Scientific Panel on Plant Health (PLH)

Minutes of the 71st (Open) Plenary meeting

31 January and 1 February 2018, Parma, (Italy)

(Agreed with written procedure, 22 February 2018)

Participants

- Panel Members
  Claude Bragard, David Caffier, Thierry Candresse, Elisavet Chatzivassiliou, Katharina Dehnen-Schmutz, Gianni Gilioli, Jean-Claude Gregoire, Josep Jaques Miret (2nd day only), Michael Jeger, Alan MacLeod, Maria Navajas, Björn Niere, Stephan Parnell, Roel Potting (by web), Trond Rafoss, Vittorio Rossi (1st day by web), Gregor Urek, Ariena Van Bruggen, Wopke van der Werf, Jonathan West, Stephan Winter
- European Commission representatives:
  Panagiota Milona (DG SANTE)
- EFSA:
  ALPHA Unit: Ramona Ciubotaru, Ewelina Czwienczek, Alice Delbianco, Franco Ferilli, Ciro Gardi, Gabor Hollo, Virag Kertesz, Nikolaus Kriz, Svetla Kozelska, Joshua Oyedele, Marco Pautasso, Giuseppe Stancanelli, Emanuela Tacci, Sybren Vos

  AMU Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

  SCER Unit: Bernard Bottex

  FIN Unit: Donna Lucas
- Observers:
  Charles Manceau (ANSES), Gawlak Magdalena (Institute of Plant Protection - National Research Institute), Simonetto Anna, Françoise Petter (EPPO), Muriel Suffert (EPPO)
- Hearing experts:

  Fabienne Grousset (EPPO)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Brief introduction of Panel members and observers

Panel Members, EFSA staff and Observers presented themselves.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

4. Declarations of Interest of 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.

5. Presentation of the Guidelines for Observers

The EFSA Guidelines for Observers[3] for open plenary meetings, effective since 20 January 2017, were presented. The guidelines include a section that concerns reporting of discussions, where it is clarified that observers, including from the media, are free to report on the proceedings of the meeting, while any reference to the individual meeting participants should respect their reputation and professional integrity.

6. Report on written procedure since the 70th meeting

6.1. Report on the agreement with written procedure of the minutes of the 70th PLH Plenary meeting

The minutes of the 70th PLH Plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 18 December 2017 and published on the EFSA webpage on 19 December 2017.

7. New Mandates

7.1. EC DG SANTE Mandate requesting a Scientific Opinion on the risks to plant health posed by *Spodoptera frugiperda* in the EU territory

Following the highlight by the EFSA horizon scanning plant health project of the fast spread of the fall army worm insect *Spodoptera frugiperda* in Africa, the EFSA Plant Health Panel has delivered in June 2017 an urgent step 1 pest categorisation for this pest. Based on the information provided in the pest categorisation and the follow-up discussion in the Standing Committee of Plants, Animals, Food and Feed, section Plant Health, a further risk assessment of *Spodoptera frugiperda* (step-two) is now requested for the EU territory.

7.2. EC DG SANTE Mandate requesting to update the Scientific Opinion on the risks to plant health posed by *Xylella fastidiosa* in the EU territory1

EFSA has been requested to update the previous Scientific Opinion on the risks to plant health posed by *Xylella fastidiosa* in the EU territory, which

[1] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf
[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/observersguidelines.pdf

was published on 6 January 2015. This update should take into account the subspecies and Sequence Types (STs) of *Xylella fastidiosa* and the susceptible plant species detected so far in the Union territory since the first outbreak notified by Italy in October 2013. The probability of short and long distance spreading and establishment in the rest of the Union territory should also be assessed, together with their consequences on the plant species concerned. In addition, based on recent scientific developments, EFSA should identify and evaluate relevant risk reduction options to prevent further spread of those subspecies and STs into the rest of the Union in order to allow, if needed, the update of the EU control measures as laid down under Decision (EU)2015/789. EFSA should also assess the latency period of those isolates, taking into account the different climatic conditions of the Union territory, with the aim to provide an indication about the minimum number of years needed before lifting the demarcated area after the implementation of the eradication measures.

EFSA is requested to deliver the updated opinion by the end of March 2019. The opinion above should benefit of the host plants database (Ares (2017) 1157971) and the pest categorisation (Ares(2017)l 111340) on *Xylella fastidiosa* currently being developed by EFSA and which will be delivered by June 2018.

