

27 & 28 November 2024

9:00-18:00 / 9:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 18 December 2024

Location: EFSA Teleconference

Attendees:

- Panel Members:

Paula BAPTISTA, Anna BERLIN, Elisavet CHATZIVASSILIOU, Antonio Vicent CIVERA, Jaime CUBERO, Nik CUNNIFFE, Eduardo DE LA PEÑA, Nicolas DESNEUX, Francesco DI SERIO, Anna FILIPIAK, Paolo GONTHIER, Beata Anna HASIÓW-JAROSZEWSKA, Blanca LANDA, Lara MAISTRELLO, David MAKOWSKI, Panagiotis MILONAS, Nikolaos PAPADOPOULOS, Roel POTTING, Hanna Sinikka SUSI, Dirk VAN DER GAAG

- European Commission DG SANTE: Leonard SHUMBE, Paul ROQUINY & Wolfgang REINERT
- EFSA:

PLANTS: Matteo CROTTA, Ewelina CZWIENCZEK, Naliny FELIU, Ciro GARDI, Gemma GERMOGLIO, Agata KACZMAREK, Virág KERTÉSZ, Monia LOMBARDO, Andrea MAIORANO, Louise MATIC; Tarla MURPHY, Alexandre NOUGADERE, Marco PAUTASSO, Dorothea POCHLAUER, Daria RZEPECKA, Marica SCALA, Giuseppe STANCANELLI, Franz STREISSL, Emanuela TACCI, Anastasia TERZIDOU

COMCO: Filippo POSITANO

MESE: Olaf MOSBACH-SCHULZ

IDATA: Luca BELMONTE

- EFSA Art. 36 Tasking Grants:

Spyros ANTONATOS, Dimitrios PAPACHRISTOS and Oresteia SFYRA (Benaki Phytopathological Institute, Greece); Alex Gobbi (CRA), Alzbeta MIKULOVA (University of Padova, Italy), Giovanni Bubici & Ugo Picciotti, CNR IPSP (IT).

- EPPO: Dmitri MUSSOLIN, Rob TANNER
- Hearing experts: Juan Antonio NAVAS (EFSA WG on survey methods) Stephen PARNELL (EFSA WG on survey methods), Leandro PEÑA GARCÍA (IBMCP CSIC-UPV (Spain), Hans-Hermann THULKE (AHAW panel)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Panel Chair welcomed the participants, apologies were received by Hervé JACTEL.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Panel members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management,² EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by

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



the Panel 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. Report on the written approval procedure of the 126 th PLH Panel plenary meeting

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

5. Feedback from EFSA, Scientific Committee and European Commission

5.1 Current process for assessing climate suitability for pest categorisation

Andrea Maiorano (EFSA) presented the current process for literature search, data extraction and assessing climate suitability for pest categorisation based on the Köppen-Geiger climate classification. The presentation focused on the importance of the interaction of the EFSA Climate Group with specific Working Groups to ensure the consistency of the pest distribution and the climate suitability, and on the quality checking and data consolidation activities. The limitations of the Köppen-Geiger climate classification approach were also discussed. The presentation was followed by a discussion with the Panel with questions and comments related to the characteristics of this approach, its limitations, future developments, additional analysis.

5.2 Presentation of the published pest categorisation and database of non-EU Scolytinae of broadleaved trees

Virag Kertesz (EFSA) presented the published pest categorisations of non-EU Scolytinae of broadleaved (<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/j.efsa.2024.888>) and coniferous trees (<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/5933;https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/j.efsa.2020.5934>), including the global database on non-EU Scolytinae (<https://www.scolytinaehostsdatabase.eu/site/it/home/?nonautorizzati=1>).

5.3 Presentation of the EFSA database on EU apple pests: mandate and ongoing work

Agata Kaczmarek (EFSA) and Ugo Picciotti (CNR) presented the mandate and the progress in development of the EU apple fruit pests database. The presentation mainly focused on data collection and preliminary analysis of data. The development of the new dashboard was shown to Panel members.

