

Network on Risk Assessment in Plant Health Minutes of the 7th meeting

Held on 20-21 November 2014, Parma
(Agreed on 13 10 2015)

Participants

- **Network Representatives of Member States (including EFTA Countries):**

Country	Name¹
Austria	-
Belgium	Kristien BRAEKEN
Bulgaria	Boiko LIKOV
Cyprus	Dario IVIC
Croatia	-
Czech Republic	-
Denmark	-
Estonia	Mart KINKAR
Finland	Matti PUOLIMATKA
France	Nathalie FRANQUET
Germany	Jens-Georg UNGER
Greece	-
Hungary	Gabor SZALKAI
Ireland	-
Italy	-
Latvia	Liga GRISANE
Lithuania	Silvija PUPELIENE
Luxembourg	-
Malta	Marica GATT
Netherlands	Dirk Jan VAN DER GAAG,

¹ Indicate first full name and them surname (John Smith) all throughout the document

Poland	Witold KARNKOWSKI
Portugal	
Romania	-
Slovakia	-
Slovenia	-
Spain	- Gerardo SÁNCHEZ PENA
Sweden	Lars BOLLMARK
United Kingdom	Richard MCINTOSH
Iceland	
Liechtenstein	
Norway	Juliana PERMINOW
Switzerland	

- **European Commission:**
 - Harry ARIJS (DG SANCO)
- **European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO)**
 - Françoise PETER
- **Hearing Experts**
 - Roel POTTING (for item 5.4.)

- **EFSA:**

ALPHA Unit: Giuseppe STANCANELLI (Chair), Franck BERTHE, Gabor HOLLO, Svetla KOZELSKA, Tomasz OSZAKO, Marco PAUTASSO

SCISTRAT unit: Liem DJIEN

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Giuseppe STANCANELLI, Head of the Plant Health (PLH) Team of the Animal and Plant Health (ALPHA) Unit welcomed the participants, the Members of the Network and the representatives of the European Commission and of EPPO,

Apologies were received from Network Members from Austria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia and Observer from Switzerland.

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)² and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy³, members of networks, peer review meetings, networking meetings and their alternates shall be invited to complete and submit an Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI).

EFSA screened the ADoI filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest (ODOI) 4. Agreement of the minutes of the 6th meeting of the EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health held on 03-04 April 2014, in Parma, Italy.

The minutes of the 6th Network meeting were agreed on 20 November 2014. declared some interest at the beginning of this meeting in the ODoI.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 6th meeting of the EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health held on 03-04 April 2014, in Parma, Italy.

The minutes of the 6th Network meeting were agreed on 20 November 2014. Topics for discussion

5. Topics for discussion

5.1 Items suggested by MSs

No additional topics were suggested by MSs.

5.2 Update on EFSA plant health activities (April 2014 – November 2014) and work plan 2014-2017

EFSA provided an update on the EFSA Plant Health activities since the last Network meeting of April 2014 in form of presentations followed by discussion.

For the "Pest categorisation of listed plant pests to support revision of plant health law", an analysis and synthetic information on scientific opinions on which EFSA is currently working were presented and discussed in detail. The discussion focused on several aspects with regard to data as the availability and interpretation of data, the methodology of gathering data and solving the situation when data are lacking. The Network members discussed the new format of EFSA pest categorisation, the possibilities of further simplification and fitness for purpose.

The ongoing EFSA risk assessment activities on *Xylella fastidiosa* were presented. An update was provided on the EFSA media monitoring project for emerging plant health risks.

An introduction was provided on the new EFSA Document Management System (Open Text) and the Network work space was presented. The

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf>

Network members received basic information regarding the new EFSA Document Management System (Open Text) and were provided also with guidance in written by e-mail. They were advised to test the system and to contact the ALPHA PLH team/secretariat in case of any difficulties they would experience in the DMS access and use,

5.3 Presentation of risk assessment activities by Member States

Presentation: "FinnPRIO – a model for ranking invasive plant pests" The FinnPRIO – a model for ranking invasive plant pests - was presented as a tool for carrying out quick, well structured, semiquantitative expert assessments that use consistent criteria and hence enable comparison of different pests.

The procedure can be used to (i) select species for full risk assessment, (ii) target plant health inspections and (ii) provision of stakeholder information.

The model structure follows the basic structure of a full PRA and is composed of multiple-choice questions with different answer options yielding a different number of points. It considers uncertainty in each question and incorporates feasibility of control in the assessment.