7.3. EC DG SANTE Mandate requesting scientific opinions on the risk assessments for the EU territory of "high-risk plants, plant products or other objects"

The European Commission will establish a list of "high-risk plants, plant products or other objects" by the end of 2018, which is based on preliminary assessment, as provided for by Article 42 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031. EFSA is requested to support this process and carry out the commodity risk assessments. For this mandate, the following timelines are foreseen:

1) The format of dossiers on the submission of the required data needs to be delivered by July 2018;

2) The methodology for the assessment of such dossiers needs to be delivered by March 2019;

3) The assessment of the completeness of the submitted dossiers will need to be conducted starting from January 2019.

This task is foreseen to be an on-going long term-task with a peak in workload during the first years.

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

8.1. Discussion and possible endorsement of the draft guidance on quantitative pest risk assessment methodologies for public consultation (EFSA-Q-2014-00351)

The working group chair presented the draft guidance on quantitative pest risk assessment focusing on (i) the main principles used, (ii) outcome of testing the methodology through the case studies, (iii) advantages and challenges of the quantitative assessment and (iv) feedback received through different commenting stages. In the second part of the presentation the working group chair presented in detail how the comments from last PLH Panel plenary were addressed. After a short discussion and clarification the draft Guidance on quantitative pest risk assessment was endorsed by the Panel for public consultation. The public consultation will be launched on 12 February 2018 for a six weeks consultation period.

8.2. Scientific Opinion on the pest categorisation of *Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. albedinis* (EFSA-Q-2017-00371)

The Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of the soil-borne fungus *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *albedinis*, the causal agent of Fusarium wilt of date palm, for the European Union. The identity of the pest is well established and reliable methods exist for its detection/identification. The pest is listed in Annex IIAI of Directive 2000/29/EC and is not known to occur in the EU. *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *albedinis* is present in Morocco, Algeria and Mauritania. Its major host is *Phoenix dactylifera*, which is the only *Phoenix* species known to be affected by the pest. Uncertainty exists about the host status of *Lawsonia inermis*, *Medicago sativa* and *Trifolium* spp. cultivated as intercrops in the infested areas and reported as being symptomless carriers of the pest. The pest could potentially enter the EU on host plants and soil/growing media originating in infested Third countries. The current pest distribution and climate matching suggest that the pest could establish and spread in the EU wherever the host is present. In the infested areas, the pest causes vascular wilt resulting in yield/quality losses and plant death. It is expected that pest introduction and spread in the EU could impact date production. The pest is expected to have high environmental consequences in the Elche area (Spain), which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as well as other EU areas where *P. dactylifera* is grown as an amenity tree. Current EU phytosanitary measures are not fully effective at mitigating the risk of introduction and spread of the pest in the EU. *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *albedinis* meets all the criteria assessed by EFSA for consideration as potential Union quarantine pest. As the pest is not known to occur in the EU, this criterion to consider it as Union regulated non-quarantine pest is not met.

This pest categorisation was adopted on 1 February 2018.

8.3. Scientific Opinion on the pest categorisation of *Anisogramma anomala* (EFSA-Q-2017-00375)

Following a request from the European Commission, the EFSA Plant Health (PLH) Panel performed a pest categorisation of *Anisogramma anomala*, a well-defined and distinguishable fungal species of the family Valsaceae. The pathogen is regulated in Annex IIAI of Council Directive 2000/29/EC as a harmful organism whose introduction into the EU is banned on plants of *Corylus* L., intended for planting, other than seeds, originating in Canada and the USA. The fungus is native to Eastern North America and causes eastern filbert blight on cultivated hazel, *Corylus avellana*, as well as on wild hazel (*Corylus* spp.). In the 1960s, the disease spread on infected plant material to Oregon, where it then threatened US hazelnut production in the Willamette Valley. The pest could enter the EU via plants for planting. Hosts and favourable climatic conditions are common in the EU, thus facilitating establishment. The pest would be able to spread following establishment through infected plants for planting and ascospore dispersal. *A. anomala* leads to canopy and yield loss and can cause death of *Corylus* trees. Should the pathogen be introduced into the EU, impacts can be expected not just on hazel as a crop and as an ornamental, but also in coppices and woodlands, where *Corylus* species provide an important habitat. In Oregon, scouting for cankers, therapeutic pruning, and copious fungicide applications are reported to be necessary (but costly measures) to continue hazelnut production in the presence of the disease. Breeding for resistance led to the selection of resistant cultivars. The main knowledge gap concerns (i) the role of deadwood and cut branches as potential entry pathways and means of spread and (ii) the susceptibility of *C. avellana* cultivars and of *Corylus* spp. in the wild in the EU. The criteria assessed by the Panel for consideration as a potential quarantine pest are met. For regulated non-quarantine pests, the criterion on the pest presence in the EU is not met.

