Scientific Panel on plant Health

Minutes of the 51st plenary meeting of the Scientific Panel on Plant Health

Held on 24-25 September 2014, Parma

(Agreed on 27 November 2014)

Participants

- **Panel Members**:

Richard Baker, Claude Bragard, Thierry Candresse, Gianni Gilioli, Jean-Claude Gregoire, Imre Holb, Michael John Jeger, Olia Evtimova Karadjova, Christer Sven Magnusson, David Makowski, Charles Manceau, Maria Navajas, Trond Rafoss, Vittorio Rossi, Jan Schans, Gritta Schrader, Gregor Urek, Irene Vloutoglou, Wopke van der Werf.

- **EFSA:**

Animal and Plant Health Unit: Ewelina Czwiencziek, Gabor Hollo, Ilaria Inverardi, Virag Kertesz, Svetla Kozelska, Tomasz Oszako, Marco Pautasso, Giuseppe Stancanelli.

- **EC representatives:**

Guillermo Cardon and Pasquale Di Rubbo (DG SANCO),

- **Hearing experts:**

Andrea Allavena, Helia Marchante, Richard Shaw.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Panel Chair welcomed the participants to the 51st plenary meeting of the EFSA Plant Health Panel. Apologies were received from Stephan Winter and from Francoise Petter (observer -European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes regarding Declarations of Interests (DoIs)[1] and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy[2], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI) and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed at this meeting have been identified during the screening process or in the Oral Declarations of Interest (ODoI) at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 50th Plenary meeting held on 2-3 July 2014

The minutes were agreed without changes.

5. Update on public consultations for discussion and possible endorsement of public consultation reports

Not applicable.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and/or possible adoption/ endorsement

6.1. Pest categorization of viruses listed in Directive 2000/29/EC*: Beet leaf curl virus* (EFSA-Q-2014-00281)

The Panel performed a pest categorisation of *Beet leaf curl virus* (BLCV) for the European Union (EU) territory. BLCV mainly infects *Beta* spp., as well as *Spinacia* spp., *Tetragonia tetragonioides* and the common weeds *Atriplex* spp. and *Chenopodium* spp. This putative *Rhabdovirus* is not a recognised virus species; it is only defined by particle morphology and by its circular propagative transmission by the lace bug *Piesma quadratum*. No efficient diagnostic assay is available for BLCV, which was reported in only Germany and Turkey. With a few exceptions, there is no record of BLCV after 1983. BLCV is listed in Annex IIAII of Directive 2000/29/EC. The virus itself is not expected to be affected by ecoclimatic conditions and its *P. quadratum* vector is widely distributed in the EU; thus, BLCV has the potential to establish and spread over large areas of the EU and cause significant damage in sugar beet. However, it appears to have caused sporadic outbreaks in only some years, possibly associated with high vector populations. It does not appear to have had any significant impact in recent years, and it may now no longer be significantly present in agricultural production systems. This situation is possibly a consequence of current intensive sugar beet crop management practices and of the ensuing reduction in vector populations. Owing to the very limited literature

[1] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf
[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf

available on BLCV, a full pest risk assessment is highly unlikely to provide clearer insight into the risks associated with this virus than the present pest categorisation
The opinion was adopted by the Panel.

6.2. Pest categorization of viruses listed in Directive 2000/29/EC: *Cherry leafroll virus* (EFSA-Q-2014-00282)

The Panel performed a pest categorisation of *Cherry leafroll virus* (CLRV) for the EU territory. CLRV is a well-defined virus species of the genus Nepovirus, for which the entire genome sequence and molecular detection assays are available. CLRV is transmitted by vegetative multiplication of infected hosts and is also seed- and pollen-transmitted (both horizontally and vertically) in many of its hosts. There is, however, evidence that interspecific transmission by the pollen-mediated mechanism is very limited. CLRV has a wide host range, which contains both woody and herbaceous hosts, many of which are largely present in natural environments. It is listed on plants of *Rubus* spp. for planting in Annex IIAI of Directive 2000/29/EC. CLRV is widely present in the EU but there are very few records on its regulated hosts. It is not expected to be affected by ecoclimatic conditions wherever its hosts are present and has the potential to establish in large parts of the EU territory. CLRV can spread through efficient seed- and pollen-mediated transmission mechanisms and through the movement of vegetatively propagated plants for planting of numerous hosts. However, the existence of efficient and widely adopted certification systems for some of these hosts constitutes a limitation to CLRV spread. Although the virus alone or when in mixed infection can cause significant disease in some hosts, the actual impact of CLRV is very difficult to evaluate but generally appears to be limited.
The opinion was adopted by the Panel.

