Scientific Panel on Plant Health (PLH)

Minutes of the 69th Plenary meeting

27 and 28 September 2017, Parma, (Italy)

(Agreed by written procedure on October 12th 2017)

Participants

- Panel Members
  Claude Bragard, David Caffier, Elisavet Chatzivassiliou, Katharina Dehnen-Schmutz, Gianni Gilioli, Jean-Claude Gregoire, Josep Jaques Miret, Michael Jeger, Alan MacLeod, Maria Navajas, Björn Niere, Roel Potting, Trond Rafoss (participated by web), Vittorio Rossi, Gregor Urek, Wopke van der Werf, Stephan Winter
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  Pasquale Di Rubbo, Maria Mirazchiyska, Mylona Panagiota (DG SANTE) via video conference
- EFSA:
  ALPHA Unit: Giuseppe Stancanelli, Mitesha Aukhojee, Filippo Bergeretti, Ewelina Czwienczek, Alice Delbianco, Ciro Gardi, Gabor Hollo, Virag Kertesz, Svetla Kozelska, Marco Pautasso, Sybren Vos

  SCER Unit: Bernard Bottex

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Ariena Van Bruggen, Thierry Candresse, Stephan Parnell and Jonathan West.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest Scientific Panel Members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes[1] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest[2], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI) and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the Panel Members invited for the present meeting. No additional interest was declared.

4. Report on the agreement in written procedure of the Plenary minutes of 68th Plenary meeting

The minutes of the 68th Plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure by 14 July 2017 and published on EFSA web-page.

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

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf

5. Written adoptions

5.1. Scientific opinion on pest categorisation of *Ips sexdentatus* (EFSA-Q-2017-00203)

The written adoption was launched on 1 September 2017 with a deadline of 15 September 2017 and following outcome:

- total experts to vote: 21
- votes for adoption: 16
- not voted: 5
- minority opinion: 0

Opinion is being prepared for publication and will be available on the EFSA webpage in October 2017.

5.2. Scientific opinion on pest categorisation of Beet curly top virus (non-EU isolates) (EFSA-Q-2017-00202)

The written adoption was launched on 1 September 2017 with a deadline of 15 September 2017 and following outcome:

- total experts to vote: 21
- votes for adoption:16
- not Voted: 5
- minority opinion: 0

Opinion is being prepared for publication and will be available on the EFSA webpage in October 2017.

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

6.1. Scientific opinion on evaluation of a paper by Guarnaccia et al. (2017) on the first report of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* in Europe EFSA-Q-2017-00540 & EFSA-Q-2017-00541

The WG chair updated the Panel on the progress made and presented the draft opinion that will be circulated for written adoption in October.

Pest Categorisation for adoption

6.2. Scientific opinion on pest categorisation on Witches' broom (MLO) EFSA-Q-2017-00199

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation for the Witches' broom disease of lime (*Citrus aurantifolia*) phytoplasma for the European Union (EU) territory. The pest has been reported in a few countries in the Middle East and is not known to occur in the EU. The disease is caused by a well-defined phytoplasma strain in the "*Candidatus* Phytoplasma *aurantifolia*" species, for which efficient molecular detection assays are available. The most important known natural host is *Citrus aurantifolia,* which is only grown for ornamental purposes in the EU. Sweet limes, rough lemon and trifoliate orange are also naturally infected

by that phytoplasma. It can be transmitted by grafting to some citrus species. Other citrus species were reported to be resistant, however, their susceptibility has been based only on symptom observations, and the possible presence of phytoplasmas in symptomless plants cannot be ruled out. The phytoplasma is transmitted by the leafhopper *Hishimonus phycitis*, which is not known to occur in the EU. There is no information on the vector status of other phloem feeding insects of citrus present in the EU. The pest is listed in Annex IIAI of Directive 2000/29/EC. The main pathways for entry, plants for planting and the vector insect, are closed by existing legislation on import of Citrus plants. Nevertheless, should the pest enter, it could establish and spread. In countries where WBDL is present it has significant impact. The main knowledge gaps concern (1) status of potential insect vectors in the EU (2) lack of information regarding susceptibility of citrus crops grown in the EU (3) and vertical transmission of the phytoplasma to *H. phycitis* eggs. Therefore, the WBDL phytoplasma meets the criteria assessed by EFSA for consideration as a potential Union quarantine pest.