FinnPRIO was validated with three expert workshops. Altogether 26 experts participated in the workshops. In each workshop experts assessed entry, establishment, spread and impact potential of seven species. The pest rankings made by the experts were compared to rankings made using the model. The rankings made using the model were found to be to a large extent in agreement with the expert opinions.

Strengths and benefits :

- Allows assessment in a relatively short time
- Allows comparison of pest species
- Can be used for targeting resources
- Considers all invasion stages
- Considers economic, environmental and social impacts
- Incorporates feasibility of control in the assessment
- Considers uncertainty in each question, and simulates a distribution of total scores using this uncertainty
- Includes question-specific instructions

Present stage and future directions:

- The model and the instructions for assessments are ready
- A manuscript describing the model is under preparation
- To date about 110 species have been assessed
- In 2015 we plan to assess the rest of the relevant pests listed in 2000/29/EC
- The assessments will be used to study e.g. the risks associated with different pathways of entry and sectors of plant production

The Network members were encouraged to send their comments, proposals or queries to the authors of the model.

The Network members also agreed that it would be beneficial to upload more information on this project/model on the EFSA DMS system for comments by the PLH Network members.

Presentation: "Pathways for introduction of invasive pests and the value of production at risk"

The aim is to assess:

- the volume of different pathways of pest introductions
- the economic value of production in the different sectors of plant production
- In order to gather information needed when assessing the risks related to different pests, pathways of introduction and sectors of plant production.

For some products the volume of pathways was obtained from customs statistics or other official statistics. For some products the estimates were done by estimating how much foreign propagation material is needed yearly. This was done by combining information about the production area and the seeding rate. For some products the estimates are based on questionnaires sent to operators that use and potentially buy plant material from abroad. The value of production was estimated as the product of crop and producer price.

Uncertainties related to the estimates are discussed in the report.

The volume of trade to Finland was estimated for over 200 plant products. The total amount of plant products imported yearly was estimated to be about **12 billion kilos**. Of these wood and wooden products cover about 92%, food, feed and their raw materials about 7% and **propagation material** only about 0.2%.

The amount of propagation material was estimated to be in total about **2 900 billion** seeds, seedlings or cuttings. Of this field crops cover more than 99% forest reproduction material about 0.001% and landscaping plants an order of magnitude less than that.

Presentation: "The ISEFOR and COST-PERMIT projects activities on the set-up and analysis of the database on trade in plants for planting"

The ISEFOR and COST-PERMIT projects focus on the forestry pests. The projects and the database on plants for planting were presented. EFSA informed the Network that it has started to use the ISEFOR database for import of plants for planting with the aim to collect updated information and data from MSs and to make it available to the plant health risk assessment network.

A presentation was given by Françoise Petter on the EPPO plant health data collection activities and on the EFSA EPPO collaboration. Giuseppe Stancanelli presented an overview of EFSA data collection activities in plant health and areas for collaboration.

5.5 Discussion on Network work plan 2014-2017

It was reported that from previous discussion the 2 following items were highlighted as of priority for Network activities in the period 2014-2017:

- cooperation in data collection
- fitness for purpose of pest risk assessment to support new legislation

The Network members confirmed the importance of the two topics above.

For cooperation in data collection, the aim is to build a single inventory of data sources for pest risk assessment unifying whenever possible inventories produced in previous research projects (e.g. Pratique) with inventories produced in EFSA funded projects (e.g. Prassis, inventory of national statistical databases, forestry inventories etc.). This would require cooperation of EFSA, EPPO, JRC and Member States. Role of Network members would be mainly to review national information sources for their country, once the single inventory of data sources has been built.

It was also highlighted the importance of data availability on trade of plants for planting and the necessity to update at least for a recent year the ISEFOR database.

5.6. Agreement on Network meeting dates in 2015

The Network meetings in 2015 will take place on 23-24 April and on 15-16 October.

6. Any Other Business

7. Action Points

- 1) EFSA to upload on the DMS specific information on:
 - "FinnPRIO – a model for ranking invasive plant pests"
 - "Pathways for introduction of invasive pests and the value of production at risk"
- 2) EFSA to send to all PLH Network members an e-mail with the information and guidance for DMS
- 3) Invite the TRACES to present the system to Network during a Network meeting including experience from MS pilot cases
- 4) EFSA to proceed on the pilot exploration of the ISEFOR Database and to ask officially the MSs for sharing/input of data in the ISEFOR database.