

16 & 17 September 2026

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

MINUTES - Agreed on 15 October 2026

Location: EFSA On Site and Online

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 MAISTRELLO, David MAKOWSKI, Panagiotis MILONAS, Nikolaos PAPADOPOULOS, Roel POTTING, Hanna Sinikka SUSI, Dirk Jan VAN DER GAAG

o Hearing Experts¹:

Daniele CORNARA (University of Bari), Rachel RUSSEL (Cambridge University), Maria SAPONARI (National Research Council, Institute for Sustainable Plant Protection), NAVAS-CORTES Juan (Sustainable Agriculture Institute, Spanish National Research Council), Marcia BARBOSA (Biogeography Consulting & Training), Zuzanna ZAJAC (ISA expert) Serafina Serena AMOIA (National Research Council, Institute for Sustainable Plant Protection), Giuliana LOCONSOLE (National Research Council, Institute for Sustainable Plant Protection)

Alex GOBBI and Chiara MORENA participated as Cooperators (Art. 36 Tasking Grant, CREA, Italy - GP/EFSA/PLANTS/2022/02),

Alzbeta MIKULOVA participated – via teleconference - as Cooperator (Art. 36 Tasking Grant, Univ. Padova, Italy - GP/EFSA/PLANTS/2022/11.

Oresteia SFYRA participated – via teleconference - as Cooperator (Art. 36 Tasking Grant, Benaki Phytopathological Institute, Greece - SA 03-2023-BPI under FPA GP/EFSA/PLANTS/2022/02).

European Commission DG SANTE: Wolfgang REINERT, Karin NIENSTEDT, Maria MIRAZCHIYSKA

o EFSA:

PLANTS: Efterpi ADAMOU, Paula CALUSINSKA, Matteo CROTTA, Ewelina CZWIENCZEK, Ajla DAUTBASIC, Ciro GARDI, Maria Grazia IEVA, Oumayma JEMEI, Agata KACZMAREK, Virág KERTÉSZ, Florian KUNTZE, Andrea MAIORANO, Dora MIJIC, Alexandre NOUGADERE, Marco PAUTASSO, Tobin ROBINSON, Goda SIMONELYTE, Giuseppe STANCANELLI, Franz STREISSL, Emanuela TACCI, Anastasia TERZIDOU, Rachel VAUGHN, Beatriz WINTER.

MESE: Olaf MOSBACH-SCHULZ

COM: Filippo POSITANO

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.



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.

No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Report on the written approval procedure of the 142nd PLH Panel plenary meeting

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

5. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption

5.1 Report on data collection and harmonization for EU-wide mapping of citrus, almond, olive and vineyard (EFSA-Q-2026-00534); Report on estimating the spatial distribution of almond areas in the EU (EFSA-Q-2026-00538); Report on estimating the spatial distribution of vineyard areas in the EU (EFSA-Q-2026-00537); Report on estimating the spatial distribution of olive areas in the EU (EFSA-Q-2026-00536); Report on estimating the spatial distribution of citrus areas in the EU (EFSA-Q-2026-00535)

A previous report on methodology for data collection was already endorsed by the Panel in March 2026. The results of the crop-mapping work supporting the *Xylella fastidiosa* risk assessments were presented. The work integrates statistical, geospatial and in-situ data to produce harmonised 10 km by 10 km maps for citrus, almond, olive and vineyards. The reports describe the data sources, gap-filling and allocation methods, quality assurance, validation and methodological uncertainty. The Panel discussed crop-naming conventions, publication arrangements and agreed with the proposal to divide the integrated output into one report on data collection and four crop-specific reports to facilitate readability and future updates.

The Panel endorsed these outputs for public consultation.

5.2 Scientific report on *Xylella fastidiosa* global pest distribution, climate metrics supporting pest risk assessment (EFSA-Q-2026-00344); Technical report on Ensemble species distribution modelling for *Xylella fastidiosa* (EFSA-Q-2026-00342); Technical report on Bayesian species distribution modelling for *Xylella fastidiosa* (EFSA-Q-2026-00343)

The Panel was presented the latest updates on the climate suitability assessment for *Xylella fastidiosa*, starting with the consolidation of the pest distribution dataset and the subsequent climate suitability analysis, including the Köppen–Geiger, Bio06 and Species Distribution Model approaches (BART-SDM and ENSEMBLE-SDM) for *X. fastidiosa* and the three subspecies included in the risk assessment (subsp. *multiplex*, subsp. *fastidiosa* and subsp. *pauca*). Following the presentation, the Panel reviewed and discussed the reports at the plenary meeting. The two

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



technical reports (SDM-BART and ENSEMBLE-SDM), together with the scientific report on *Xylella fastidiosa* climate suitability were endorsed by the Panel.

5.3 Scientific Opinion on climate suitability for *Xylella fastidiosa* for the EU (EFSA-Q-2026-00038)

The Panel was presented the latest updates on the climate suitability assessment for *Xylella fastidiosa*, including the production of risk maps combining the two SDM approaches selected for *X. fastidiosa* and the three subspecies included in the risk assessment (subsp. *multiplex*, subsp. *fastidiosa* and subsp. *pauca*). Following the presentation, the Panel reviewed and discussed the comments in the plenary. The scientific opinion on climate suitability for *Xylella fastidiosa* in the EU was endorsed by the Panel.

5.4 Scientific report on Modelling the spread of *Xylella fastidiosa* (EFSA-Q-2026-00468)

The Panel was presented the latest updates on the modelling of the spread of *Xylella fastidiosa*, including the main modelling approach and the results of the scenarios assessed. Following the presentation, the Panel reviewed and discussed the report at the plenary meeting. The Scientific Report on modelling the spread of *Xylella fastidiosa* was endorsed, pending the inclusion of a clarification on the definition and use of the term "outbreak" in the context of the model simulations.