This pest categorisation was adopted on 1 February 2018.

8.4. Scientific Opinion on the pest categorisation of *Bretziella fagacearum* (EFSA-Q-2017-00378)

Following a request from the European Commission, the EFSA Plant Health (PLH) Panel performed a pest categorisation of *Bretziella fagacearum*, a well-defined and distinguishable fungal species of the family Ceratocystidaceae. The species was moved from the genus *Ceratocystis* to a new genus *Bretziella* following phylogenetic analysis of the species and its close relatives. The former species name *Ceratocystis fagacearum* is used in the Council Directive 2000/29/EC. The pathogen is regulated in Annex IAI as a harmful organism whose introduction into the EU is banned. *B. fagacearum* is only reported from the USA, where it causes a wilt disease on *Quercus* spp. Other hosts are reported based on inoculation trials, although Chinese chestnut (*Castanea mollissima*) is reported to be naturally infected. No North American oak species has

been found to be immune to the disease. The European oak species *Q. robur, Q. petraea* and *Q. pubescens* were found to be susceptible in inoculation experiments. The pest could enter the EU via wood (with and without bark, including wood packaging material), plants for planting and cut branches. Hosts and favourable climatic conditions are common in the EU, thus facilitating establishment. The pest would be able to spread following establishment by means of root grafts, insect vectors and movement of wood, plants for planting, and other means. The pest introduction would have impacts in woodland and plantations, as oak wilt disease is often lethal in a short period of time. Wood treatment (debarking, kiln drying, fumigation), prompt removal of affected trees, and creating root-free zones between affected and healthy stands are available control measures. The main knowledge gaps concern (i) the survival of the fungus in wood during transport and the association with propagation material, (ii) the presence of suitable vectors in Europe and (iii) the relative susceptibility of the oak species native to Europe under natural conditions. The criteria assessed by the Panel for consideration as a potential quarantine pest are met. For regulated non-quarantine pests, the criterion on the pest presence in the EU is not met.

This pest categorisation was adopted on 1 February 2018.

8.5. Scientific Opinion on the pest categorisation of *Aschistonyx eppoi* (EFSA-Q-2017-00378)

The Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of the gall midge *Aschistonyx eppoi* Inouye (1964) (Diptera, Cecidomyiidae), for the European Union (EU). *A. eppoi* is a well-defined and distinguishable species, native to Japan and Korea, and recognised as a pest of *Juniperus chinensis*, although our knowledge is solely based on one unique publication. *A. eppoi* is absent from the EU, and is listed in Annex IIAI of Directive 2000/29/EC. Its host plants, *Juniperus* spp. are also listed in Annex III of Directive 2000/29/EC. Plants for planting and branches are considered as pathways for this pest. *A. eppoi* has been intercepted twice (1974; 1975) in the EU and has been eradicated. *A. eppoi* is likely to affect bonsai plants of *Juniperus chinensis* if it were to establish in the EU territory. However, as it is unknown whether *A. eppoi* would attack the *Juniperus* spp. that occur in the EU, its potential impact on the wild vegetation is also unknown. As the pest originates from areas with warm climates, impact outdoors would affect the southern parts of the EU. Cultural control (destruction of infested material) and chemical control are the major control methods. All criteria assessed by EFSA for consideration as a potential quarantine pest are met, although there are high uncertainties regarding impact. The species is presently absent from the EU, and thus the criteria for consideration as a potential regulated non-quarantine pest are not met.

This pest categorisation was adopted on 1 February 2018.

8.6. Scientific Opinion on the pest categorisation of *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* (EFSA-Q-2017-00625)

The opinion was not adopted because the status of the pest in the EU territory is not fully clear. It is considered yet as present only in Romania, with a restricted distribution but uncertainties about its identity exists. In Germany, *C. flaccumfaciens pv. flaccumfaciens* was found and identified on soybean in 2011, and is currently under eradication. The Panel considered that more updated information is needed on the status of this pest in these EU Member States. It was therefore agreed by the PLH Panel that the opinion has to be revised and discussed for adoption in another PLH Panel plenary meeting after more detailed and up to date information on the pest status are collected from the EU member states.

