Scientific Panel on Plant Health (PLH)

Minutes of the 76th Plenary meeting

26 & 27 September 2018; Parma, (Italy)

"Meeting room: EFSA – MO9"

26 September 2018, 08:30 – 17:00

27 September 2018, 08:30 – 13:00

(Agreed with written procedure, 15 October 2018)

Participants

- Panel Members
  Claude Bragard, Katharina Dehnen-Schmutz, Francesco Di Serio, Paolo Gonthier, Josep Jaques Miret, Annemarie Fejer Justesen, Alan MacLeod, Sven Christer Magnusson, Panagiotis Milonas, Juan A. Navas-Cortés, , Roel Potting, Philippe Lucien Reignault, Hans-Hermann Thulke, Wopke Van der Werf, Antonio Vicent, Jonathan Yuen, Marie-Agnès Jacques, Lucia Zappalà, Stephen Parnell
- European Commission representatives:
  Maria Mirazchiyska via web
- EFSA:
  ALPHA Unit: Elma Bali, Michela Chiumenti, Ramona Ciubotaru, Ewelina Czwienczek, Alice Delbianco, Franco Ferilli, Ciro Gardi, Tomasz Kaluski, Virag Kertesz, Mart Kinkar, Svetla Kozelska, Andrea Maiorano, Maria Rosaria Mannino, Joshua Oyedele, Marco Pautasso, Gritta Schrader, Giuseppe Stancanelli, Sara Tramontini, Sybren Vos

  SCER Unit: Bernard Bottex

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The EFSA representative welcomed the participants, apologies were received from Stephan Parnell for not being able to attend the first day of the Plenary and from Philippe Lucien Reignault who could not attend the second day.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted by the Panel.

3. Declarations of Interest Scientific Panel Members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Panel members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process.

Certain interests were declared orally by the members before the beginning of the meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Oral Declaration(s) of Interest made at the beginning of the meeting, please refer to the Annex

4. Report on written procedure since the 75th Plenary meeting

4.1. 75th Plenary minutes, published on July 25th https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/180704-4

The minutes of the 75th Plenary meeting was approved by written procedure on July 20th and published on the EFSA webpage on July 25th 2018.

4.2. Written adoption procedure of the Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation of *Thecaphora solani* (EFSA-Q-2018-00015)

The Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of the fungus *Thecaphora solani*, the causal agent of smut of potato, for the European Union (EU). The identity of the pest is well established and reliable methods exist for its detection and identification. *Thecaphora solani* is present in Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Venezuela. The pathogen is not known to occur in the EU and is listed in Annex IAI of Directive 2000/29/EC, meaning its introduction into the EU is prohibited. The major host is *Solanum tuberosum* (potato), but various other tuber-forming *Solanum* species are also affected. The pest has also been reported on *Solanum lycopersicum* (tomato), and wild solanaceous plants are also affected. All the major hosts and pathways of entry are currently regulated. Host availability and climate matching suggest that *T. solani* could establish in parts of the EU and further spread by human-assisted means. The disease induces gall formation on potato tubers, stolons and underground stem parts, reducing yield and making tubers unmarketable. The pest introduction in the EU would potentially cause impacts to potato production. In the infested areas, the only available strategy to control the disease and prevent it from spreading is the application of quarantine and sanitation measures and the cultivation of resistant varieties. The main uncertainties concern the host range, the biology and epidemiology of the pest, and the potential of the pest to enter the EU through three unregulated minor pathways. *Thecaphora solani* meets all the criteria assessed by EFSA for consideration as potential Union quarantine pest. The criteria for considering *T. solani* as a potential Union regulated non-quarantine pest are not met, since the pest is not known to occur in the EU.

The scientific opinion was adopted by written procedure on 20 September 2018.