5.5 Scientific report on the "Genetic and genomic diversity, geographic distribution and host plant associations of *Xylella fastidiosa* to support the update of the pest risk assessment for the EU territory" (EFSA-Q-2026-00345)

The Panel was presented the latest updates on the genetic and genomic diversity, geographic distribution and host plant associations of *Xylella fastidiosa*. Following the presentation, the Panel reviewed and discussed the report in plenary and endorsed the Scientific Report.

5.6 Scientific reports on: 1) evaluation of resistance and susceptibility of olive to *Xylella fastidiosa* (EFSA-Q-2026-00039); 2) Almond response to Almond Leaf Scorch caused by *Xylella fastidiosa* subspecies (EFSA-Q-2026-00465); 3) *Citrus* spp. response to Citrus Variegated Chlorosis caused by *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *Pauca* (EFSA-Q-2026-00466)

The Panel was presented the Scientific Reports on the response of olive, almond and citrus to *Xylella fastidiosa*. Following the presentation, the Panel reviewed and discussed the reports at the plenary meeting. The Scientific Reports on almond and citrus were endorsed. Regarding the Scientific Report on olive, the Panel endorsed the report and suggested simplifying the classification of resistance and susceptibility before public consultation.

5.7 Summary analysis of the available data from the literature on the ecology and biology of *Xylella fastidiosa* vectors and potential vectors within the EU (EFSA-Q-2026-00467)

The Panel was presented the Scientific Report summarising the available data from the literature on the ecology and biology of *Xylella fastidiosa* vectors and potential vectors within the EU. Following the presentation, the Panel reviewed and discussed the report at the plenary meeting. The Scientific Report was endorsed pending a final check of the terminology used to describe vector population abundance and the preparation of supplementary material providing further details on data not previously published in the scientific literature, before submission of the document to public consultation.

5.8 Update of the pest risk assessment of *Xylella fastidiosa* for the EU (EFSA-Q-2026-00037)

The Panel was presented the updated pest risk assessment of *Xylella fastidiosa* for the EU. Following the presentation, the Panel reviewed and discussed the Scientific Opinion at the plenary



meeting. The Scientific Opinion was endorsed pending incorporation, where relevant, of the revisions requested for the related Scientific Reports before submission to public consultation.

5.9 Statement on the streamlining of Scientific Opinions on High-Risk Plants (EFSA-Q-2026-00341) and update of the HRP protocol (EFSA-Q-2018-00116)

The revised protocol and template for commodity risk assessment of plants for planting, aiming to produce shorter and more consistent scientific opinions, was presented to the Panel. The Panel reviewed the revised handling of quarantine and non-quarantine actionable pests, explanatory template text, dossier transparency and terminology. The revised protocol was endorsed and will be published on Zenodo, as an update of the current version.

The accompanying statement explaining the changes in the protocol was also presented to the Panel but its adoption was postponed to an upcoming plenary meeting to allow more time for review and discussion.

5.10 Discussion on the green asparagus commodity risk assessment approach regarding country and pest selection, interception data and methodology for the PRA (EFSA-Q-2025-00678)

The proposed approach for green asparagus commodity risk assessment was presented to the Panel for discussion and agreement. Third countries were selected for assessment using trade volume, production systems, pest presence and interception evidence. Thirty-three pests were retained for assessment, either individually or in biologically informed clusters. The model covers production, pre-export measures, EU distribution, waste pathways, transfer and establishment, with a 5 kg box used as a scenario for proximity of potential mating partners. The Panel requested further justification of country selection, the threshold for individual pest assessment, the clustering logic, the modelling unit and the treatment of uncertainty and waste scenarios. A revised methodology and supporting dossiers will be recirculated and brought back for further discussion at the next plenary meeting in November 2026.

5.11 Update on the Pest Categorisations section of the PRA Protocol (EFSA-Q-2025-00144)

An update on the PRA protocol was presented, particularly on the pest categorisation section. In line with the Guidance on Uncertainty Analysis of the EFSA Scientific Committee, uncertainty analysis was integrated into the following sections of the pest categorisation: pest identity, presence in the PRA area, establishment potential and impact potential. The approach uses a probability scale when uncertainty requires expert judgement.

The pest-categorisation section is planned for Panel review and possible endorsement at the November plenary.

6. Feedback from EFSA, Scientific Committee and European Commission

6.1 Feedback from EFSA (Xylella conference, etc.)

This point on the agenda was moved to the next Plenary.

6.2 New mandates

The Panel was informed of an amendment to the rapid risk-assessment mandate adding work on *Acidovorax citrulli* and the *Scirtothrips dorsalis* species complex, with the original mandate extended by one year. A new mandate had also been received concerning a commodity risk assessment for a derogation request for strawberry plants from Kenya. Further details will be presented during the next plenary meeting.



6.3 Feedback from the European Commission

DG SANTE thanked the Panel and EFSA staff for the substantial package of outputs on *X. fastidiosa* endorsed during the meeting and for supporting EC working-group activities.

6.4 Feedback from the Scientific Committee

The Panel was informed that its activities had been reported to the Scientific Committee. Particular interest was shown in the *Xylella fastidiosa* scientific conference. A detailed presentation on the conference was deferred to a future plenary to allow sufficient time.

7. AOB

No additional scientific business was raised. The Chair thanked the participants for their work and closed the meeting.

The package of *Xylella* outputs will be prepared for a four-week public consultation. The detailed launch timing will be coordinated with DG SANTE.