

10 December 2025

9:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 7 January 2026

Location: EFSA Teleconference

Attendees:

o 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, Hervé JACTEL, Blanca LANDA, Lara MAISTRrello, David MAKOWSKI, Panagiotis MILONAS, Nikolaos PAPADOPoulos, Roel POTTING, Hanna Sinikka SUSI, Dirk Jan VAN DER GAAG

o European Commission DG SANTE: Wolfgang REINERT

o EFSA:

PLANTS: Efterpi ADAMOU, Etienne BABIN, Paula CALUSINSKA, Matteo CROTTA, Ewelina CZWIENCZEK, Ciro GARDI, Oumayma JEMEI, Agata KACZMAREK, Florian KUNTZE, Andrea MAIORANO, Dora MIJIC, Marco PAUTASSO, Marica SCALA, Goda SIMONELYTE, Giuseppe STANCANELLI, Franz STREISSL, Emanuela TACCI, Anastasia TERZIDOU, Rachel VAUGHN, Beatriz WINTER

MESE: Olaf MOSBACH-SCHULZ

o Hearing experts: PICARD Camille (EPPO)

o Observers: Alex GOBBI (art 36 Tasking Grant, CREA, Italy), Alzbeta MIKULOVA (Art. 36 Tasking Grant, University of Padova, Italy); Monia LOMBARDO; Tarla MURPHY.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Panel Chair welcomed the participants, no apology.

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 Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present 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 of Interest made at the beginning of the meeting, please refer to the Annex.

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



4. Report on the written approval procedure of the 136th PLH Panel plenary meeting

The Panel was informed that the minutes were published on time.

5. Feedback from EFSA, Scientific Committee and European Commission

5.1 New EC SANTE mandate on commodity risk assessment of green asparagus spears (M-2025-00140) – probability of introduction of Union quarantine and non-regulated pests frequently intercepted through the trade of this commodity from main exporter countries

The recently received mandate on commodity risk assessment of green asparagus spears was presented to the Panel, describing the preliminary data analysed and the proposed methodology to be adopted for this assessment. Among the preliminary analyses conducted, the list of pests associated with *Asparagus officinalis* and the data on imports of asparagus from non-EU countries were presented. The methodological approach proposed aims to conduct a quantitative pathway analysis model for pest importation and distribution – from main exporting countries and for pest more frequently intercepted belonging to different taxonomic groups. The model, which will make use of previously published EFSA models and R-packages, will be run on the Trade Intelligence Platform of the EC Joint Research Centre. Several questions, comments and suggestions were made by Panel members.

5.2 Update from the Working Group on Pinewood Nematode (Mandate M-2025-00073)

An update was provided on the progress made by the Working Group. The approach for the literature review for the Tasks A.1 and A.2 was shown. The screening of the spread models and control methods is based on different criteria. An overview of the number of articles and their categorisation was presented together with the PICO table that was designed for the purpose of literature screening and selection.

5.3 Update on implementation of SEED project and new Call for proposals for Art 36 Grant

An update was provided on the ongoing development of the SEED project, including progress against the planned timeline. Screenshots of the new user-friendly graphical interface were presented, illustrating improved navigation features and visualisation of maps produced within the platform.

The new Plant Health Literature Search Experts' Dashboard was also demonstrated. This dashboard enables exploration of outputs from literature searches, data extraction activities and bibliometric analyses, offering enhanced transparency and usability for PLH experts and Panel members.

Two already opened calls were highlighted: an Article 36 grant aimed at supporting the implementation of generic simulation models for climate suitability analysis within the SEED platform, and a procurement procedure covering hypercare, maintenance and further development of the scientific tools in the platform. These initiatives are expected to strengthen the system's analytical capacity and ensure long-term sustainability.

5.4 Update from the Working Group on Pest Risk Assessment

The Panel received an update on the latest progress under mandate M-2024-00135, in particular regarding the impact criterion in the pest categorisation, which defines the final step before proceeding to the risk assessment. A proposal to improve consistency across assessments and to standardize the presentation of available evidence on impact was introduced, including the categorisation and summary of this evidence in a tabular format. The proposed evidence categories were presented, together with the next steps that will involve the Panel.