5. New Mandates

5.1. No new mandates were received

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

Scientific opinion on Pest Categorisations

WG on Forest Insects

6.1. Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation *Monochamus* spp., (EFSA-Q-2017-00369)

The Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of non EU *Monochamus* spp., a well-defined insect genus in the family Cerambycidae (Insecta: Coleoptera). Species can be identified using taxonomic keys at national and regional level, and DNA barcoding. Two online world catalogues exist for the genus. The genus includes about one hundred species and many subspecies colonising conifers and non-conifer trees in many areas in the world. The non-EU species are listed in Annex IAI of Council Directive 2000/29/EC. Although *Monochamus* spp. colonise weakened or dead trees and have

therefore no direct impact, some species vector the pine wood nematode, *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus,* which they inoculate to healthy trees when they proceed to maturation feeding on twigs, causing high mortality among pines in Asia and the EU (Portugal). Sixteen species in Asia and America attack conifers. The main pathways for entry are raw untreated wood and wood products, wood packaging material, particle wood and waste wood, finished wood products and hitchhiking. *Monochamus* species were categorized in two groups. The first group includes 16 species colonising conifers and absent in the EU known or likely to vector the pine wood nematode. The species in this group satisfy all the criteria to be considered as Union quarantine pests. Measures are in place to prevent the introduction of *Monochamus* with coniferous wood. The second group gathers all the remaining species, all non-EU species colonising non-conifers. These do not satisfy all the criteria to be considered as Union quarantine pests. As plants for planting are not a pathway for *Monochamus* spp., and as most of the species within these groups are absent from the EU territory, the two groups do not meet the criteria to be considered as regulated non-quarantine pests.

The scientific opinion was adopted on 27 September 2018.

WG on Agricultural Insects

6.2. Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation of *Aleurocanthus* sp., (EFSA-Q-2018-00022)

The Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Aleurocanthus* spp., a well-defined insect genus of the whitefly family Aleyrodidae (Arthropoda: Hemiptera). Difficulties within the taxonomy of the genus gives doubt about the ability to accurately identify some members to species level. Nevertheless, the genus is thought to currently include about ninety species mainly reported from tropical and subtropical areas. The genus is listed in Council Directive 2000/29/EC and is regulated on *Citrus*, *Fortunella* and *Poncirus*. Several *Aleurocanthus* species are highly polyphagous; *A. spiniferus* has hosts in 38 plant families; *A. woglumi* has more than 300 hosts including *Pyrus, Rosa* and *Vitis vinifera* as well as *Citrus*. *A. spiniferus* is present in the EU in restricted areas of Italy and Greece, where it is under official control. No other *Aleurocanthus* spp. are known to occur in the EU. Host plants for planting, excluding seeds, and cut flowers or branches are the main pathways for entry. Outside of the EU, the genus can be found in regions that have climate types which also occur within the EU, suggesting establishment is possible. *Aleurocanthus* spp. can be significant pests of crops that are also grown in the EU. Phytosanitary measures are available to reduce the likelihood of entry into the EU, e.g. sourcing host plants for planting from pest free areas. As a genus *Aleurocanthus* does satisfy all the criteria that are within the remit of EFSA to assess and required by risk managers to give it consideration as a Union quarantine pest. *Aleurocanthus* does not meet all of the criteria to allow it consideration by risk managers as a Union regulated non-quarantine pest (RNQP). Specifically *Aleurocanthus* is not widespread in the EU.

The scientific opinion was adopted on 27 September 2018.

6.3. Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation of *Conotrachelus nenuphar* (EFSA-Q-2018-00025)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Conotrachelus nenuphar* (Herbst) (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), for the European Union (EU). *Conotrachelus nenuphar* is a well-defined species, recognised as a serious pest of stone and pome fruit in the USA and Canada where it also feeds on a range of other hosts including soft fruit (e.g. *Ribes*, *Fragaria*) and wild plants (e.g. *Crataegus*). Adults, which are not good flyers, feed on tender twigs, flower buds and leaves. Females oviposit into host fruit; if oviposition occurs in young fruit the fruit usually falls prematurely reducing yield; oviposition in older fruit causes surface blemishes and the fruit distorts as it

develops reducing marketability. Larvae develop within host fruit but exit to pupate in soil. Adults overwinter in leaf litter. *C. nenuphar* is not known to occur in the EU and is listed in Annex IAI of Council Directive 2000/29/EC. Fruit infested shortly before harvest and soil with leaf litter accompanying plants for planting could potentially provide a pathway into the EU. Considering the climatic similarities between North America and Europe, and that hosts occur widely within the EU, *C. nenuphar* has potential to establish within the EU. There could be one or two generations per year, as in North America. Impacts could be expected e.g. in *Prunus* spp. and apples. Phytosanitary measures are available to reduce the likelihood of introduction of *C. nenuphar*. All of the criteria assessed by EFSA for consideration as a potential Union quarantine pest are met. *Conotrachelus nenuphar* does not meet the criteria of occurring in the EU nor plants for planting being the principal means of spread. Hence it does not satisfy all of the criteria that are within the remit of EFSA to assess for it to be regarded as a Union regulated non-quarantine pest (RNQP).