6.3. Pest categorization of phytoplasma and vectors listed in Directive 2000/29/EC: *Prunus necrotic ringspot virus* (EFSA-Q-2014-00284)

The Panel performed a pest categorisation of *Prunus necrotic ringspot virus* (PNRSV) for the EU territory. PNRSV is a well-defined virus species of the genus *Ilarvirus* for which the entire genome sequence and molecular detection assays are available. It is transmitted by vegetative multiplication of infected hosts and also via seeds and pollen (both horizontally and vertically) in some of its hosts. PNRSV has a somewhat restricted natural host range, which contains *Prunus* spp., hops, roses and *Rubus ellipticus* (yellow Himalayan raspberry). It is listed on plants of *Rubus* for planting in Annex IIAI of Directive 2000/29EC, probably as a result of confusion with the closely related *Apple mosaic virus*. PNRSV is widely present in the EU, but there are no records on its regulated hosts. It is not expected to be affected by ecoclimatic conditions wherever its hosts are present, and it has the potential to establish in large parts of the EU territory. PNRSV can spread through efficient seed- and pollen-mediated transmission mechanisms and through the movement of vegetatively propagated plants for planting. However, the existence of efficient and widely adopted certification systems for *Prunus* spp. constitutes a limitation to PNRSV spread. Although the virus alone or when in mixed infection can cause significant diseases in some hosts, the actual impact of PNRSV appears to be limited.
The opinion was adopted by the Panel.

6.4. Pest categorizations of viruses listed in Directive 2000/29/EC: *Tomato yellow leaf curl virus* (EFSA-Q-2014-00287)

The Panel performed a pest categorisation for the EU territory of *Tomato yellow leaf curl virus* (TYLCV) and three related viruses, *Tomato yellow leaf curl Sardinia virus* (TYLCSV), *Tomato yellow leaf curl Axarquia virus* (TYLCAxV) and *Tomato yellow leaf curl Malaga virus* (TYLCMaV), which collectively cause the *tomato yellow leaf curl*

disease (TYLCD) in Europe. The viruses are well-defined species of the genus *Begomovirus*, are exclusively transmitted by members of the *Bemisia tabaci* species complex and have tomato, as well as a few other crops or weeds, as their hosts. TYLCV is listed on tomato plants for planting, other than seeds, in Annex IIAII of Directive 2000/29/EC. While establishment and local spread rely on the *Bemisia* vector, the viruses can also be disseminated over long distances by movement of infected plants for planting or by consignments of non-host plants carrying viruliferous whiteflies. Establishment outdoors and spread are limited to regions with ecoclimatic conditions suitable for the establishment of vector populations in the open. Outbreaks can nevertheless occur in other regions under protected cultivation conditions. Because of the very high potential impact of TYLCD, tomato production in affected regions requires intensive crop management efforts to reduce impact. TYLCV appears to be present in almost all EU regions with suitable ecoclimatic conditions for its establishment in open fields, while the other three viruses do not appear to have reached their full establishment potential. All four viruses are absent from other regions of the EU but have the potential to cause temporary outbreaks there
The opinion was adopted by the Panel.