This pest categorisation was adopted on 28 September 2017.

6.3. Scientific opinion on pest categorisation of Palm lethal yellowing mycoplasma EFSA-Q-2017-00333

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of Palm lethal yellowing phytoplasmas for the European Union (EU) territory. This name is used to describe diseases that share the same succession of symptoms in palms that are caused by a number of strains of phytoplasma for which efficient molecular detection assays are available. The pest is not known to occur in the EU and therefore does not meet one of the criteria for being a Union regulated non-quarantine pest. For '*Candidatus* Phytoplasma palmae' the planthopper *Haplaxius crudus*, which is not known to be present in the EU, is the confirmed vector, but for the other strains, the vectors are unknown. The host range of the pest is restricted to Arecaceae species, in particular coconut. The pest is regulated on all known hosts in Annex IIAI of Directive 2000/29/EC. It could potentially enter the EU via plants for planting or through infected vectors. The phytoplasmas could become established in the EU as host plants are present. It is unknown whether arthropods present in the EU could be vectors. The potential impact of the pest if introduced into the EU is difficult to assess given this uncertainty, but is estimated to be limited. The main knowledge gaps concern the status of potential vector

insects in the EU; the possibility for seed transmission of the phytoplasmas; the origin and volume of the trade in palm seeds and plants for planting; the host status and susceptibility of many palm species grown in the EU; and the potential new assignments of phytoplasmas to this categorisation that might have associated alternate hosts. Palm lethal yellowing phytoplasmas meet the criteria required to satisfy the definition of a Union quarantine pest.

This pest categorisation was adopted on 28 September 2017.

6.4. Scientific opinion on pest categorisation of *Cercoseptoria pini-densiflorae* EFSA-Q-2017-00325

Following a request from the European Commission, the EFSA Plant Health (PLH) Panel performed a pest categorisation of *Pseudocercospora pini-densiflorae*, a well-defined and distinguishable fungal species of the family Mycosphaerellaceae. The regulated harmful organism is the anamorph *Cercoseptoria pini-densiflorae* (synonym *Cercospora pini-densiflorae*) with the corresponding teleomorph *Mycosphaerella gibsonii. P. pini-densiflorae* causes a needle blight of Pinus spp. also known as Cercospora blight of pines or Cercospora needle blight. *P. pini-densiflorae* is reported from sub-Saharan Africa, Central and South America, Asia and Oceania, but not from the EU. The pathogen is regulated in Council Directive 2000/29/EC (Annex IIAI) as a quarantine organism whose introduction into the EU is banned on plants (other than fruit and seeds) and wood of *Pinus*. The pest could enter the EU via plants for planting and other means (uncleaned seed, cut branches of pine trees, isolated bark, growing media accompanying plants, and mycorrhizal soil inocula). Hosts are widespread in the EU and favourable climatic conditions are present in Mediterranean countries. *P. halepensis, P. nigra, P. pinea, P. pinaster*, and *P. sylvestris* are reported to be highly susceptible to the pathogen. The pest would be able to spread following establishment after introduction in the EU mainly on infected plants for planting. The pest introduction could have impacts in nurseries and young plantations. Cleaning seeds from needles and removing infected seedlings and pine litter from affected nurseries can reduce the risk of establishment in nurseries and of spread from nurseries to forests, especially given the limited scale of splash dispersal. The main knowledge gaps concern (i) the role of means of entry/spread other than plants for planting, and (ii) the potential consequences in mature tree plantations and forests. The criteria assessed by the Panel for consideration as potential quarantine pest are met. For regulated non-quarantine pests, the criterion on the pest presence in the EU is not met.

The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 28 September 2017.