The scientific opinion was adopted on 27 September 2018.

6.4. Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation of *Popillia japonica*, (EFSA-Q-2018-00489)

The Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Popillia japonica* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae), for the European Union (EU). *Popillia japonica* is a distinguishable species listed in Annex IAII of Council Directive 2000/29/EC. It is native to Japan but established in the USA in the early twentieth century. It spread from New Jersey to most US states east of the Mississippi, some to the west, and north into Canada. *P. japonica* feeds on over 700 plant species. Adults attack foliage and fruit surfaces. They can cause serious injury to tree fruits and soft fruit, vegetable crops, ornamental herbaceous plants, shrubs, vines and trees. Larvae are root feeders regarded as serious pests of lawns and turf, vegetables and nursery stock. Adults emerge during the summer and can fly short distances on warm sunny days. The life cycle is usually completed in one year. In cooler regions development takes two years. *Popillia japonica* occurs in the EU in the Azores (Portugal), Lombardy and Piedmont (Italy) where it is under official control. Adults are suspected of being able to spread on aircraft as hitchhikers, i.e. without host plants. Soil accompanying plants for planting provides a pathway for further introductions. Hosts are widely available within the EU. Climatic conditions across central and parts of southern EU are suitable for development in one year. Across parts of northern Europe development over two years is likely. Without control impacts could be expected on a range of plants. Phytosanitary measures are available to reduce the likelihood of introduction of *P. japonica*. All criteria assessed by EFSA for consideration as a potential Union quarantine pest are met. Plants for planting are not necessarily the main means of spread so *P. japonica* does not satisfy all criteria necessary for it to be regarded as a Union regulated non-quarantine pest (RNQP).

The scientific opinion was adopted on 27 September 2018.

6.5. Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation of *Sternochetus mangiferae,* (EFSA-Q-2018-00023)

The European Commission requested EFSA to conduct a pest categorization of *Sternochetus mangiferae* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), a monophagous pest weevil whose larvae exclusively feed on mango seeds, whereas adults feed on mango foliage. *S. mangiferae* is a species with reliable methods available for identification. It is regulated in the European Union (EU) by Council Directive 2000/29/EC where it is listed in Annex IIB as a harmful organism whose introduction into EU Protected Zones (PZ) (Alentejo, Algarve and Madeira in Portugal, and Granada and Malaga in Spain) is banned. *S. mangiferae* is native to South East Asia and has spread to other mango-growing areas in Africa, South America and Oceania, causing significant damage. Larvae of *S. mangiferae* have been detected several times in mango fruit imported into the EU. In 2013, an outbreak was declared in one PZ in Spain. Official measures taken achieved eradication, which was officially declared in January 2018. The EFSA Plant Health Panel concludes that *S. mangiferae* could establish again and spread in the mango-growing areas of southern EU. Considering the criteria within the remit of EFSA to assess the status as a potential Union quarantine pest (QP), as a potential protected zone quarantine pest

(PZQP), or as a potential regulated non-quarantine pest (RNQP), *S. mangiferae* meets with no uncertainties the criteria for consideration as a potential Union quarantine pest, as it is absent from the EU, potential pathways for entry exist, and its establishment would cause an economic impact. The criterion of the pest being present in the EU, which is a prerequisite for RNQP and PZ QP, is not met.

The scientific opinion was adopted on 27 September 2018.

