

18 April 2024

9:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 13 May 2024

Chair: Francesco Di serio

Location: Teleconference

Attendees:

- Panel Members:
Paula BAPTISTA, Elisavet CHATZIVASSILIOU, Francesco DI SERIO (Chair), Paolo GONTHIER, Josep JAQUES, Alan MACLEOD, Christer MAGNUSSON, Panagiotis MILONAS, Juan NAVAS-CORTES, Roel POTTING, Philippe REIGNAULT, Emilio STEFANI, Hans-Hermann THULKE, Antonio VICENT CIVERA, Wopke VAN DER WERF, Jonathan YUEN, Lucia ZAPPALÀ
- European Commission:
Panagiota MYLONA, Wolfgang REINERT
- EFSA:
João Filipe CAVALHEIRO, Chiara CIVITELLI, Ewelina CZWIENCZEK, Alex GOBBI, Dejana GOLIC, Agata KACZMAREK, Virág KERTÉSZ, Marco PAUTASSO, Giuseppe STANCANELLI, Franz STREISSL, Emanuela TACCI, Anastasia TERZIDOU
- Hearing Experts:
Oresteia SFYRA (Benaki Phytopathological Institute, Greece - EFSA art. 36 Tasking Grant)
Alzbeta MIKULOVA (University of Padova - EFSA art.36 Tasking grant)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants, apologies received by Claude Bragard and Stephen Parnell

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of 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 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.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 121st Panel plenary meeting held on 13-14 March 2024

The Panel was informed that the minutes were published in time and were thanked for their contributions.



5. Scientific output(s) submitted for discussion/adoption

5.1 Draft scientific opinion of Pest categorisation of *Calepitrimerus baileyi* EFSA-Q-2024-00045

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of Bailey's rust mite, *Calepitrimerus baileyi* Keifer (Acariformes: Eriophyidae), following the commodity risk assessment of *Malus domestica* plants from Türkiye performed by EFSA, in which *C. baileyi* was identified as a pest of possible concern to the European Union. This mite is not listed in Annex II of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. The eriophyid is known to occur in Africa, America, Asia, Europe (Greece and Serbia), and Oceania on *Malus* spp., which is the only confirmed host genus for *C. baileyi*. Plants for planting of *Malus* spp. are the main potential pathway for entry into the EU. However, plants for planting of the genus *Malus* Mill. are considered as high-risk plants (EU 2018/2019) and therefore prohibited from entering the EU unless granted a country-specific derogation. This is the case for the import of *Malus* spp. plants for planting from Serbia ((EU) 2020/1361 corrected by 2022/1309). Therefore, this derogation could provide a plausible entry pathway for *C. baileyi* into the EU. Climatic conditions and the ample availability of the host, *Malus* spp., in the EU are conducive for establishment, as proven by the occurrence of *C. baileyi* in Greece. However, the species is not reported as having an impact in Greece, despite reports of damage outside the EU. Measures to prevent further entry and spread of *C. baileyi* in the EU are available. *C. baileyi* satisfies all the criteria that are within the remit of EFSA to assess for it to be regarded as a potential Union quarantine pest. However, uncertainties about the distribution of *C. baileyi* within the EU and its impact on apples in the EU are considered key and affect the confidence of conclusions for this categorisation.

The opinion was adopted on 18 April 2024.

