

16 February 2026

14:00-18.00

MINUTES - Agreed on 16 February 2026

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Eduardo de la Pena, Nicolas Desneux, Lara Maistrello, Nikos Papadopoulos
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing²:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not applicable
- EFSA:
PLANTS Unit: Ciro Gardi, Olaf Mosbach-Sculz, Alex Gobbi, Marica Scala

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

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 Independence³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁴, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting and the preparatory meetings listed under agenda item "Preparatory meeting/s with Risk Assessment". No conflicts of interest related to the issues discussed in these meetings have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting held on 12 January 2026, via web-conference

¹ As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups":
<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf>

² As defined in the "EFSA's Catalogue of support initiatives during the life cycle of applications for regulated products":
<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-6472>

³ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

⁴ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf



The minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 12 January 2026.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- a. Overview of asparagus cultivation and production techniques in Italy and Europe**
- b. Asparagus production and cultivation in third countries**
- c. Review of the pest list on the base of comments and interception data**
- d. Meeting Planning with Hearing Experts**
- e. Task Allocation**
- f. Planning of Future Meetings**

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 19 – 20 March 2026, in presence.

Location: Web conference

Attendees:

Working Group Members:

1. Eduardo de la Pena
2. Nicolas Desneux
3. Lara Maistrello
4. Nikos Papadopoulos

EFSA:

1. Ciro Gardi
2. Olaf Mosbach-Sculz
3. Andrea Maiorano
4. Alex Gobbi
5. Marica Scala

Others:

1. Spyros Antonatos
2. Dimitrios Papachristos

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The WG coordinator welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted with changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups 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

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



present meeting and the preparatory meetings listed under agenda item “Preparatory meeting/s”. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in these meetings have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- 1.1. Table round
- 1.2. Description of the Term of Reference
- 1.3. Description of the proposed methodology
- 1.4. Review of Pest List and List of Actionable Pests was initiated
- 1.5. Overview and definition of the steps
- 1.6. Discussion

V. Any Other Business

None.

VI. Next meeting

To be defined