6.6. Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation of *Acrobasis pirivorella*, (EFSA-Q-2018-00024)

The European Commission requested EFSA to conduct a pest categorisation of *Acrobasis pirivorella* (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae), a monophagous moth whose larvae exclusively feed on developing buds, flowers, and fruits of cultivated and wild *Pyrus* spp. *A. pirivorella* is a species with reliable methods available for identification. *A. pirivorella* occurs in North East Asia only, causing significant damage in cultivated pears. It is regulated in the European Union (EU) by Council Directive 2000/29/EC where it is listed in Annex IIAI. Within this regulation plants for planting of *Pyrus* spp. is a closed pathway. This species has never been reported by Europhyt. Fruits and cut branches of *Pyrus* spp. are open pathways. Biotic and abiotic conditions are conducive for establishment and spread of *A. pirivorella* in the EU. Were *A. pirivorella* to establish, impact on pear production is expected. Considering the criteria within the remit of EFSA to assess its regulatory plant health status, *A. pirivorella* meets the criteria for consideration as a potential Union quarantine pest (it is absent from the EU, potential pathways exist, and its establishment would cause an economic impact). Given that *A. pirivorella* is not known to occur in the EU, it fails to meet some of the criteria required for Regulated Non Quarantine Pest status (RNQP).

The scientific opinion was adopted on 27 September 2018.

WG on Viruses group categorisation

6.7. Scientific opinion on the List of non-EU viruses of *Cydonia* Mill. (EFSA-Q-2018-00272), *Fragaria* L. (EFSA-Q-2018-00633), *Malus* Mill. (EFSA-Q-2018-00634), *Prunus* L. (EFSA-Q-2018-00635), *Pyrus* L. (EFSA-Q-2018-00636), *Ribes* L. (EFSA-Q-2018-00637), *Rubus* L. (EFSA-Q-2018-00638) and *Vitis* L. (EFSA-Q-2018-00639)

The opinion was not adopted and Panel agreed with the modification in the opinion about the definition of the three groups of viruses listed in the opinion. The "EU viruses" definition will be changed to "viruses known to occur in the EU" or "viruses excluded from further pest categorisations", while "non-EU viruses" will be redefined as "viruses not known to occur in the EU". These modifications will apply to the interpretations of the ToR as well as to the text wherever they were cited. Either in the abstract or in the text it has to be specified that for viruses excluded from pest categorisation in this mandate, categorisation could be requested in future mandates if the Commission would consider it appropriate.

The list of viruses known to occur in the EU excluded from further pest categorisations will be circulated to COPHs for a further consultation. The deadline for comments will be set in two weeks.

After consultation with COPHs, the amended opinion with the agreed modification in track changes will be sent to the Panel for adoption in November.

WG on Agricultural Fungal Pathogens

6.8. Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation of *Phoma andina*, (EFSA-Q-2018-00016)

The Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Stagonosporopsis andigena,* the causal agent of black blight of potato, for the European Union (EU). The pest is a well-defined fungal species and reliable methods exist for its detection and identification. *Stagonosporopsis andigena* is present in Bolivia and Peru. The pest is not known to occur in the EU and is listed in Annex IAI of Directive 2000/29/EC as *Phoma andina,* meaning its introduction into the EU is prohibited. The major cultivated host is *Solanum tuberosum* (potato); other tuber-forming *Solanum* species and wild solanaceous plants are also affected. All hosts and pathways of entry of the pest into the EU are currently regulated. Host availability and climate matching suggest that *S. andigena* could establish in parts of the EU and further spread mainly by human-assisted means. The pest affects leaves, stems and petioles of potato plants causing lesions and premature leaf drop but not the underground parts, including tubers. The disease causes yield reductions up to 80%, depending on the susceptibility of potato cultivars. Early application of fungicide sprays and cultivation of resistant potato cultivars are the most effective measures for disease management. The pest introduction in the EU would potentially cause impacts to potato production. The main uncertainties concern the host range, the maximum period the pest survives on host debris in soil, the maximum distance over which conidia of the pest could be dispersed by wind-blown rain, and the magnitude of potential impacts to the EU. *Stagonosporopsis andigena* meets all the criteria assessed by EFSA for consideration as potential Union quarantine pest. The criteria for considering *S. andigena* as a potential Union regulated non-quarantine pest are not met, since the pest is not known to occur in the EU.

The scientific opinion was adopted on 27 September 2018.