6.5. Scientific opinion on pest categorisation of *Gremmeniella abietina* EFSA-Q-2017-00327

Following a request from the European Commission, the EFSA Plant Health (PLH) Panel performed a pest categorisation of *Gremmeniella abietina*, a well-defined species and distinguishable fungus of the family Godroniaceae. The species *G. abietina* includes several varieties, races and biotypes that are found in different geographical locations, on different hosts and that vary in aggressiveness. The pathogen causes diseases on *Pinus* species and other conifers such as *Abies* spp., *Picea* spp., *Larix* spp. and *Pseudotsuga* spp. known as Scleroderris canker in North America and Brunchorstia dieback in Europe. *G. abietina* has been reported from 19 EU Member States, without apparent eco-climatic factors limiting establishment. The pathogen is a Protected Zone (PZ) quarantine pest (Annex IIB) for Ireland and the UK (Northern Ireland). The main European hosts are widespread throughout most of the EU and have been frequently planted in the PZ. The main means of spread are wind-blown ascospores, rain-splashed conidia, plants for planting and traded Christmas trees. Given that *G. abietina* is most damaging to species that are grown towards the limit of their range, impacts can be expected in the PZ, should the pathogen be introduced there. Risk reduction options include selection of disease-free planting material, nursery inspections, selection of planting sites at some distance from infested plantations, appropriate spacing between plants and thinning. The main uncertainties concern the indeterminate endophytic stage of the fungus, the pathogen distribution, and the future taxonomic status of *G. abietina*, given its intraspecific diversity. All the criteria assessed by the Panel for consideration as potential PZ quarantine pest were met. The criterion of plants for planting being the main pathway for spread for regulated non-quarantine pests is not met: plants for planting are only one of the means of spread of the pathogen.

The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 28 September 2017.

6.6. Scientific opinion on pest categorisation of Citrus tristeza virus (non-European isolates) EFSA-Q-2017-00310

The Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of non-European isolates of *Citrus tristeza virus* (CTV) for the European Union (EU) territory. CTV is a well characterized virus for which efficient detection assays are available. It is transmitted by vegetative multiplication of infected hosts and by aphid vectors. The most efficient one, *Toxoptera citricida,* has limited EU presence but another one, *Aphis gossypii,* is broadly distributed. CTV is reported from a range of countries outside the EU and EU isolates are present in 7 of the 8 citrus-growing member states. Non-EU isolates are not known to occur in the EU and therefore do not meet one of the criteria for being a Union regulated non-quarantine pest. The natural host range of CTV is restricted to *Citrus*,

Fortunella and *Poncirus* species. CTV non-EU isolates are listed in Annex IIAI of Directive 2000/29/EC and the main pathway for entry, plants for planting, is closed by the existing legislation. CTV isolates may therefore only enter through low probability and/or high uncertainty pathways. They have the potential to subsequently spread through plants for planting and through the action of aphid vectors. CTV non-EU isolates are able to cause severe symptoms on a range of Citrus crops that EU isolates do not induce. Overall, non-EU CTV isolates meet all the criteria evaluated by EFSA to qualify as Union quarantine pests. The main knowledge gaps and uncertainties concern (1) the status of *Rutaceae* species other than *Citrus*, *Fortunella* and *Poncirus* as natural hosts for CTV; (2) the potential undetected presence of non-EU CTV isolates in the EU and in particular the prevalence and biological properties of CTV isolates that may be present in ornamental citrus (4) the inability of EU CTV isolates apparently related to non-European stem pitting (SP) isolates to cause SP in sweet orange.

This pest categorisation was adopted on 28 September 2017.

6.7. Scientific opinion on pest categorisation of Satsuma dwarf virus EFSA-Q-2017-00313

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Satsuma dwarf virus* (SDV) for the European Union (EU) territory. SDV is a well-known pathogen and the type species of the genus *Sadwavirus* in the family *Secoviridae*. SDV is now considered to include several other formerly distinct viruses which are therefore also covered in the present opinion. Citrus species and their relatives represent the main hosts of SDV and efficient diagnostic techniques are available. SDV is listed on some of its known hosts in Annex IIAI of Directive 2000/29/EC. It is transmitted by vegetative propagation of infected hosts and presumably through the soil, but the precise mechanism or vector(s) are still unknown. SDV is present in Asia and is not known to occur in the EU. Therefore, it does not meet this criterion to qualify as a Union RNPQ. Plants for planting represent the main pathway for the entry, but this pathway is closed by existing legislation for the main hosts (*Citrus*, *Fortunella* and *Poncirus*). SDV is however able to enter the EU on plants for plants of its unregulated rutaceous or non-rutaceous hosts. Should it be introduced, SDV has the potential to establish and subsequently spread with plants for planting and, possibly, through its poorly characterized natural spread mechanism(s). SDV is able to cause severe symptoms, quality and yield losses on a range of citrus crops. Overall, SDV meets all the criteria evaluated by EFSA to qualify as a Union quarantine pest. The main knowledge gaps and uncertainties concern (1) the potential significance of the unregulated rutaceous and non-rutaceous hosts for virus dissemination and epidemiology, 2) the origin and trade

volume of the plants for planting of these host imported in the EU, and 3) the efficiency of natural spread of SDV under EU conditions.