8.7. Scientific Opinion on the pest categorisation of *Unaspis citri* (EFSA-Q-2017-00368)

The Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of the citrus snow scale, *Unaspis citri* (Comstock) (Hemiptera: Diaspididae), for the European Union (EU). This is a well-defined and distinguishable species, native to south-eastern Asia, which has spread to many tropical and subtropical regions. U. citri can be a pest of citrus and has been cited on over 28 different species in 16 plant families. In the EU, U. citri occurs in the Azores. There is uncertainty as to whether it occurs in continental Portugal. Reports of it occurring in Greece and Spain are likely to be invalid and based on interception records from these countries. An old Italian record is a misidentification. *U. citri* is listed in Annex IIAI of 2000/29/EC as a harmful organism. The international trade of hosts, as either plants for planting, fruit, or cut flowers, provide potential pathways into the EU. However, current EU legislation prohibits the import of citrus plants for planting from third countries. *U. citri* is mostly confined to coastal humid tropical areas and does not occur in semi-arid areas that are irrigated. Nevertheless, given that it occurs in the Azores and that there are regional climatic similarities between places where U. citri occurs and climates within the EU, and taking EU host distribution into account, *U. citri* has the potential to establish in the EU, especially in citrus growing regions around the Mediterranean where losses in quality and yield of citrus could occur. Phytosanitary measures are available to inhibit the likelihood of introduction of *U. citri*. Considering the criteria within the remit of EFSA to assess the status as a potential Union quarantine pest (QP), or as a potential regulated non-quarantine pest (RNQP), *U. citri* meets the criteria assessed by EFSA for consideration as a potential Union QP.

This pest categorisation was adopted on 1 February 2018.

8.8. Scientific Opinion on the pest categorisation of *Scirtothrips aurantii* (EFSA-Q-2017-00367)

The Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of the South African citrus thrips, *Scirtothrips aurantii* Faure (Thysanopetra: Thripidae), for the European Union (EU). This is a well-defined and distinguishable species, recognised as a pest of citrus and mangoes in South Africa, which has been cited on more than 70 different plants, including woody and herbaceous species. It feeds exclusively on young actively growing foliage and fruit. *S. aurantii* is not known to occur in the EU and is listed in Annex IIAI of 2000/29/EC as a harmful organism presenting a risk to EU plant health. The international trade of hosts as either plants for planting or cut flowers provide potential pathways into the EU. However, current EU legislation prohibits the import of citrus plants. Furthermore, measures aimed at the import of plants for planting in a dormant stage (no young foliage or fruits present) with no soil/growing medium attached, decreases the likelihood of the pest entry with such plants. Interceptions have occurred on Lisianthus cut flowers. Considering climatic similarities between some of the countries where *S. aurantii* occurs (South Africa, Australia) and the EU, its thermal biology and host distribution in the EU, *S. aurantii* has the potential to establish, especially in citrus growing regions of the EU. *S. aurantii* would most probably breed all year long around the Mediterranean and could cause crop losses in citrus, especially oranges. Phytosanitary measures are available to inhibit the introduction of *S. aurantii*. Considering the criteria within the remit of EFSA to assess its status as a potential Union quarantine pest (QP) or as a potential regulated non-quarantine pest (RNQP), *S. aurantii* meets with no uncertainties the criteria assessed by EFSA for consideration as a potential Union QP.

This pest categorisation was adopted on 1 February 2018.

8.9. Scientific Opinion on the pest categorisation of *Scirtothrips citri* (EFSA-Q-2017-00366)

The Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of the citrus thrips, *Scirtothrips citri* (Moulton) (Thysanopetra: Thripidae), for the European Union (EU). This is a well-defined and distinguishable species, occurring in North America and Asia. Its precise distribution in Asia is uncertain. *S. citri* is a pest of citrus and blueberries and has been cited on over 50 different host species in 33 plant families. Whether all plants reported as hosts are true hosts, allowing population development of S. citri, is uncertain. *S. citri* feeds exclusively on young actively growing foliage and fruit. It is not known to occur in the EU and is listed in Annex IIAI of 2000/29/EC as a harmful organism. The international trade of hosts, as either plants for planting or cut flowers, provide potential pathways into the EU. However, current EU legislation prohibits the import of citrus plants for planting. Furthermore, measures aimed at the import of plants for planting in a dormant stage (no young foliage or fruits present) with no soil/growing medium attached, decreases the likelihood of the pest's entry via other hosts. Considering that there are regional

climatic similarities where *S. citri* occurs in the USA with climates in the EU, and taking EU host distribution into account, *S. citri* has the potential to establish in the EU, especially in citrus and blueberry growing regions around the Mediterranean where quality losses in citrus and yield losses in blueberry could occur. Phytosanitary measures are available to reduce the likelihood of introduction of *S. citri* from infested countries. Considering the criteria within the remit of EFSA to assess its status as a potential Union quarantine pest (QP) or as a potential regulated non-quarantine pest (RNQP), *S. citri* meets with no uncertainties the criteria assessed by EFSA for consideration as a potential Union QP.