6.5. Pest categorizations of phytoplasma listed in Directive 2000/29/EC: Grapevine flavescence dorée (EFSA-Q-2014-00253)

The Panel performed a pest categorisation of Grapevine Flavescence dorée, also known as Flavescence dorée phytoplasma (FDP), for the EU territory. FDP has not yet been defined as a phytoplasma species of the genus *Candidatus* Phytoplasma. Routine molecular detection assays are available. FDP is transmitted by grafting and vegetative propagation material as well as by insect vectors. FDP is only reported in Europe. Within Europe it is present in Serbia, in Switzerland and in 10 out of 21 countries of the grapevine producing EU countries. Besides grapevine, FDP is also commonly found in other hosts such as *Ailanthus*, *Alnus* and *Clematis*. FDP is included in the annexes II/A/II and II/B of the Council Directive 2000/29/EC. Grapevine, the main host plant, is included into annexes III, IV and V of the Directive 2000/29/EC. FDP is not expected to be affected by EU ecoclimatic conditions wherever its hosts are present and has the potential to establish largely within the EU territory. The specific leafhopper vector of FDP, *Scaphoideus titanus*, is an invasive insect that was introduced in Europe. It is only in areas where FDP and *S. titanus* are associated that the direct and indirect impacts are considered to be high: yield reduction, death of grapevine plants, costs for disease and vector management procedures. Additional insect vectors are known, but are not directly associated with FDP epidemics. A major outcome of this pest categorisation has been to emphasise the role of *S. titanus*. Uncertainty lies mostly in the knowledge on specific FDP strain transmissibility, susceptibility of specific grapevine varieties and distribution in alternate hosts. It is not fully known how far the invasive vector insect *S. titanus* is still enlarging its distribution within the risk assessment area.
The opinion was adopted by the Panel.

6.6. Pest categorizations of nematodes listed in Directive 2000/29/EC: *Radopholus citrophilus* (EFSA-Q-2014-00279) and *Radopholus similis* (EFSA-Q-2014-00280)

The Panel performed a pest categorisation for *Radopholus similis* and *Radopholus citrophilus* for the EU territory. *R. similis* is regulated in Annex II, Part A, Section II of Council Directive 2000/29/EC as a harmful organism known to occur in the European Union (EU). *R. citrophilus* is regulated in Annex II, Part A, Section I of Council Directive 2000/29/EC as a harmful organism not known to occur in the EU. This pest characterisation applies only to *R. similis*, because *R. citrophilus* has been recognised as an invalid species designation and is considered as a junior synonym of *R. similis*. *R. similis* is a distinct taxonomic entity that is absent in the field production sites (citrus,

bananas) of the risk assessment area and can cause significant losses in citrus production. Moreover, various susceptible hosts other than citrus species are present in the EU under climatic conditions that are suitable for the development of *R. similis*. The pest has a sporadic presence on ornamental plants (under protected cultivation) in a few EU countries. Plants for planting are a pathway for introduction and spread of *R. similis*. The pest is observed to cause impacts on ornamentals in some MSs and further impacts are expected should further spread happen in the EU
The opinion was adopted by the Panel.

6.7. Pest categorizations of mites listed in Directive 2000/29/EC: *Aculops fuchsiae* (EFSA-Q-2014-00276)

The Panel performed a pest categorisation for the EU territory of *Aculops fuchsiae*, a mite listed in Annex II, Part A, Section I of Council Directive 2000/29/EC as a harmful organism not known to occur in the community. *A. fuchsiae* is, however, established in France and the UK and it was also reported as transient in Belgium and Germany (but systematic surveys are lacking). *A. fuchsiae* is a distinct taxonomic entity. The known hosts of *A. fuchsiae* are *Fuchsia* spp. This exotic plant genus is naturalised in several areas of Europe and is widely present in the risk assessment area, both in the open field and under protected cultivations, as well as in gardens. The impact in terms of quality loss on fuchsia plants caused by the pest has been described in the European Union. However, no quantitative data on these losses have been reported yet. Plants for planting are the main pathway for introduction and spread of *A. fuchsiae*, which may cause severe impacts on the intended use of the plants for planting. In Europe, the climatic conditions do not seem to be the key limiting factor for establishment and spread in the open field and under protected conditions. Establishment and spread could occur provided that suitable hosts (*Fuchsia* spp.) are present. Further spread is anticipated from the areas where the pest is currently present, mainly by movement of plant material through trade and exchange.
The opinion was adopted by the Panel.