This pest categorisation was adopted on 28 September 2017.

6.8. Scientific opinion on pest categorisation Tatter leaf virus EFSA-Q-2017-00314

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorization of Citrus tatter leaf virus (CTLV) for the European Union (EU) territory. This virus is the causal agent of tatter leaf and graft incompatibility in trifoliate orange (*Poncirus trifoliata*) and its hybrids. CTLV is now recognized as a synonym of *Apple stem grooving virus* (ASGV), the type *Capillovirus* species, for which efficient diagnostics are available. There are no known ASGV vectors. The virus is reported in citrus from many countries. In the EU, while ASGV is widely present on apple and pear, it has never been reported on citrus. Since the citrus plants for planting pathway is closed by existing legislation, the main pathway for entry is plants for planting of other host species. In the EU, the high prevalence of ASGV in non-citrus hosts but its absence in citrus ones suggests that interspecific host transfers are rare. However, there are high uncertainties on the importance and specifics of such host change events. No limits to the establishment of ASGV are identified and spread is likely, through the vegetative propagation and trade of infected hosts. Infection of sensitive citrus rootstocks leads to stunted growth and decline of the entire plant a few years after grafting. The rootstocks that are now widely used to prevent citrus tristeza decline are the most affected. Among the criteria evaluated by EFSA for an organism to qualify as a Union quarantine pest, ASGV does not meet the criterion of being absent from or under official control in the EU territory. ASGV satisfies all the criteria evaluated by EFSA to qualify as a Union RNQP. The main uncertainties concern the possible unreported presence of ASGV in citrus in the EU, the existence and efficiency of interspecific host transfers and the existence of ASGV natural spread.

This pest categorisation was adopted on 28 September 2017.

6.9. Scientific opinion on pest categorisation of *Venturia nashicola* EFSA-Q-2017-00299

The Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Venturia nashicola,* the causal agent of Asian pear scab, for the European Union (EU). The pathogen is a well-defined, distinguishable fungal species affecting *Pyrus pyrifolia* var. *culta, P. ussuriensis* and *P. bretschneideri* in Asian countries. *P. communis* (European pear) is not a host of *V. nashicola*, but the host status of other *Pyrus* species is unclear. *V. nashicola* is not known to occur in the EU. It is listed in Annex IIAI of

Directive 2000/29/EC. The pathogen could potentially enter the EU on host plants for planting and fruit originated in infested countries. There are no climatic factors limiting the potential establishment and spread of the pathogen in the EU, as its epidemiology is similar to those of *V. inaequalis* (apple scab) and *V. pyrina* (European pear scab), which are well-established in the EU. The hosts are present in the EU, but no data were found on their abundance and distribution. In the infested areas, *V. nashicola* causes premature leaf and fruit drop and fruit distortion resulting in considerable yield/quality losses. The introduction of the pathogen into the EU could cause yield/quality losses and environmental consequences because of the additional fungicide sprays for disease control. Cultural practices and chemical measures applied in the infested areas reduce the inoculum sources but they cannot eliminate the pathogen. Phytosanitary measures are available to mitigate the risk of introduction and spread of the pathogen in the EU. All criteria assessed by EFSA for consideration as a potential Union quarantine pest are met. As *V. nashicola* is not known to occur in the EU, this criterion assessed by EFSA to consider it as a Union regulated non-quarantine pest is not met.

This pest categorisation was adopted on 28 September 2017.