5.5 Feedback from the Scientific Committee Open plenary

Panel Chair informed the Panel about key highlights from the Scientific Committee meeting. Several agenda items fell outside the PLH remit, with a particular focus on toxicology. Points relevant for the PLH Panel were presented.

5.6 Feedback from the European Commission

No new legislation was reported. The Panel was informed that a political agreement had been reached in the Parliament and the Council on the proposal for forest reproductive material.

5.7 Feedback from EFSA

The Panel was informed of a request received from a Plant health Risk Assessment Network member for clarification on the level of susceptibility of various crops to the bacterium *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumflaciens*.

The Panel was informed on a recent report from the Dutch Food Safety Authority reviewing aspects of a quantitative risk assessment, which will be tabled for discussion at a panel plenary next year. In addition, information was provided on the 5th European Conference on *Xylella fastidiosa*. This event is organised by EFSA in collaboration with major EU and transnational research networks, including BeXyl and EUPHRESCO III, and with key partners such as the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM IAM), the Institute for Sustainable Plant Protection of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR IPSP) and the Phytosanitary Service of the Apulia Region (Italy). The conference will take place in Bari, Italy, from 23 June 2026 (09:30) to 25 June 2026 (13:00). Additional workshops, side events and technical visits will be organised throughout the week (22-26 June 2026). Registration and abstracts submission will open in the second half of January 2026.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption

6.1 Scientific opinion on commodity risk assessment of *Petunia* and *Calibrachoa* unrooted cuttings from Uganda (EFSA-Q-2022-00773)

The European Commission requested the EFSA Panel on Plant Health to evaluate the likelihood of pest freedom at entry in the EU, including both regulated and non-regulated pests, potentially associated with unrooted cuttings of the genera *Petunia* and *Calibrachoa* produced under physical isolation in Uganda. The relevance of any pest for this opinion was based on evidence collected according to specific criteria, following the methodology used for high-risk plants adapted for the specificity of this assessment. Twelve EU-regulated pests [*Bemisia tabaci* (non-European populations), cowpea mild mottle virus (CpMMV, *Carlavirus vignae*), potato leaf roll virus (PLRV, *Polavirus* PLRV), potato spindle tuber viroid (PSTVd, *Pospiviroid fusituberis*), potato virus S (PVS, *Carlavirus sigmasolani*, non-EU isolates), potato virus X (PVX, *Potexvirus ecspotati*, non-EU isolates), *Ralstonia solanacearum*, *Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum*, *Scirtothrips dorsalis*, tomato leaf curl Uganda virus (ToLCUV), tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV, *Orthotospovirus tomatomaculae*) and tomato yellow leaf curl virus (TYLCV, *Begomovirus coheni*)] and one nonregulated pest (*Nipaecoccus viridis*) were selected for further evaluation. For the selected pests, the risk mitigation measures implemented in Uganda and described in the technical dossier were evaluated taking into account the factors reducing their efficacy. For these pests, an expert judgement is given on the likelihood of pest freedom taking into consideration the risk mitigation measures acting on the pest. The degree of pest freedom varies between the pests evaluated, with the contact-transmitted viroid and virus [potato spindle tuber viroid (PSTVd, *Pospiviroid fusituberis*) and potato virus X (PVX, *Potexvirus ecspotati*, non-EU isolates)] being the pests most frequently expected on *Petunia* and *Calibrachoa* spp. imported unrooted cuttings. Expert Knowledge Elicitation indicated, with 95% certainty, that between 9916 and 10,000 per 10,000 *Petunia* and *Calibrachoa* spp.



unrooted cuttings would be free from these pests. The scientific opinion was adopted on 10 December 2025

7. AOB

The schedule of upcoming plenaries was presented.



Annex

NO CONFLICT: With regard to this meeting, Prof. Nik Cunniffe declared the following interest: I have become an editor of a scientific journal. 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 not deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest for the expert concerned.

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