This pest categorisation was adopted on 1 February 2018.

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

9.1. PLH Scientific Panel including its Working Groups

9.1.1. Discussion on template and approach for pest categorisations of large taxonomic and crop pest groups

The mandate on pest categorisations involves a number of categorisations of taxonomic and crop pest groups. For these, the mandate requests to focus on the analysis of host pest combination, investigation of pathways, and relevant impacts. Group categorisations will be done not only for the groups specifically requested in the mandate, but also for other taxonomic groups listed in the annexes of the mandate.

Since the groups are of different size, different and flexible approach will need to be used, e.g., for the smaller groups it will be possible to develop an exhaustive list of species, while not for the larger groups. After developing the list of species, work would focus on species of economic importance. For very large groups, separate opinions may be developed for subgroups, based on e.g. geographical occurrence, or differences in biology. The conclusions of the group categorisations would indicate whether the given group (or certain species within the group) meets the criteria of union quarantine pest.

Some group categorisations will be supported by tasking grants, a new type of outsourcing at EFSA.

9.1.2. Update from EFSA on the Tasking Grants cooperation projects launched to support the PLH Panel pest categorisations of large taxonomic and crop pest groups

The new approach for entrusting of EFSA tasks to Member States ART. 36 organisations via Tasking Grants was presented. An example was given on the tasking grant project to support the group pest categorisation for viruses of *Vitis*, *Malus*, *Pyrus*, *Cydonia*, *Prunus*, *Rubus*, *Ribes* and *Fragaria*.

9.2. Other scientific topics related to the PLH Panel work on pest categorisation:

9.2.1. Presentation by EPPO on "EPPO project on bark beetles and Ambrosia beetles of non-coniferous trees"

The EPPO project on bark beetles and Ambrosia beetles of non-coniferous trees was presented. The project focuses on non-coniferous hosts since these are much less covered by regulation in many countries, as compared to coniferous hosts. The purpose is to identify indicator species of bark beetles and ambrosia beetles to define measures for non-coniferous wood that may cover the risk of introduction of species. Work has started in January 2018 and will take approximately half a year to finalise the outcome.

9.3. **PLH Scientific Panel including its Working groups**

9.3.1. Update on work progress from the PLH Panel Working Groups on pest categorisations

- PLH Panel Working Group on agriculture fungal pathogens pest categorisation

The working group is currently working on the pest categorisation of *Apiosporina morbosa* that will be submitted to the Panel for possible adoption at the next Plenary meeting (27-28 March 2018)

- PLH Panel Working Group on forest fungal pathogens pest categorisation

The Panel was updated 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 *Anisogramma anomala* and *Bretziella fagacearum*) 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 March 2018 plenary meeting (on *Mycodiella laricis-leptolepidis* and *Sphaerulina musiva*).

- PLH Panel Working Group on forestry insects pest categorisation

The WG chair updated the Panel on recent progress and future work. Based on the comments of the panel members received in December 2017, the WG revised the opinion on *Aschistonyx eppoi* and presented it for adoption at the January plenary meeting. The next pest categorisations the WG is dealing with are on *Dendrolimus sibiricus* for which an external expert, Natalia Kirichenko, will be involved. After this, the WG will start working on two group categorisations, on *Pissodes* spp. and *Monochamus* spp.

- PLH Panel Working Group on agriculture insects pest categorisation

The WG chair updated the Panel on recent progress and future work. The progress of pest categorisation due in March and May 2018 (Anthonomus (=Tachypterellus) quadrigibbus, Leucaspis japonica, Sternochetus mangiferae) were presented.

- PLH Panel Working Group on plant viruses pest categorisation

The WG chair updated the Panel on recent progress and future work. A final draft on Blight and Blight like was presented. The conclusions on the pest categorisation were briefly summarised. The draft will be sent out to the PLH Panel for consultation in February and will be revised after taking into consideration the comments. It was concluded that the opinion will go for adoption on the March Plenary.

- PLH Panel Working Group on bacteria pest categorisation

The WG chair updated the Panel on recent progress and future work. In the coming months the WG is dealing with the *Pantoea stewartii* pest categorisation for which an external expert, Charles Manceau, will be involved.