6.10. Scientific opinion on pest categorisation of *Guignardia piricola* EFSA-Q-2017-00331

The Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Botryosphaeria kuwatsukai,* the causal agent of fruit rot and wart bark on apple and pear, for the European Union (EU). The pathogen, which was recently characterised, is a well-defined fungal species affecting mainly *Pyrus pyrifolia* (Japanese pear), although *P. communis* (European pear) and apples (*Malus domestica*) can also be affected. The host status of other plant species reported in the literature, i.e. *Cydonia oblonga, Chaenomeles japonica, Malus micromalus, Vitis vinifera* and *Prunus* spp., is unclear. *Botryosphaeria kuwatsukai* is currently present in Japan, China, Korea, Taiwan, and the USA, and uncertainty exists about its presence in other areas, where the disease has been associated with other *Botryosphaeria* spp. The pathogen is not known to occur in the EU and is listed in Annex IIAI of Directive 2000/29/EC. It could potentially enter the EU on host plants for planting and fruit originated in infested countries. Climatic conditions in the EU are suitable for the establishment and spread of the pathogen, as its epidemiology is similar to that of other *Botryosphaeria* spp. present in the EU. Pears and apples are widely distributed in the EU. In the infested areas, *B. kuwatsukai* causes branch die-back and fruit rot resulting in yield/quality losses. Its introduction and spread in the EU could impact pear and apple production, although the magnitude is unknown. Cultural practices and chemical measures may reduce the inoculum sources but cannot eliminate the pathogen. Phytosanitary measures are available to mitigate the risk of introduction

and spread of the pathogen in the EU. *Botryosphaeria kuwatsukai* meets all criteria assessed by EFSA for consideration as a potential Union quarantine pest. As *B. kuwatsukai* is not known to occur in the EU, this criterion to consider it as a Union regulated non-quarantine pest is not met.

This pest categorisation was adopted on 28 September 2017.

6.11. Scientific opinion on pest categorisation of *Puccinia pittieriana* EFSA-Q-2017-00332

The Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Puccinia pittieriana*, the causal agent of common rust of potato, for the European Union (EU). The pathogen is a single taxonomic entity and reliable methods exist for its detection and identification. Cultivated potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) and tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) are the main hosts of *P. pittieriana*. Some wild solanaceous plants can also be affected by the pathogen. *Puccinia pittieriana* is present in countries of South and Central America (most commonly at elevations of 3000-4000 m), but uncertainty exists about its presence in Bolivia and Paraguay. The pathogen is not known to occur in the EU and is listed in Annex IIAI of Directive 2000/29/EC. *Puccinia pittieriana* could potentially enter the EU mainly on living host plants and infested soil attached to potato tubers originated in infested areas. Potato and tomato crops are widely distributed in the EU and the prevailing climatic conditions, at least in part of the risk assessment area, are suitable for the establishment and spread of the pathogen. There is uncertainty on the yield/quality losses currently caused by the pathogen in the infested areas. Nevertheless, it is expected that the introduction and spread of *P. pittieriana* in the EU could impact potato and tomato production, although the magnitude is unknown. Cultural practices and chemical measures may reduce the inoculum sources but they cannot eliminate the pathogen. Phytosanitary measures are available to mitigate the risk of introduction and spread of the pathogen in the EU. *Puccinia pittieriana* meets all the criteria assessed by EFSA for consideration as a potential Union quarantine pest. As *P. pittieriana* is not known to occur in the EU, this criterion assessed by EFSA to consider it as a Union regulated non-quarantine pest is not met.

This pest categorisation was adopted on 28 September 2017.

6.12. Scientific opinion on pest categorisation of *Hishimonus phycitis* EFSA-Q-2017-00566

The Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Hishimonus phycitis* (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae), for the European Union (EU). *H. phycitis* is a well-defined species, occurring in tropical and sub-tropical Asian countries from Iran to Malaysia. *H. phycitis* is polyphagous. Hosts of

particular relevance to the EU include *Citrus* spp. and *Solanum melongena*. Whilst harmful in its own right as a leafhopper extracting host nutrients through feeding, it is regarded in the Middle East more significantly as a vector of Witches' broom disease of lime phytoplasma, which limits production of *Citrus aurantifolia*, and in India as a vector of brinjal little-leaf phytoplasma impacting *S. melongena* yields. *H. phycitis* is currently regulated by Council Directive 2000/29/EC, listed in Annex II/ AI as *Hishomonus phycitis* (sic). Eggs planted on host plants for planting could provide a pathway for entry into the EU. The EU has eco-climatic conditions that are also found in countries where *H. phycitis* occurs although it is unknown whether *H. phycitis* occurs in those areas. There is therefore considerable uncertainty around EU establishment. Any establishment is likely to be limited to the warmest areas around the Mediterranean. As a free-living organism with adults capable of flight, spread within the EU would be possible but confined to the limited area where establishment could occur. Measures are available to inhibit entry via traded commodities (e.g. prohibition on the introduction of *Citrus* plants for planting; sourcing other hosts from pest free areas). *H. phycitis* does satisfy all of the criteria that are within the remit of EFSA to assess to be regarded as a Union quarantine pest. It is uncertain if eggs of *H. phycitis* would carry phytoplasmas into the EU as transovarial transmission from infected females to eggs has not been demonstrated.