6.8. Pest categorizations of insects listed in Directive 2000/29/EC: *Rhagoletis cingulata* (EFSA-Q-2014-00272)

The Panel undertook a pest categorisation of *Rhagoletis cingulata* for the EU territory. This pest is a member of a complex of five North American species, of which *Rhagoletis indifferens* is the only other crop pest. The two pest species have morphologically distinct adults, but similar larvae and both attack cherries. *R. cingulata* is currently present in eight Member States but its presence in eastern North America from Mexico to Canada implies that all the risk assessment area where its hosts occur is suitable for establishment. Adults have a limited capacity for flight, and spread is mainly by larvae present in traded fruit and pupae in soil. *R. cingulata* attacks all cultivated and wild cherries but is particularly damaging to late-maturing varieties, especially sour cherries. Even small infestations can cause losses because the quality requirements for marketing of cherry fruits indicate a threshold below 4 % for “worm-eaten” fruit in accordance with Commission Regulation 214/2004. The limited control measures available are similar to those for the native cherry fruit fly, *R. cerasi*, and are primarily based on insecticide sprays timed to kill adults, along with some cultural methods (e.g. netting and trapping). *R. cingulata* is listed in Annex IAI of Council Directive 2000/29/EC and its hosts are regulated in Annex IIIA with prohibitions for introduction in the Member States, in Annex IVAI with special requirements on soil and dwarfed plants that need to be considered and in Annex V indicating that host plants intended for planting are subject to plant health inspection before entry or movement within the EU
The opinion was adopted by the Panel.

6.9. Pest categorizations of bacteria listed in Directive 2000/29/EC: *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *persicae* (EFSA-Q-2014-00255)

The Panel performed a pest categorisation for *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *persicae* (*P. s.* pv. *persicae*) for the EU territory. The agent is responsible for bacterial die-back in peach, nectarine, Japanese plum and, possibly, myrobalan plum. The disease is caused by a genetic clade within genomic species 3 of *P. syringae*, but there is only limited knowledge of the diversity of the causative agent. The host plants are cultivated throughout Europe, although it is only in southern European countries that the production of peaches and/or nectarines is of economic importance, and the cultivation of Japanese plums is restricted to some parts of southern Europe. Outbreaks are rare and currently the disease occurs only sporadically in Portugal, France and Germany. *P. s.* pv. *persicae* causes symptoms on the bark, shoots, leaves and fruit. Detection is based on symptomatology and isolation; no DNA amplification (polymerase chain reaction) protocols are available. The pathogen can be identified on the basis of disease symptoms, including shoot die-back and leaf spots, and on the basis of distinct biochemical and genetic properties. No effective management strategies are available, although disease incidence and severity can be somewhat reduced by disinfection of tools, machines and materials, the use of planting material from disease-free areas, and the avoidance of conditions favouring disease expression. Initial infections may be due to the use of (latently) infected plant material, but infections may also occur from the environment. No effective biological or chemical control agents are registered for bacterial die-back in Europe. The outbreaks, although they occur sporadically, are usually severe and can result in the loss of entire orchards.
The opinion was adopted by the Panel.

6.10. Pest categorizations of bacteria listed in Directive 2000/29/EC: *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *phaseoli and Xanthomonas fuscans* subsp. *fuscans* (EFSA-Q-2014-00257)

The Panel performed a pest categorisation for *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *phaseoli* for the EU territory. In reaching its conclusions, the Panel considered four parameters to be of critical importance in the risk assessment area: (i) the presence and distribution of *X. campestris* pv. *phaseoli* in the risk assessment area and its potential for spread; (ii) the existence and the distribution of the main host plants throughout the European Union (EU); (iii) the potential for damage to crops grown in Europe; and (iv) the implementation of pest control strategies and cultural measures. The organisms formerly identified as *X. campestris* pv. *phaseoli* have proven to be genetically diverse and are currently known as *Xanthomonas fuscans* subsp. *fuscans* and *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *phaseoli.* Based on its analysis, the Panel concluded that the identity of these pathogens is clearly defined and their distribution involves limited areas or regions in the EU, although with a medium uncertainty. The main dispersal pathway for these pathogens is contaminated seeds. In addition, the Panel noted that host plants are widely cropped throughout the EU, common bean Phaseolus vulgaris being of great commercial importance, not only for consumption—fresh, canned, deep frozen and dried—but also for the seed industry. Currently, the impact of common bacterial blight is limited in the EU as a consequence of seed testing. Finally, the Panel concluded that moderate to high consequences, in terms of yield and quality losses, are expected for beans, especially if weather conditions are conducive to disease and seed inoculum no longer contained.
The opinion was adopted by the Panel.