WG on Forest Fungal Pathogens

6.9. Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation of *Melampsora farlowii*, (EFSA-Q-2018-00039)

Following a request from the European Commission, the EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Melampsora farlowii*, a well-defined and distinguishable fungus of the family Melampsoraceae. *M. farlowii* is the causal agent of a leaf and twig rust of hemlocks (*Tsuga* spp.) in eastern North America. The pathogen is regulated in Council Directive 2000/29/EC (Annex IAI) as a harmful organism whose introduction into the EU is banned. *M. farlowii* is not reported to be present in Europe and could enter the EU via host plants for planting and cut branches. Cones and fruits are listed as plant parts that can carry the pest in trade and transport, but are not regulated. The pathogen could establish in the EU, as climatic conditions are favourable and *Tsuga* spp. have been planted as ornamentals and in plantations in several EU countries. *M. farlowii* would be able to spread following establishment by human movement of host plants for planting and cut branches, as well as natural spread. Should the pathogen be introduced in the EU, impacts can be expected on *Tsuga* spp. plantations, ornamental trees and especially nurseries. Hemlock rust is considered a destructive rust attacking *Tsuga* spp., particularly *Tsuga canadensis* in nurseries. The main uncertainties concern whether the impact of the pathogen in plantations under European conditions could be different than observed in Eastern North America, the dissemination potential of the pathogen under European conditions and whether fruit/cones of *Tsuga* can be a pathway of entry. However, *M. farlowii* is found in North America in most of the natural distribution range of *T. canadensis*, suggesting little dispersal limitation of the pathogen. The criteria assessed by the Panel for consideration as a potential quarantine pest are met, whilst, for regulated non-quarantine pests, the criterion on the pest presence in the EU is not met.

The scientific opinion was adopted on 27 September 2018.

6.10. Scientific Opinion on pest categorisation of *Endocronartium* spp., (EFSA-Q-2018-00038)

Following a request from the European Commission, the EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Cronartium harknessii, Cronartium kurilense* and *Cronartium sahoanum*, which are well-defined and distinguishable tree fungal pathogens of the family Cronartiaceae. These species have been moved from the genus *Endocronartium* to the genus *Cronartium*. These pathogens are not known to be present in the EU and are regulated in Council Directive 2000/29/EC (Annex IAI) (as non-European *Endocronartium* spp.) as harmful organisms whose introduction into the EU is banned. These fungi are autoecious rusts completing their life cycle on *Pinus* spp. *C. harknessii* is known as the western gall rust or pine-pine gall rust in North America (Canada, the USA and Mexico). *C. kurilense* and *C. sahoanum* are reported from Russia (North Kuril Islands) and Japan. The pathogens could enter the EU via host plants for planting and cut branches. The pathogens could establish in the EU, as climatic conditions are favourable and *Pinus* spp. are common. The pathogens would be able to spread following establishment by movement of host plants for planting and cut branches, as well as natural spread. Should these pathogens be introduced in the EU, impacts can be expected on pine forests, plantations, ornamental trees and nurseries. The pathogens cause formation of stem galls, which kill young trees and result in stem defect in older trees. The main knowledge gap concerns the limited available information on *C. kurilense and C. sahoanum* compared to *C. harknessii*. The criteria assessed by the Panel for consideration of *C. harknessii, C. kurilense* and *C. sahoanum* as potential quarantine pests are met, whilst, for regulated non-quarantine pests, the criterion on the pest presence in the EU is not met.

The scientific opinion was adopted on 27 September 2018.

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

7.1. PLH Scientific Panel including its Working Groups

7.1.1. Update of the working group on the pest risk assessment of *Xylella fastidiosa* (EFSA-Q-2018-00069)

The WG chair presented the composition of the WG, the background, and the terms of references. For each point of the terms of references, including the determination of the asymptomatic period, the potential establishment, determination of short and long spread, the update of the risk reduction options, the WG chair explained briefly the progress of the works, discussions ongoing and challenges. The possibility to organize an EKE involving research teams working on the modelling of *Xylella* within the POnTE and XF-Actors project was shortly discussed with the members of the Panel.