This pest categorisation was adopted on 28 September 2017.

6.13. Scientific opinion on pest categorisation of *Ips amitinus* EFSA-Q-2017-00196

The Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of the small spruce bark beetle, *Ips amitinus* (Eichhoff) (Coleoptera: Curculionidae, Scolytinae), for the European Union (EU). *I. amitinus* is a well-defined and distinguishable species, native to Europe and attacking mainly spruce (*Picea* spp.) and pine (*Pinus* spp.), and sporadically fir (*Abies* spp.) and larch (*Larix* spp.). It is distributed in 16 EU Member States and is locally spreading in some. The pest is listed in Annex IIB of Council Directive 2000/29/EC. Protected zones are in place in Ireland, Greece and the United Kingdom. Wood, wood products, bark, and wood packaging material are considered as pathways for this pest, which is also able to disperse by flight over tens of kilometres. The insects normally establish on fallen or weakened trees (e.g. after a fire or a drought) but can also occasionally mass-attack healthy trees, when population densities are high. The males produce pheromones that attract conspecifics of both sexes. Each male attracts one to seven females to establish a brood system; each female produces one to 60 offspring. The insects also inoculate their hosts with pathogenic fungi. There are one or two generations per year. The wide current geographic range of *I. amitinus*

suggests that it is able to establish in most areas in the EU, including the protected zones, where its hosts are present. The damage due to *I. amitinus* is limited and usually does not require control. Sanitary thinning or clear-felling are the usual control methods, when necessary. All criteria for consideration as potential protected zone quarantine pest are met. The criteria for considering *I. amitinus* as a potential regulated non-quarantine pest are not met since plants for planting are not viewed as a pathway.

This pest categorisation was adopted on 28 September 2017.

6.14. Scientific opinion on pest categorisation of *Ips cembrae* EFSA-Q-2017-00315

The Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of the large larch bark beetle, *Ips cembrae* (Heer) (Coleoptera: Curculionidae, Scolytinae), for the European Union (EU). *I. cembrae* is a well-defined and distinguishable species, native to Europe and recognised mainly as a pest of larch (Larix spp.), and occasionally of pine (*Pinus* spp.) and spruce (*Picea* spp.) It is distributed in 16 Member States of the EU and listed in Annex IIB of Council Directive 2000/29/EC. Protected Zones are in place in Greece, Ireland and the United Kingdom (Northern Ireland and Isle of Man). Wood, wood products, bark and wood packaging material are considered as pathways for this pest, which is also able to disperse by flight. The insects normally establish on fallen or weakened trees but, when their populations are high, can also mass-attack healthy trees. The males produce aggregation pheromones that attract conspecifics of both sexes. The insects also inoculate pathogenic fungi to their hosts. There are one to two generations per year. Before establishing their broods, the young adults need to proceed to maturation feeding, either within the bark of the tree where they developed, or in 2 to 18 years old twigs. *I. cembrae* has been expanding its geographical range in Europe during the second half of the 20th century. Sanitary thinning or clear felling are the major control methods. Quarantine measures are implemented to prevent entry in the protected zones. All criteria for consideration as potential protected zone quarantine pest are met. The criteria for considering *I. cembrae* as a potential regulated non-quarantine pest are not met since plants for planting are not viewed as a major pathway.

This pest categorisation was adopted on 28 September 2017.