5.4 Presentation and discussion of the main outcomes of the PreHLB EU research project

Leandro Pena presented the main outcomes of the PreHLB EU research project "Preventing HLB epidemics for ensuring citrus survival in Europe" (<https://www.prehlb.eu/>).



5.5 Modelling to develop epidemiological preparedness for management of citrus Huanglongbing in the EU

Nik Cunniffe presented the results of the PreHLB project on modelling to develop epidemiological preparedness for management of citrus Huanglongbing.

5.6 Presentation of EFSA Art 36 Research Grants to reduce risk assessment uncertainties and new Calls

Giuseppe Stancanelli updated the panel regarding the ongoing grants and upcoming new calls.

5.7 Training on preparation of High Risk Plants dossiers at Autumn School with IPA Countries November 2024

Ciro Gardi presented the main results of the training that was recently provided by EFSA Plant Health to a group of experts from the phytosanitary organisations of IPA countries during the Autumn School organised together with the Croatian Agency for Food and Agriculture in Osijek from the 5 to the 7 November 2024. The training was given by Ciro Gardi (EFSA), Roel Potting (Netherlands Food and Product Safety Authority (NVWA)) and Alzbeta Mikulova (University of Padova).

Below are some take home messages from this Autumn School experience:

- Among the plant health representatives of IPA countries there is a good knowledge and understanding of the EU phytosanitary system, but probably less on the role of EFSA on Plant Health (this type of initiative helps to fill the gap);
- All participants, at various degrees, showed interest in being involved in activities conducted by EFSA on Plant Health.
- The practical activities and group exercise conducted during the "school" enormously increase interaction, reciprocal understanding, doubt solving.

5.8 How EFSA RIPEST (risk based pest survey) tool supports surveillance: the case of *Xylella fastidiosa*

The EFSA RIPEST tool was presented to the Panel with examples for *X. fastidiosa*.

5.9 Presentation of the published Panel statement on standard protocol for recurrent Plant Health Risk Assessments (Pest Categorisation, Quantitative Pest Risk assessment, Commodity Risk Assessment)

The main principles of the EFSA SC guidance on protocols and the Plant health Panel standard protocols for recurrent scientific assessments were presented. The approach used by the EFSA Plant health panel was published as a Panel statement in summer 2024 (<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/j.efsa.2024.8891>). The three specific protocols (pest categorisation, quantitative pest risk assessment and commodity risk assessment) are published in Zenodo open access platform, allowing for updating and versioning.

5.10 Feedback from Scientific Committee

Antonio Vicent updated the panel with the activities of the SC.



5.11 Feedback from EFSA: EFSA IPPC meeting Oct 2024

Ciro Gardi presented the results of the EFSA – IPPC bilateral meeting that was held in Rome, at the FAO premises, on the 3rd October 2024. During the meeting the two institutions presented their reciprocal activities in Plant Health with the aim of finding topics for possible scientific cooperation. Among the areas identified for possible cooperation: horizon scanning, pest surveillance, commodity risk assessment, climate suitability, antimicrobial resistance. On the following day a special session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) dedicated to plant health (*Plant Health: Why is it crucial for the success of One Health?*), was attended by the EFSA delegation.

5.12 Feedback from EFSA: Plant health risk assessment Network meeting Oct 2024

Giuseppe Stancanelli presented the feedback of the PLH RA network meeting of 28-30 October 2024. The Network meeting was attended by Network members from EU MS and Norway, and observers from Switzerland, IPA countries and EPPO.EEA and IPA countries. It included sessions on forestry plant health risk assessment, agriculture plant health risk assessment, commodity risk assessment and also an update on the EFSA ongoing work to develop protocols for emergency authorisations. Feedback provided on EFSA work in plant health was positive. The importance for MS of a thorough impact assessment when dealing with new plant pests was highlighted.