5.2 Draft scientific opinion of Pest categorisation of *Shirahoshizo flavonotatus* EFSA-Q-2024-00043

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Shirahoshizo patruelis* (Voss, 1937) (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), following the commodity risk assessment of bonsai plants from China consisting of *Pinus parviflora* grafted on *P. thunbergii*, in which *S. patruelis* was identified as a pest of possible concern to the European Union (EU). This categorisation refers to *S. flavonotatus* which is the pest's current valid scientific name. It is native to China and has never been recorded in the EU. It completes from 2 to 3 generations per year. Eggs are laid in cracks and crevices of trunk and branches with bark thickness of approximately 0.6 to 1.2 cm. The pest overwinters as an adult or as a mature larva under the bark. Plants for planting, wood with bark and wood products provide pathways for entry. Although the weevil has been reported to carry the nematode *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*, it is not considered a vector. Climatic conditions and availability of host plants in some EU countries would allow *S. flavonotatus* to establish and spread. Impact on *Pinus* spp. is anticipated. Recognising that the weevil is reported to attack both weakened and healthy trees, there is uncertainty on the magnitude of impact. Its recorded capacity to attack non-Asian *Pinus* species also indicates its ability to adapt and expand the range of trees it can utilise as hosts, which could include European *Pinus* species. Phytosanitary measures are available to reduce the likelihood of entry and spread. *S. flavonotatus* 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 18 April 2024.

5.3 Draft scientific opinion of Pest categorisation of *Diaphania indica* EFSA-Q-2024-00044

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Diaphania indica* (Lepidoptera: Crambidae), the cucumber moth for the territory of the European Union, following the commodity risk assessment of *Jasminum polyanthum* from Uganda, in which *D. indica* was identified as a pest of possible concern to the European Union (EU). *D. indica* is native to south-Asian countries, and



is now distributed in tropical and subtropical areas of the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Oceania. In the EU, *D. indica* occurs in Madeira (Portugal). It is a polyphagous pest, feeding on 16 genera in 6 plant families, primarily on plants of the Cucurbitaceae family. Important cucurbit hosts in the EU include cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*), melon (*Cucumis melo*), pumpkin (*Cucurbita moschata*), summer squash (*Cucurbita pepo*), and watermelon (*Citrullus lanatus*). Plants for planting, fruits and cut flowers provide potential pathways for entry into the EU. Climatic conditions and availability of host plants in southern EU countries would most probably allow this species to successfully establish and spread. Establishment could also occur in greenhouses in the northern parts of the EU. Economic impact in cultivated hosts, especially cucurbit crops is anticipated if establishment occurs. This insect is not listed in Annex II of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. Phytosanitary measures are available to reduce the likelihood of entry and further spread. *D. indica* 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 18 April 2024.

5.4 Scientific Opinion on Commodity risk assessment *Tilia platyphyllos* and *Tilia cordata* from UK EFSA-Q-2023-00515 and EFSA-Q-2023-00516

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 *Tilia cordata* and *T. platyphyllos* imported from the United Kingdom (UK) as: a) bundles of budwood/graftwood, (b) 1- to 2-year-old whips, seedlings or transplants, (c) bundles of 1- to 2-year-old cell grown plants, (d) 1- to 7-year-old bare root single plants, and (e) up to 25-year-old single plants in pots, taking into account the available scientific information provided by the UK. A list of pests potentially associated with the commodities was compiled. The relevance of any pest was assessed based on evidence following defined criteria. None of the pests on the list fulfilled all relevant criteria and therefore none were selected for further evaluation. As a result, risk mitigation measures proposed in the technical dossier from the UK were listed, but not further evaluated.

The opinion was adopted on 18 April 2024

6. Feedback from EFSA, SC and EC DG SANTE

6.1 Feedback from EFSA Executive Director

EFSA Executive Director thanked the Panel for the 6 years of commitment and tremendous outputs produced by PLH panel, from pest categorization to more complex risk assessment opinions. It was emphasized the importance of finding a balance between scientific excellence and responsiveness. The ED encouraged knowledge transfer from outgoing to incoming panel members.

6.2 Feedback from EFSA and PLH plenary calendar

The calendar of the two remaining plenaries was shown, and the May agenda was updated and approved.



7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 22-23 May, via web conference.

Annex I

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

With regard to this meeting, **Dr. Panagiotis Milonas** declared the following interest with regard to the two draft Scientific opinions on:

5.1 Draft scientific opinion of Pest categorisation of *Calepitrimerus baileyi* EFSA-Q-2024-00045

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 6.3, 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.