6.15. Scientific opinion on pest categorisation of *Ips duplicatus* EFSA-Q-2017-00316

The Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of the double-spined bark beetle, *Ips duplicatus* (Sahlberg, 1836) (Coleoptera: Curculionidae, Scolytinae), for the European Union (EU). *I. duplicatus* is a

well-defined and distinguishable species, native to Europe and attacking mainly spruce but also observed on pine and larch. It is distributed in 15 EU Member States and is locally spreading in some of them. It is a protected zone quarantine pest in Ireland, Greece and the United Kingdom, listed in Annex IIB of Council Directive 2000/29/EC. Wood, wood products, bark, and wood packaging material are considered as pathways for this pest, which is also able to disperse by flight. The insects mostly attacks scattered individual standing trees in the stands, often when the trees are weakened by dry conditions or by pathogens, and they very rarely infest fallen or cut logs. The males produce pheromones that attract conspecifics of both sexes. Each male attracts one to five females and they establish a brood system; each female produces one to 60 offspring. The insects also inoculate their hosts with pathogenic fungi. There are one to three generations per year. The current geographic range of *I. duplicatus* suggests that it is able to establish in most of the EU, including the protected zones, where its hosts are present. Sanitary thinning or clear-felling, and pheromone trapping are the usual control methods. All criteria for consideration as potential protected zone quarantine pest are met. The criteria for considering *I. duplicatus* as a potential regulated non-quarantine pest are not met since plants for planting are not viewed as a pathway.

This pest categorisation was adopted on 28 September 2017.

7. New Mandates

7.1. Request for a scientific and technical assistance on survey guidelines for plant health for the EU territory (M-2017-00137)

The new article 31 request received on July 2017 to provide scientific and technical assistance on survey guidelines relevant for plant health for the EU territory was presented by EFSA staff. Although the work on this mandate is still to be initiated, the 3 different expected outputs were briefly presented indicating their respective main objective and deadline for delivery. The involvement of experts is still under discussion and some Panel members showed interest in contributing their expertise. A more detailed work plan will be presented at the next plenary meeting in November 2017.

7.2. Request for a technical assistance in the field of quarantine pests qualifying as priority pests (M-2017-0136)

DG SANTE contracted out to Commission's Joint Research Centre a two year project with the aim to develop the methodology which would support DG SANTE in the preparation of a list of priority pests. EFSA was requested for technical assistance in the field of quarantine pests qualifying as priority pests providing scientific data related to those pests

based on current scientific knowledge. An EFSA WG will provide data on the potential capacity for establishment of each proposed priority pest at the level of NUT2 region. Available data on the potential consequences of those pests taking into account their economic and environmental impact will be collected by EFSA for use by JRC.

8. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels, EFSA

8.1. PLH Scientific Panel including its Working Groups

8.1.1. Request to provide a scientific opinion on the risk to plant health of 133 regulated harmful organisms, for the EU territory (**M-2017-0055**)

- PLH Panel Working Group on agriculture fungal pathogens pest categorisation

The WG chair updated the Panel on the progress made since September. Work has been started on the pest categorisations on *Alternaria alternata* (non-EU) and *Elsinoe* spp. Both draft opinions will be presented for adoption at the November meeting of the Panel.

- PLH Panel Working Group on forest fungal pathogens pest categorisation

The chair of the WG updated the Panel on the progress of the WG since the last Panel plenary meeting. During the last WG meeting, the two opinions to be put forward for adoption during this plenary meeting (on *Gremmeniella abietina* and *Pseudocercospora pini-densiflorae*) were revised in the light of the comments received from the Panel members. In addition, the WG revised the drafts of the two opinions planned for possible adoption at the November plenary meeting (on *Davidsoniella virescens* and *Stegophora ulmea*).

- PLH Panel Working Group on forestry insects pest categorisation

The WG chair updated the Panel on the progress made since September. The WG is close to finalising the draft opinion on *Oligonychus perditus* which was presented to the panel by the rapporteur and is planned to be circulated for review and written adoption in October. Work has been started on 3 other opinions on *Gonipterus scutellatus*, *Cephalcia lariciphila* and *Gilpinia hercyniae* which will be tabled for adoption at the November meeting of the Panel.

A clarification on the methodology used by JRC for reducing the forest maps (Relative Probability of Presence and Trustability) was presented to the Panel.

- PLH Panel Working Group on agriculture insects pest categorisation

The WG chair updated the Panel on the progress made since the last Panel plenary meeting. The WG presented the draft opinions on *Anthonomus grandis* and *Anthonomus bisignifer* that will be circulated for written adoption in October. Data collection and literature searches have been started on 3 other opinions on *Toxoptera citricida*, *Listronotus bonariensis* and *Scrobipalpopsis solanivora* which will be presented for adoption at the November meeting of the Panel.