- PLH Panel Working Group on *Xylella* pest categorisation

The Panel was updated on the progress of the WG since last Plenary meeting. During the last WG meeting the vector section was discussed in details. The involvement of external expert (from France, Italy and Spain) was communicated to the Panel.

- PLH Panel Working Group on nematodes pest categorisation

The Panel was updated on the progress of the WG since the last Panel plenary meeting. During the last WG meeting, the opinion on *Nacobbus aberrans* was put forward and revised, and the draft was presented on Plenary meeting. The possible adoption is planned at the March 2018 Plenary meeting. The categorisation of *Hirschmanniella* spp., as a group, was started and the methodology was agreed.

- Update on the mandate for a scientific opinion on the request from Japan regarding export of black pine bonsai to the EU

The WG chair updated the Panel on recent progress and future work of the WG. Following the interpretation of the Terms of reference agreed with the Commission the work will focus on (i) evaluation of the contents of the technical dossier, (ii) evaluation if the measures that are in place for bonsai of *P. parviflora* give the same level of protection for harmful organisms that can be present on bonsai of *P. thunbergii* and on (iii) assessment of the potential additional risks of entry of pests associated with the import of bonsai of *P. thunbergii*. No specific EFSA guidance for risk assessment of commodities is available. The chair proposed to

evaluate the risk assessment based on (i) pest status in EU, (ii) presence of additional pests, i.e. pests for which *P. parviflora* is not a host, (iii) information on life cycle, (iv) pest management measures and (v) conclusions on entry of pest. The PLH Panel members agreed with this proposal. As next step EFSA will ask Japanese competent Authorities for additional information specifically regarding the procedure and criteria for compilation of pests list (systematic literature review), detailed information on efficacy of used pesticides and information on life cycle of selected pests.

9.3.2. EFSA including its Working Groups/Task Forces

- Request to provide technical support to the JRC with regard to climate suitability and impact assessment for more than 30 candidate Union priority pests

The Panel was updated on the progress of the EFSA WG on EU priority pests since the last Panel plenary meeting. The agreed methodology and base scenario for impact as a yield and quality losses were presented. The WG is finalising the datasheet for one of pilot pests – *Tilletia indica*. The WG presented also the work plan and the challenges of this exercise.

- Update on Request to provide scientific and technical assistance on survey guidelines relevant for plant health for the EU territory

EFSA provided an update on the progress made on the Pest survey mandate. After a brief presentation of the terms of reference, the expected deliverables and the partnerships established through EFSA tasking grants to develop the outputs were described. During the discussions, the question on how to address the variability in the EU was raised. In addition, it was mentioned that the MSs experience in survey and the existing procedures and guidelines in the MSs should be taken into consideration in EFSA's work.

- 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

An overview of the Horizon Scanning project was presented: mandate, objectives, tools implemented and outputs provided. The main issues included in the 9th and 10th editions of the EFSA Plant Health Newsletter were presented together with the ongoing work and future plans in the project. These include the involvement of the Plant Health Network in the on-going work for category improvement, the collaboration with Anses (French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety) for pest ranking in the framework of a tasking grant on Horizon Scanning, the establishment of an EFSA working group including experts from the PLH panel assisting EFSA in the activities of the project.

10. Feedback from the European Commission

With regard to the pest categorisation mandate, the European Commission representative noted the importance of referring and citing the latest implementing directive 2017/1279 of the plant health law, as it is not yet included in the consolidated version, but it may have implications on some of the hosts that the pest categorisations are dealing with.

11. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

11.1. International conference on "The impact of global change on the emergence of plant diseases and pests in Europe" organised by ANSES, EFSA and EPPO, Paris 23-24 April 2018

The programme of the International conference on "The impact of global change on the emergence of plant diseases and pests in Europe", organised by ANSES, EFSA and EPPO, was presented. The conference will be hold in Paris on 23-24 April 2018

11.2. Feedback from recent presentation of EFSA and PLH panel activities at PAFF Committee and COPHs meetings

The presentations given by EFSA at PAFF Committee and COPHs meetings were presented, including the feedback received by Member States

12. Answers to Observers (in application of the guidelines for Observers)

No questions were received from the observers.

At the end of the plenary meeting, the observers expressed their satisfaction with the opportunity to attend the plenary meeting.

13. Any other business

The next plenary will be held in Parma on 21 and 22 March 2018 in Parma for one and half day (09.00-18.00 the first day and 8.30-13.00 the second day).