distribution model, a *T. leucotreta* developmental model and a waste model. Four scenarios of timing from initial disposal of the cut roses until waste treatment (3, 7, 14 and 28 days) were considered.

The estimated median number of adults escaping per year from imported cut roses in all the climatically suitable NUTS2 regions of the EU varied from 49,230 (90% uncertainty between 5,317 and 226,736) up to 140,920 (90% uncertainty between 21,089 and 393,413) for the 3 and 28 day scenarios. Assuming that, on average, a successful mating will happen for every 435 escaping moths, the estimated median number of *T. leucotreta* mated females per year from imported cut roses in all the climatically suitable NUTS2 regions of the EU would vary from 113 (90% uncertainty between 12 and 521) up to 324 (90% uncertainty between 48 and 904) for the 3 and 28 day scenarios. Due to the extreme polyphagy of *T. leucotreta*, host availability will not be a limiting factor for establishment. Climatic suitability assessment, using a physiologically-based demographic modelling approach, identified the coastline extending from the northwest of the Iberian Peninsula through the Mediterranean as area suitable for establishment of *T. leucotreta*. This assessment indicates that cut roses provide a pathway for the introduction of *T. leucotreta* into the EU.

The opinion was adopted on 28 April 2023

VI. Feedback from EFSA

6.1 Presentation for discussion of 4 opinions on Commodity risk assessment of Acer from UK: *Acer campestre EFSA-Q-2022-00339, Acer platanoides* (EFSA-Q-2022-00347), *Acer pseudoplatanus (EFSA-Q-2022-00348), Acer palmatum EFSA-Q-2022-00346*

An overview presentation was given on the four commodity risk assessments of *Acer* from UK. The panel was informed about the structure and the content of the opinions. Similarities and differences in the commodities were highlighted. The number of pests for the four Acer species ranged from 1698 to 1924 for *A. palmatum* and *A. pseudodoplatanus*, respectively. A total of 10 pests were identified as actionable and an expert knowledge elicitation was conducted for those 10 species.

A particular challenge was a change in the commodities requested by the applicant while the evaluation of the dossier was ongoing. Further information was required to complete the risk assessment of 25 years old trees. It was decided to develop separate opinions for the 25 years old trees in order not to delay the assessment of the other commodities. The deadline for commenting the four *Acer* opinions is 11 May.

VII. Any Other Business

The next PLH Panel meeting will be held on 24 and 25 May 2023, online meeting.

Annex I

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:

- Pest categorisation on of coconut cadang-cadang viroid (item 5.2.)

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[1] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[2], 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.

[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