- PLH Panel Working Group on plant viruses pest categorisation

A member of the WG updated the Panel on the progress made since July. An advanced draft of the Natural spreading Psorosis pest categorisation was presented. The conclusions on the pest categorisation were briefly summarised. Following the presentation the discussion focused on taxonomy, transmission and the status of the pest. It was concluded by the PLH Panel that Natural spreading Psorosis opinion will go for written adoption in early November. The draft will be sent out to the Panel for consultation by the 6th of October 2017.

- PLH Panel Working Group on plant on bacteria

The WG chair updated the Panel on the progress made since July. Work has been started on 2 other opinions *Xanthomonas oryzae* pv*. oryzae* and pv. *oryzicola* and *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv *flaccumfaciens. Work on Pantoea stewartii* subsp*. stewartii* is to begin at the beginning of 2018*.*

- PLH Panel Working Group on Xylella species pest categorisation

WG Chair has been nominated and the first WG meeting will be in Mallorca on 16 and 17 of November 2017, after the *Xylella fastidiosa* conference.

8.1.2. PLH Panel Working Group "Directive 2000/29 Methods": development of fit for purpose risk assessment methodologies and process to update EU listing of regulated plant pests (EFSA-Q-2014-00351)

- Update on the development of the guidance on new methodology

The chair provided update on the development of the guidance on new methodology reminding the Panel about the feedback on the new methodology already received through discussion in the PLH Panel plenary and working group meetings, considering the experience in the pilot case studies and targeted feedback using questionnaire. The proposed skeleton of the guidance was presented together with the next planned steps aiming to launch public consultation on the new guidance early next year and adopt it by mid-2018. The follow-up discussion specifically focused on

the possibility of quantitative impact assessment providing also specific spatial information. The Panel recognised that a spatial explicit impact assessment is generally not feasible within a pest risk assessment as performed by the Panel.

8.2. Scientific Committee and its Working Groups

The Panel chair shortly updated the participants about the progress done within the WG on uncertainty, WG on biological relevance and WG on weight of evidence, specifically focusing on the planned adoption of the Uncertainty guidance. The Uncertainty guidance will be adopted as following four documents: Text-book, Guidance document, Guidance on communication and EFSA report on EFSA Uncertainty workshop and made available after publishing.

The EFSA Prometheus WG is now gathering feedback with regard to the proposed procedure on risk assessment planning phase. It was stressed that the proposed procedure is not flexible enough and might create some administrative burdens.

8.3. EFSA including its Working Groups/Task Forces

8.3.1. Update on the request from the European Commission to provide scientific and technical assistance on a horizon scanning exercise in view to crisis preparedness on plant health for the EU territory (EFSA-Q-2017-00037)

The progress made on the Horizon scanning project and the contents of the 5th and 6th editions (August and September 2017) of the Plant Health Newsletter were presented. With the addition of keywords corresponding to 58 new pests, the Medisys platform currently allows to screen media for information on a total of 356 pests. In collaboration with JRC the framework for literature monitoring is being implemented. The main issues of the 5th and 6th editions covered the spreads of *Spodoptera frugiperda* in Africa, *Agrilus planipennis* in North America and *Popillia japonica* in Europe, the outbreaks of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Europe, the situation of citrus greening in the United States and in Argentina. The newsletter also highlighted the finding of articles on pests not listed in the EU legislation or in the EPPO lists: Maize Yellow Mosaic Virus and Maize Lethal Necrosis in Africa, *Adelges tsugae* and *Nipponaclerda biwakoensis* in the United States.

8.3.2. Update on *Xylella* database and on *Xylella* conference

The *Xylella* host plant database is in progress. The full text screening in Distiller has been finished. Presently, more than 50% of data are already extracted.

An update on the conference has been presented.

9. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

No additional topics for discussion were proposed.

10. Any other business

The participants were informed about the 11th annual meeting of the International Pest Risk Research Group (IPRRG) on 29th August – Friday 1st September 2017 in Ottawa, Canada. This meeting had focused on predictability and uncertainty in pest risk analysis and two presentations of PLH Panel work were given. PLH Panel work was also presented by the Panel chair during a Conference at the Royal Society of Edinburgh "Progress and challenges in modelling forest pests and diseases" on 4-5 September 2017. Information on the 3rd EFSA Scientific Conference which will take place in Parma on 18 – 21 September 2018 was provided.

The next PLH Panel plenary will take place in Parma on 22-23 November 2017.