7.1.2. Update of the working group on guidances for dossier submission and commodity risk assessment for high-risk plants, plant products or other objects (EFSA-Q-2018-00117, EFSA-Q-2018-00116)

The Technical Report on Information required for dossiers to support demands for import of high risk plants, plant products and other objects as foreseen in Article 42 of Regulation (EU) No 2016/2031 was presented, by the EFSA Scientific Officer coordinating the WG and by the WG Chair. In the first presentation the focus was on the procedure from legislative perspective, and on the role that EFSA will play. The second presentation was focused on the content of the main sections of the dossier and on the methodology that will be adopted for the assessment of the dossiers (Commodity Risk Assessment). The draft of the Technical Report and the first draft of the Guidance were made available for the Panel on DMS.

7.1.3. Update of the working group on Bonsai Plant derogations (EFSA-Q-2017-00715, EFSA-Q-2018-00277)

Firstly, the WG chair briefly presented the background, the terms of reference and the state of art of the mandate dealing with the request from Japan regarding export of black pine (*Pinus thunbergii* L.) bonsai to the EU. The WG analysed in detail the technical information provided by Japanese competent Authority and formulated a specific a request for additional information. Based on EFSA request for this additional information the Japanese competent Authority provided the requested additional information in August 2018. The WG started to analyse the additional information with regard to the selection of actionable pests and the evaluation of risk reduction options for actionable pests.

Secondly, the WG chair briefly mentioned the background and the terms of reference of the mandate dealing with the request from China regarding export of Japanese white pine (*Pinus parviflora* L.) bonsai to the EU. The WG analysed in detail the technical information provided by Chinese competent Authority and identified the needs for additional information. EFSA submitted a letter with a request for additional information to the European Commission. The WG will continue with its work on the opinion when the additional information will be available.

7.1.4. Update on work progress from the PLH Panel Working Groups on pest categorisations (M-2017-0055)

7.1.4.1. Oral update on work progress from pest categorisation working groups:

7.1.4.1.1. WG on Forest Insects

The WG has just started working on the categorisation of two bark beetles: *Pseudopithyophthorus minutissimus* and *P. pruinosus*. These opinions are due for adoption at the November plenary meeting. Work has also started on the categorisation of the non-EU Scolytinae of conifers, for which the literature search and data collection was outsourced. The contractor is from the University of Padova, and the kick-off meeting took place on 25 September 2018.

7.1.4.1.2. WG on Agricultural Insects

The WG has started working on the categorisation of 3 insects that are due at the November plenary: *Carposina niponensis*, *Grapholita inopinata* and *Grapholita (Enarmonia) prunivora*. In 2019, apart from some single pest categorisations, the focus of the work will be on the categorisation of larger taxonomic groups, such as Cicadellidae, *Margarodes* sp. and Tephritidae. For the latter one, a contractor from the University of Thessaly is working on identifying the list of species.

7.1.4.1.3. WG on Agricultural Fungal Pathogens

The WG has started working on the next two categorisations on Septoria lycopersici var. malagutii and Phyllosticta solitaria. Both opinions are due for adoption at the November plenary meeting.

7.1.4.1.4. WG on Forest Fungal Pathogens

The chair of the WG updated the Panel about the progress of the WG. There are two pest categorisations foreseen for adoption in November (on non-EU *Cronartium* spp. and on non-EU *Gymnosporangium* spp.). Both will be circulated among the panel members after the September plenary for their review.

7.1.4.1.5. WG on Bacteria

The chair of the WG updated the Panel about the progress of the WG. Two categorisations are drafted: *Clavibacter michiganensis* ssp. *sepedonicus* and *Ralstonia solanacearum* which are foreseen for adoption in March. The work plan and meeting plan for the WG was prepared.

7.1.4.1.6. WG on Viruses

The chair of WG updated the Panel about the progress of the WG. The WG prepared the opinion of the list of non-EU viruses of *Cydonia, Fragaria, Malus, Pyrus, Rubus, Ribes, Vitis* and *Prunus* discussed at the meeting. The categorisation of non-EU viruses of *Malus, Pyrus* and *Cydonia* is foreseen for adoption in November.

7.1.4.1.7. WG on Potato Viruses

The chair of the WG updated the Panel about the progress of the WG. The WG has one task, to prepare categorisations of non-EU viruses of potato with cooperation with tasking grant contractor. First, kick-off meeting was organised where work plan and meeting plan were adopted. The methodology for this exercise was also discussed. First opinion is expected to be prepared until March Plenary meeting.