6.11. Pest categorizations of bacteria listed in Directive 2000/29/EC: *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *pruni* (EFSA-Q-2014-00258)

The Panel performed a pest categorisation for the EU territory for *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *pruni* which has been renamed *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *pruni*. In reaching its conclusions, the Panel considered four parameters to be of critical importance in the risk assessment area: (i) the presence and distribution of X. campestris pv. pruni in the risk assessment area and its potential for spread; (ii) the existence and distribution of the main host plants throughout the European Union (EU); (iii) the potential for damage to crops grown in Europe; and (iv) the implementation of pest control strategies and cultural measures. Based on its analysis, the Panel concluded that the identity of the pest is clearly defined and its distribution involves limited areas or regions in the EU, although with a medium uncertainty. The pathogen may have a serious impact on horticultural production. Yield and quality losses have been observed on peach, nectarine and Japanese plum genotypes, especially if weather conditions are conducive to disease and minimal damage to crops is expected on cherry and European plum genotypes. The Panel noted that host plants are widely distributed throughout the EU and most of them are of great commercial importance. The pathogen is present but not widely distributed and not fully under official control by means of specific certification and other control measures. Planting material is the main pathway of pathogen dissemination.
The opinion was adopted by the Panel.

6.12. Pest categorizations of fungi listed in Directive 2000/29/EC: *Ceratocystis fimbriata* f. sp. *platani* (EFSA-Q-2014-00261);

The Panel performed a pest categorisation for the EU territory for *Ceratocystis fimbriata* f. sp. *platani* Walter, the fungal pathogen responsible for the “canker stain” disease of plane trees. *C. fimbriata* f. sp. *platani* is listed in Annex IIAII of Directive 2000/29/EC. Recently, the pathogen has been reclassified as *Ceratocystis platani* (Walter) Engelbrecht et Harrington, based on intersterility studies, progeny analysis and the morphology of isolates from different hosts. *C. platani* is a single taxonomic entity and sensitive and reliable methods are available for its detection and differentiation from other related fungal species. The only known hosts are *Platanus occidentalis*, *Platanus orientalis* and *Platanus* × *acerifolia*. The last two plane species are the most susceptible to *C. platani* and are widely grown in most of the European Union Member States. *C. platani* is a wound pathogen causing canker and wilt and eventually death of plane trees. It is currently present in part of the risk assessment area (Greece, France, Italy), where it causes serious consequences on *P. orientalis* and *P.* × *acerifolia* trees grown in natural stands, coppices, and public and private gardens in both rural and urban environments. There are no obvious ecological/climatic factors limiting the potential establishment and spread of the pathogen in the non-infested part of the risk assessment area where hosts are present. *C. platani* has multiple natural and human-assisted means of spread, including waterways, root anastomosis, contaminated pruning tools, insects, contaminated insect frass and sawdust. The movement of infected host plants for planting and wood is considered to be responsible for the introduction of the pathogen into new areas. Cultural practices and sanitary and chemical measures applied in the infested areas may reduce inoculum sources but they cannot eliminate the pathogen. Plane accessions resistant to *C. platani* are available in the European market.
The opinion was adopted by the Panel.