5.13 Feedback from European Commission

DG SANTE informed the Panel that since last panel in October, two relevant pieces of legislation were adopted and published: amendment of regulation of 2018/2019 and 2020/1213 regarding several prunus species originated in the UK. Adopted and published the regulation of introduction of Bonsai from Japan. They are working on the amendment of regulation 2016/2021 to be adopted by the Commission.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption (continues)

6.1 Scientific opinion on pest categorisation of *Morganella longispina* ([EFSA-Q-2024-00616](#))

Following the commodity risk assessment of *Acer palmatum* plants grafted on *A. davidii* from China, in which *Morganella longispina* (Hemiptera: Diaspididae) was identified as a pest of possible concern, the European Commission requested the EFSA Panel on Plant Health to conduct a pest categorisation of *M. longispina* for the territory of the European Union (EU). The origin of the scale insect *M. longispina* is uncertain, with either South America or eastern Asia suggested as the native range. The geographic distribution of the species includes many countries of the continents of Africa, North and South America, Asia and Oceania. *M. longispina* is polyphagous, feeding on plants assigned to 86 genera in 42 families. Important crops of the EU that may be affected by this insect are avocado, citrus, fig, peach, plum, olive, and walnut. It is a viviparous insect with several generations per year in Algeria. Host availability and climate suitability indicate that the southern EU countries would support the establishment of *M. longispina*. The introduction of this pest would likely have an economic impact on several crops in the EU as it can cause significant damage to host plants. Uncertainty exists, however, about the magnitude of yield and quality losses due to the insect, and this is a key uncertainty. *M. longispina* is not listed in Annex II of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. Phytosanitary measures are available to reduce the likelihood of entry, establishment and spread of the pest into the EU. All criteria assessed by EFSA for consideration as a potential quarantine pest are met.



The Scientific Opinion was adopted by the Panel on 27 November 2024.

6.2 Scientific Opinion on Pest categorisation of *Lepidosaphes pistaciae* (EFSA-Q-2024-00617)

Following the commodity risk assessment of *Prunus persica* and *P. dulcis* plants for planting from Türkiye, in which *Lepidosaphes pistaciae* (Hemiptera: Diaspididae), (the pistachio oyster scale or yellow pistachio scale), was identified as a pest of possible concern, the EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation for the territory of the European Union (EU). *L. pistaciae* is reported as a polyphagous pest, which, however, mainly affects plants of the genus *Pistacia*. Originating from Asia, it is widely distributed in pistachio producing countries of Central, South and West Asia. Within the EU, the pest has been reported from Cyprus and Greece. However, its precise distribution within Cyprus and Greece is unknown. It completes two generations per year and overwinters as a fully developed adult female. The eggs are hidden under the female's body and hatch around April. First-instar nymphs, crawlers, move on host plants for a short period of time before becoming permanently settled and initiating feeding mainly on leaves but also on branches and fruits. Young females appear in early June and mature ones in late June. Plants for planting and fruits provide potential pathways for entry into the EU. Climate suitability suggests that it could further establish in large parts of the EU. In Iran, *L. pistaciae* is considered a devastating pest for cultivated pistachio. *L. pistaciae* was detected in Greece over 30 years ago with small population densities and without any records of damage. It was also found in Cyprus in 1967 and nowadays is not considered a major pest. Its ability to cause an impact in the EU is uncertain considering the lack of evidence on impact in Cyprus and Greece. Phytosanitary measures are available to reduce the likelihood of entry. While the fulfilment of the criterion on having an economic or environmental impact in the EU is associated with a key uncertainty, all the other criteria assessed by EFSA for consideration as a potential quarantine pest are met.

The Scientific Opinion was adopted by the Panel on 28 November 2024.

7. AOB

The plan for presentation of draft opinions at PLH Panel plenary meeting on 11 December 2024 was discussed. The Panel was also updated with possible changes to meeting locations in 2025.



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 one draft Scientific opinion:

6.1. Scientific Opinion on Pest categorisation of *Morganella longispina* ([EFSA-Q-2024-00616](#))

6.2. Scientific Opinion on Pest categorisation of *Lepidosaphes pistaciae* ([EFSA-Q-2024-00617](#))

He informed the Panel that he participated in the work on this opinion as coordinator of an EFSA Art. 36 Tasking Grant Specific Contract. 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 6.1. and 6.2, however, he can participate in this agenda meeting to present the work he conducted as coordinator of the related EFSA Art 36 Tasking Grant Specific Contract.