7.2. EFSA including its Working Groups/Task Forces

7.2.1. Update on the request to provide scientific and technical assistance on survey guidelines relevant for plant health for the EU territory (M-2017-0137)

A member of the WG presented briefly the background, the terms of reference and the expected outputs of the mandate dealing with scientific and technical assistance on survey guidelines relevant for plant health for the EU territory. The progress of the work regarding the survey card of the three pilot organisms and several survey cards for other organisms was presented, following to provide during the November plenary meeting a detailed presentation of the mandate and of the first final outputs.

7.2.2. Update on the request to provide technical support to the JRC with regard to climate suitability and impact assessment for candidate Union priority pests (M-2017-0136)

This point was deleted from the agenda, it will be discussed at a next plenary.

7.2.3. 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 (M-2017-0012)

An update on the Horizon Scanning activities was provided to the Panel Members. Future plans and perspectives were presented, including the upcoming publication of the media monitoring monthly plant health newsletter. The development in the context of the tasking grant on horizon scanning was also detailed.

7.3. Scientific Committee and its Working Groups

8. Feedback from the European Commission

9. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

9.1. Feedback from EFSA sessions at scientific conferences:

The EFSA PLH team and Panel attendance and contributions to the here below conferences were presented:

9.1.1. International Conference on Plant pathology ICPP 2018, July-August 2018 Boston (USA);

9.1.2. International Conference on Aerobiology ICA2018, September 2018, Piacenza (IT);

9.1.3. EFSA Conference September 2018, Parma (IT)

9.1.4. Conference on creating impact for One Health and Ecohealth: advancements in implementation, evaluation, and governance, (Bologna 10-12 September 2018)

9.1.5. Standing committee 7 September 2018, PLH presentations:

9.1.5.1. EFSA methodology assessment High Risk Plants

The PLH Team leader summarized the presentation on High Risk Plants that was given to the PAFF on 6-7 September 2018 and the main questions.

9.1.5.2. EFSA guidance quantitative risk assessment

The PLH Team leader briefly presented the EFSA guidance for quantitative pest risk assessment mentioning the history of the development of this Guidance. Questions were received regarding the future use of the guidance in terms of time taken to conduct a quantitative assessment and the number of requests for assessments. The EFSA representative confirmed the future use of this Guidance profiting from the adaptability of the Guidance allowing it to be applied in two steps; step 1 is pest categorization, step 2, the quantitative pest risk assessment is conducted only if needed. In addition a one tiered approach is possible, as already used in the priority pests' mandate.

9.1.5.3. EFSA opinion *Xylella* pest categorisation, EFSA Xylella Pest Risk Assessment, Xylella Host plant database and report published on September 10th: Update of the Xylella spp. host plant database

The PLH Team leader presented the feedback from the PAFF Committee, where three projects about *Xylella* –were presented. Two finalized projects: Updated pest categorization of *Xylella fastidiosa*, *Xylella* spp. host plant database were presented, and one ongoing project, which is *Xylella fastidiosa* risk assessment. Questions were received regarding the environmental factors in the risk assessment and the increase of the number of hosts in the new Xylella spp. Host plant database.

9.1.5.4. EFSA opinion *Spodoptera* pest risk assessment

The PLH Team leader presented the conclusion of the *Spodoptera frugiperda* Pest Categorization (step 1), the Term of Reference for the quantitative risk assessment and the Scenario adopted. He provided also the link to the full presentation that was shown to the PAFF on 6-7 September 2018.

10. Any other business

The next plenary meeting will take place on November 21 & 22, Parma Italy

Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the Oral Declaration of Interest done at the beginning of the meeting

With regard to this meeting, Dr. Francesco Di Serio declared the following interest: with regard to the draft Scientific opinion on the List of non-EU viruses of *Cydonia* Mill., *Fragaria* L., *Malus* Mill., *Prunus* L., *Pyrus* L., *Ribes* L., *Rubus* L. and *Vitis* L., he informed the Panel that he participates to the work on this opinion as coordinator of an EFSA Art. 36 Tasking Grant Specific Contract. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[1] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[2], and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest (CoI).
This results in the exclusion of the expert from discussion or voting as PLH Panel Member of item 6.7, however he can participate to this agenda meeting to present the work conducted under the EFSA Art 36 Tasking Grant Specific Contract.

[1] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf