

PLANT HEALTH UNIT

**MINUTES OF THE 3RD MEETING OF THE EFSA SCIENTIFIC
NETWORK FOR RISK ASSESSMENT IN PLANT HEALTH**

PARMA, ITALY

19 MARCH 2012

(AGREED ON 4 OCTOBER 2012)

ITEM	AGENDA
1.	Welcome and opening of the meeting
2.	Adoption of the agenda
3.	Declarations of Interest
4.	Adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting
5.	Discussion 1: Items suggested by Member States
6.	Discussion 2: Synergies in Pest Risk Assessment Activities and exchange of information and data at EU level - <i>Updates on the activities of the EFSA Scientific Panel on Plant Health</i> - <i>PLH questionnaire to Member States regarding new EFSA mandates</i> - <i>EFSA cooperation with Member States and outsourcing in Plant Health</i> - <i>Research priorities and Horizon 2020</i> - <i>Risk Assessment Activities in Member States</i> - <i>EPPO presentation on data collection activities</i>
7.	Miscellaneous
8.	Conclusions

PARTICIPANTS

Member States Representatives

Sylvia BLÜMEL (AT), Kristen BRAEKEN (BE), Rositsa DIMITROVA (BG), Mart KINKAR (EE), Matti PUOLIMATKA (FI), Nathalie FRANQUET (FR), Jens-Georg UNGER (DE), Gabor SZALKAI (HU), Danilo MORELLI (IT), Silvija PUPELIENE (LT), Karl GRIMA BEZZINA (MT), Dirk-Jan VAN DER GAAG (NL), Elin THINGNAES LID (NO), Witold KARNKOWSKI (PL), Ana Paula CARVALHO (PT), Otakar KÚDELA (SK), Vlasta KNAPIC (SL), Carmen DURAN VIZAN (SP), Jose Maria GUITIAN CASTRILLION (SP), Kristof CAPIEAU (SW).

EU Candidate Country Representatives

Dhimiter RADA (AL), Nadža USTAMUJIĆ (BA), Sanja MILOŠ (HR), Nako NIKOLOVSKI (MK), Naser KRASNIQI (XK), Ivan TOMAŠEV (RS), Aynur KARAHAN (TR).

Hearing Experts

Françoise PETTER (EPPO), Mike John JEGER (EFSA PLH Panel).

Observers

Guillermo CARDON (EC – DG SANCO), Muriel SUFFERT (EPPO).

EFSA

PLH Unit: Roberta CARFAGNINI, Elzbieta CEGLARSKA, Gabor HOLLO, Virag KERTESZ, Svetla KOZELSKA, Doreen RUSSELL, Giuseppe STANCANELLI, Joanna SWARCEWICZ, Sara TRAMONTINI, Sybren VOS, Martin VOSTA.

SAS Unit: Olaf MOSBACH-SCHULZ.

AFSCO Unit: Jeffrey MOON.

1. WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Chair (Elzbieta Ceglarska - Head of EFSA Plant Health Unit) opened the meeting and welcomed the 19 network representatives, candidate country representatives, hearing experts and observers to the 3rd Network meeting for Risk Assessment in Plant Health. Apologises were received from the absent Network Member State representatives namely: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Romania and United Kingdom.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair thanked those representatives who submitted their declarations of interest and asked the participants to declare any interests in relation to the items on the agenda. No further interests were declared.

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were adopted.

5. DISCUSSION 1: ITEMS SUGGESTED BY MEMBER STATES

No issues raised by Member States.

6. DISCUSSION 2: SYNERGIES IN PEST RISK ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND DATA AT EU LEVEL.

Virag Kertesz (EFSA PLH Unit) introduced the discussion on synergies in pest risk assessment within the scope of the terms of reference for the network.

- Updates on the activities of the EFSA Scientific Panel on Plant Health

Mike Jeger (Chair of the EFSA PLH Panel) provided an overview of Panel activities since October 2011. The Panel has adopted 2 pest risk assessments: the island apple snail, *Pomacea insularum* and the pine wood nematode, *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*, both delivered within a short deadline, and has also adopted the guidance document on environmental risk assessment. He reported that the Panel is continuing its work on other mandates: citrus canker (*Xanthomonas citri*) and the potato cyst nematodes (*Globodera rostochiensis* and *G. pallida*) as well as the guidance document on risk reduction options - the Network was requested to provide their comments on the public consultation on this draft guidance. In addition, the Panel has been asked to evaluate the risk of *Bemisia tabaci* and its vectors, the risk of the tospoviruses and their vectors as well as the risk of 8 organisms currently listed in Annex II (a) II of Council Directive 2000/29/EC. The Network was invited to table questions.

Poland asked about the publication date for the opinion on the pine wood nematode and Germany remarked that the Panel appears to be undertaking more pest risk assessments than in the past which was confirmed by the speaker. Sweden asked if the mandate on soil had yet been received by EFSA; the Commission representative advised that the mandate is more complex than expected and more time is required to fine tune the terms of reference.

- PLH questionnaire to Member States regarding new EFSA mandates

Olaf Mosbach-Schulz (EFSA SAS Unit) introduced the questionnaires prepared by EFSA to gather data from Member States on organisms covered by current Plant Health mandates. He described the format of the questionnaires, the inclusion of pre-filling formulas to assist with completion, user manual and EFSA contact point.

Austria sought clarification on the age of data to be included and data available from EPPO and EU databases. Norway asked if they would be requested to complete the questionnaires. The EFSA

secretariat confirmed that Norway, as a member of the Network would be included in this and other future requests for data. Germany commented positively on the structure of the questionnaire but added that decentralisation of the authorities in Germany and the availability of the questionnaire only in English would present them with problems.

- ***EFSA cooperation with Member States and outsourcing in Plant Health***

Giuseppe Stanganelli (EFSA PLH Unit) presented the status of outsourcing activities in EFSA PLH and an outline of the new calls proposed for 2012.

- ***Research priorities and Horizon 2020***

Jeffery Moon (EFSA AFSCO Unit) advised the Network that EFSA is seeking input from Member States on the top priorities for research to enable a submission to be made to DG Research and Innovation for Horizon 2020 funding. He outlined the research priorities, and the need for linkage to the EU 2020 strategy, particularly growth and sustainability. He also presented previous priorities to indicate the types of submissions that were successful in the past.

Germany thanked the presenter adding that phytosanitary research is very important and requires inclusion as a research priority. The speaker suggested that emphasising the negative impact of not having phytosanitary research could form the basis of formulating a proposal. The EFSA secretariat suggested that a small group of Network representatives meet to explore ideas and then circulate to the rest of the Network. Austria, Finland, Germany and Sweden agreed to formulate some proposals.

- ***Risk Assessment Activities in Member States***

The Finnish representative advised the Network of pest risk assessment activities in Finland. The country has forests, as well as agricultural and green house production to consider in risk assessments. He presented a summary of how plant health is organised in Finland and highlighted the key importance of cooperation. To celebrate EFSA's 10th anniversary an event will be held in Helsinki on 1 October 2012 followed by a seminar on pest risk assessment on 2-3 October. The speaker invited the network representatives to the meeting. Poland asked about cooperation among the Northern European countries to address the risk of infestation of the pine wood nematode, Finland responded by confirming that the pest is on a list of priorities as was the assessment of the effect of the pine wood nematode in cold climates. Slovenia added that forestry should be part of food safety authorities in member states.

The Hungarian representative gave the structure of the Hungarian NPPO, legal background on the pest monitoring system, and explained how official inspection and surveillance is carried out with respect to limited resources. He added that plant health control systems include inspection and diagnosis. Sweden sought further information on the distribution of resources in plant health made in the presentation.

- ***EPPO presentation on data collection activities***

The EPPO (European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization) representative (Françoise Petter) presented the main activities of the organisation and its mission in relation to plant quarantine. Created in 1951, its central task is to collect and disseminate information using the

organisation's alert lists to warn of pests that may present a risk. EPPO is also involved in preparing pest risk analyses, compiling EPPO standards and collecting information on phytosanitary regulations from member countries. For data needs international journals, information from NPPO (North American Plant Protection Organization) reports of outbreaks as well as internet data collection using the NAPPO alert list, ProMed mail (from the International Society for Infectious Diseases) and EPICA (Exotic Pest Information Collection and Analysis) are utilised. Data is stored in databases such as the PQR (Plant Quarantine data Retrieval system) which contains data about host plants, geographical locations etc. EPPO are also working on a global database which they hope will be online in 2012. In addition to the EPPO website, social networks such as Facebook, Twitter and Scoop are used by the organisation for communication purposes.

Poland emphasised the importance of data collection in cooperation with other regional plant health organisations such as NAPPO as this is needed on a global level. The Netherlands asked how the internet is screened to identify new and emerging risks and Belgium asked about data changes in the EPPO PQR database.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

Administrative matters relating to Network activities were briefly addressed.

8. CONCLUSIONS

The Chair closed the meeting thanking all the participants and speakers for the presentations, their valuable comments and concerns. She emphasised the key message from this meeting which is collaboration and exchange and looked forward to the next Network meeting later this year.

Date of Next Meeting: 4 October 2012

Venue to be confirmed: Helsinki, Finland.