6.13. Pest categorizations of fungi listed in Directive 2000/29/EC: *Cryphonectria parasitica* (EFSA-Q-2014-00262)

The Panel performed a pest categorisation of *Cryphonectria parasitica* (Murrill) Barr, the fungal pathogen responsible for chestnut blight, a highly destructive disease that kills trees through bark cankers. The pathogen is listed in Annex IIAII of Directive 2000/29/EC. Its identity is clearly defined as *C. parasitica* (Murrill) Barr and methods exist for its discriminative detection. Several hosts are known, but the main hosts are species of *Castanea* and *Quercus*, particularly *Castanea sativa* and *Quercus petraea*. These two host species are present in all the EU Member States and the disease has been recorded in most parts of the risk assessment area. *C. parasitica* is absent in Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Malta, Iceland and Norway. No information is available on the presence of the pathogen in Latvia, Lithuania or Luxembourg. In the Czech Republic and Poland, *C. parasitica* has been eradicated. There are no recognised ecological or climatic factors limiting the potential establishment of the pathogen in the EU Member States where the pathogen is not known to occur. The pathogen can spread by propagules (mainly conidia, but also ascospores and mycelium) that are dispersed by wind, rain or vectors, as well as via the movement of infected or contaminated host plants for planting and bark, particularly asymptomatic ones. Control methods used against *C. parasitica* include exclusion and eradication, chemical control, host genetic resistance and biological control (hypovirulence). The most successful control methods of *C. parasitica* in the EU are exclusion and eradication, and hypovirulence. Potential consequences of the damage caused by *C. parasitica* include yield losses of fruit and wood, reduction in biodiversity and habitat loss for associated organisms.
The opinion was adopted by the Panel.

7. Update on written adoptions

An update was provided on the outcomes of the written adoption procedure of the two scientific opinions on pest categorisation of *Helicoverpa armigera* (EFSA-Q-2014-00270) and of *Ditylenchus destructor* (EFSA-Q-2014-00278). Both opinions were adopted on 9 September 2014 by written procedure.

8. New External Mandates / Progress report

8.1. WG on methodologies for risk assessment of listed pests (WG Dir 2000/29/EC Methods)

The Panel was informed about the preliminary feedback provided by the Standing Committee on Plant Health and by the EU Commission Plant Health Unit on the first batch of published pest categorisations. The template for pest categorisation updated based on comments received was presented to the Panel. No further changes are expected on the pest categorisation template. The next activities of this WG will focus on guidance, template and practical explanations on rating of risk components and uncertainties and identification and evaluation of risk reduction options, to be performed in STEP 2 of the mandate on revision of listing of the 38 organisms in the Annexes of 2000/29/EC.

8.2. *Xylella fastidiosa* pest risk assessment and evaluation of risk reduction options (EFSA-Q-2013-00405)

The WG chair presented the current status of the work and the challenges of the assessment. The WG will attend the International Symposium on the Apulian Outbreak of X. *fastidiosa* in October 2014 in order to incorporate updated field knowledge and research results into the assessment.

8.3. Risk to plant health posed by *Trichilogaster acaciaelongifoliae* for the EU territory (EFSA-Q-2013-00241)

A report on the progress of the draft scientific opinion on the risk to plant health posed by the biological control agent *Trichilogaster acaciaelongifoliae* was presented.

8.4. Risk to plant health by soil and growing media (EFSA-Q-2013-00405

A report on the progress of the draft scientific opinion on the risk to plant health by soil and growing media was presented, including the definitions of soil and growing media.

8.5. Pest categorization of viruses and one phytoplasma listed in Directive 2000/29/EC: Potato stolbur mycoplasma (EFSA-Q-2014-00244); Citrus tristeza virus (EFSA-Q-2014-00283).

The Panel was informed about the work progress and the adoption plan as follows:

Working Group	Planned adoption November 2014
Dir 2000/29/EC Viruses	*Citrus tristeza virus,* Potato stolbur mycoplasma

8.6. Pest categorization of bacteria listed in Directive 2000/29/EC: Clavibacter michiganensis spp. insidiosus (EFSA-Q-2014-00243); Erwinia amylovora (EFSA-Q-2014-00252); Xylophilus ampelinus (EFSA-Q-2014-00259).

