

29 January 2025

9:00-16:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 25 February 2025

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, Hervé JACTEL, Beata Anna HASIÓW-JAROSZEWSKA, Blanca LANDA, Lara MAISTRELLO, David MAKOWSKI, Panagiotis MILONAS, Nikolaos PAPADOPOULOS, Roel POTTING, Hanna Sinikka SUSI, Dirk Jan VAN DER GAAG

- European Commission DG SANTE: Panagiota MYLONA, Paul ROQUINY

- EFSA:

PLANTS: Clarissa CANTORE, Laura CAROTTI, Matteo CROTTA, Ewelina CZWIENCZEK, Naliny FELIU, Ciro GARDI, Gemma GERMOGLIO, Agata KACZMAREK, Tomasz KALUSKI, Virág KERTÉSZ, Monia LOMBARDO, Andrea MAIORANO, Louise MATIC, Tarla Murphy, Marco PAUTASSO, Dorothea POCHLAUER, Daria RZEPECKA, Marica SCALA, Giuseppe STANCANELLI, Franz STREISSL, Emanuela TACCI, Anastasia TERZIDOU, Sybren VOS

MESE: Olaf MOSBACH-SCHULZ

IDATA: Giuseppe TRIACCHINI

- EFSA Art. 36 Tasking Grants: Alex GOBBI (CRA), Alzbeta MIKULOVA (University of Padova, Italy), Vasiliki EVANGELOU, Dimitris PAPACHRSTOS, Oresteia SFYRA (Benaki Phytopathological Institute BPI)
- EPPO: Dmitrii MUSOLIN, Camille PICARD

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Panel Chair welcomed the participants, no apologies were received.

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 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.

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



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 Declarations of Interest made at the beginning of the meeting, please refer to the Annex.

4. Report on the written approval procedure of the 128th and 129th PLH Panel plenary meeting

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

5. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption

5.1 Scientific opinion on Pest categorisation of *Selenaspidus articulatus* (EFSA-Q-2024-00618)

The scientific opinion was presented for adoption, discussed and adopted on 29 January 2025.

However, shortly after adoption information was identified that influences the assessment in the scientific opinion. Therefore, the opinion will be revised and the changes presented to the Plant health Panel at the next meeting in March.

During the discussions of this draft opinion, two topics were highlighted for further elaboration by the Panel:

- how to address hotspots, e.g urban areas in the risk assessments
- clarification of the risk reduction option tables in the pest categorisation template, i.e. the extent of the effectiveness of measures is not investigated; further possible improvements on how measures are addressed

5.2 Commodity risk assessment of *Taxus baccata* from the UK (EFSA-Q-2023-00593)

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 *Taxus baccata* imported from the United Kingdom (the UK) as: a) bundles of 2-year-old bare root plants (whips), b) 2- to 7-year-old bare root plants, either exported as single plants or in bundles, c) 2-year-old cell grown plants exported in bundles, and d) 3- to 15-year-old plants in pots. The assessment was performed considering 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 opinion. One EU quarantine pest, *Phytophthora ramorum* (non-EU isolates) fulfilled all relevant criteria and was selected for further evaluation. For the selected pest, the risk mitigation measures implemented in the technical dossier from the UK were evaluated taking into account the possible limiting factors. 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. The fact that *T. baccata* is an evergreen plant on which *P. ramorum* can cause foliar infection was considered a critical element in the risk assessment. In addition, the age of the plants was considered, reasoning that older trees are more likely to be infected mainly due to longer exposure time and larger size. The degree of pest freedom slightly differs between bare root plants (including whips) and plants in pots (including cell grown plants), with plants in pots being less likely pest free. The Expert Knowledge Elicitation (EKE) indicated with 95% certainty that between 9,699 and 10,000 3- to 15-year-old plants in pots and bundles of 2-year-old cell grown plants per 10,000 will be free from *P. ramorum* (non-EU isolates).

The scientific opinion was adopted on 29 January 2025.



6. Feedback from EFSA, Scientific Committee and European Commission

6.1 Introduction to the EFSA tool for multi-pest survey optimisation (Optipest)

Tomasz Kaluski presented the purpose and functionalities of EFSA Multi-pest Survey Optimisation Tool, OptiPest. The presentation provided insights into the key features of OptiPest for optimising multi-pest surveys and its integration with RiPEST (EFSA Risk based PEst Survey Tool) to support Member States (MSs) in the harmonization of plant pest surveillance efforts across the EU. A live demonstration was carried out to showcase the tool's workflow, illustrating its practical application in survey planning and optimisation. Additionally, the panel was informed about the series of webinars on plant pest surveillance that have been conducted to present the framework of the EFSA Pest Survey Toolkit to the public. It was also announced that another series of twenty webinars is being prepared on the practical usage of the tools for 20 priority pests and other 5 candidates. This initiative aligns with the Survey Parameters Estimation Project, which aims to elicit method sensitivity, design prevalence, and relative risk for the priority pests through EKE.

6.2 Development of protocols for evaluating emergency authorisations of pesticides – an update

Franz Streissl presented the project on the development of protocols for emergency authorisation of pesticides. An overview was provided on the background to the mandate, the workplan and deliverables. First results on the analysis of past emergency authorisations and collection of alternative pest control methods were presented. The feedback from a written consultation of MSs experts involved in emergency authorisations and experts in plant health on the proposed criteria for evaluating alternative pest control methods was presented together with the outcome of a workshop with MSs focused on their experiences and needs for emergency authorisations. The panel was informed about the upcoming workshop with MSs on the draft protocol for insecticides/acaricides taking place on 17+18 February 2025 and the public consultation which will follow once the final draft protocol for insecticides/acaricides is available.

6.3 Presentation of the EFSA Guidelines for panel plenaries open to observers

Giuseppe Stancanelli presented the EFSA Guidelines for the February panel plenary open to observers and panel was informed that the registration form is open from 20th of January to 21st of February 2025, as explained in the email sent to them.

6.4 Feedback from Scientific committee

The panel chair informed the panel that this year Scientific Committee meeting would take place next month.

6.5 Feedback from the European commission

DG SANTE informed the panel that they have sent a new four-year mandate that includes a list of pests, of which they would like to have a pest risk assessment, along with a request for a methodological development.

6.6 Any other business

The 2026 PLH plenary meeting calendar would be prepared to be approved either at the next plenary or at the March Plenary. Panel expresses their need to have more meeting in presence in order to create more interactions and strengthen the collaboration.



Annex I

NO CONFLICT: With regard to this meeting, **Prof. Anna Filipiak** and **Prof. Eduardo De La Peña** declared the following interest: new position as a professor. **Prof. Beata Anna Hasiów-Jaroszewska** declared to be part of a new project: „Healthy plants-healthy people. Phytopathological threat to the Polish cereal crops and development of effective management strategies to reduce its occurrence” from the National Science Center.

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was not deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest for the expert concerned.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: 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 *Selenaspidus articulatus* (EFSA-Q-2024-00618)

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 Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², 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., 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.