The Panel was informed about the work progress and the adoption plan as follows:

Working Group	Planned adoption in November 2014
Dir 2000/29/EC Bacteria	*Clavibacter michiganensis spp. insidiosus, Erwinia amylovora, Xylophilus ampelinus*

8.7. Pest categorization of phytoplasma and vectors listed in Directive 2000/29/EC: Spiroplasma citri (EFSA-Q-2014-00256); Circulifer haematoceps (EFSA-Q-2014-00268); Circulifer tenellus (EFSA-Q-2014-00269).

The Panel was informed about the work progress and the adoption plan as follows:

Working Group	Planned adoption November 2014	Planned adoption December 2014
Dir 2000/29/EC Phytoplasma	*Spiroplasma citri*	*Circulifer haematoceps* *Circulifer tenellus*

8.8. Pest categorizations of fungi listed in Directive 2000/29/EC: Atropellis spp. (EFSA-Q-2014-00260); Verticillium albo-atrum (EFSA-Q-2014-00265); Verticillium dahliae (EFSA-Q-2014-00266).

The Panel was informed about the work progress and the adoption plan as follows:

Working Group	Planned adoption November 2014
Dir 2000/29/EC Fungi	*Atropellis spp.* *Verticillium albo-atrum* *Verticillium dahliae*

8.9. Pest categorizations of insects listed in Directive 2000/29/EC: Aonidiella citrina (EFSA-Q-2014-00267);); Rhagoletis ribicola (EFSA-Q-2014-00273); Scirtothrips dorsalis (EFSA-Q-2014-00274); Spodoptera littoralis (EFSA-Q-2014-00275).

The Panel was informed about the work progress and the adoption plan as follows:

Working Group	Planned adoption November 2014	Planned adoption December 2014
Dir 2000/29/EC Insects	*Scirtothrips dorsalis* *Rhagoletis ribicola*	*Spodoptera littoralis* *Aonidiella citrina*

9. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/the Scientific Panel, EFSA, the European Commission

9.1. Scientific Committee and other Scientific Panels

a. SC WG on Review of Guidance documents
The activities of the SC WG were presented. It was reminded that the new PLH Panel WGs should use the new template for EFSA scientific opinions, with exclusion of ongoing scientific opinions such as the pest categorisations that should be published in the previous template to ensure consistency.

b. SC WG on Emerging Risks
A thorough presentation was given by Jan Schans on the WG approach on biological risks and on identifying specific potential drivers in plant health.

d. SC WG on Uncertainty
An update was provided

9.2. Update on publications related to PLH Panel activity

The Panel was informed about following publication/activities of PLH panel members:

- an oral presentation on emerging plant health risk and climate change at the UK Plant Pathology Congress
- a poster presentation on risk assessment of quarantine mites at a scientific conference in Kyoto.

9.3. EFSA

The Panel was informed that a report commenting the EFSA PLH Panel Scientific Opinion on the risk of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* for the EU territory was published online

in August 2014 in the website of Citrus Research International (Pty) Ltd, a South African research organization. Following a request from the European Commission, these comments were reviewed and EFSA has contacted the lead author of the report to propose a meeting to establish a scientific dialogue on key uncertainties and diverging opinions. The reply received was presented to the Panel.
The Panel was also informed about ongoing and planned outsourcing projects to: support the *Xylella fastidiosa* risk assessment by conducting host range experiments and spread modelling; support the pest categorizations of listed pests and a database of EU apple pests.

9.4. European Commission

The Panel was informed about the follow up of the first pest categorisations and the feedback from risk managers.

10. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

A session with presentations and discussion related to the mandate on risk to plant health of *Trichilogaster acaciaelongifoliae* was held in the second day of the plenary. Helia Marchante, Cohimbra University, Portugal, presented studies conducted in South Africa and Portugal on the invasive alien plant *Acacia longifolia* and its biological control by the Australian parasitoid *T. acaciaelongifoliae*. Andrea Allavena from the CRA, Agriculture Research Council, Italy, presented an introduction to the cultivation of ornamental *Acacia* species in Italy. Dick Shaw from CABI presented CABI activities on biological control of invasive plants and weeds and a brief overview of the international risk assessment framework for biological weed control agents

11. Next Plenary meeting

It was reminded that the Panel plenary meeting of 26 and 27 November 2014 will be extended to a two full days meeting.