Scientific Panel on Plant Health

Minutes of the 82nd Plenary meeting

Held on 25-26 September 2019 Parma (Italy)

Participants

- **Panel Members**

  Claude Bragard, Francesco Di Serio, Paolo Gonthier, Marie-Agnès Jacques, Josep Jaques Miret, Annemarie Fejer Justesen, Alan MacLeod, Sven Christer Magnusson, Panagiotis Milonas, Juan A. Navas-Cortés, Stephen Parnell, Roel Potting, Hans-Hermann Thulke, Wopke van der Werf, Antonio Vicent, Jonathan Yuen, Lucia Zappalà

- **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:**

  Wolfgang Reinert, Panagiota Mylona (via videoconference) (DG SANTE)

- **EFSA:**

  ALPHA Unit: Ewelina Czwienczek, Eduardo De La Peña, Alice Delbianco, Makrina Diakaki, Ciro Gardi, Michela Guzzo , Mart Kinkar, Svetla Kozelska, Andrea Maiorano, Maria Rosaria Mannino, Marco Pautasso, Stefano Preti, Maria Chiara Rosace, Giuseppe Stancanelli, Franz Streissl, Emanuela Tacci and Sara Tramontini

  AMU Unit: Olaf Mosbach Schulz

  SCER Unit: Bernard Bottex

- **EFSA Art. 36 Tasking Grants:**

  Michela Chiumenti, Cristina Marzachì and Luciana Galetto (CNR, Italy)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Katharina Dehnen-Schmutz.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Scientific Committee/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. Agreement of the minutes of the 81st Plenary meeting held on 26 & 27 June 2019, Parma (Italy)

The minutes of the 81st Plenary meeting held on 26 & 27 June 2019, Parma (Italy) were agreed by written procedure.

5. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption

5.1 Art. 29 Scientific opinion on *Pantoea stewarti* USA corn seed derogation (EFSA-Q-2018-00902)

Following a request from the European Commission, the EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a risk assessment of the entry of *Pantoea stewartii* subsp. *stewartii* on maize seed imported by the EU from the USA. This pest is a Gram-negative bacterium which causes Stewart's vascular wilt and leaf blight of maize (including sweet corn), a disease responsible for serious crop losses throughout the world. The following scenarios were considered: scenario A0 (current practice), scenario A1 (US request for modification of EU conditions for derogation), and scenario A2 (EU conditions for derogation). Results from the quantitative seed pathway model presented here show that, despite the low rates of plant-to-seed and seed-to-seedling transmission that have been reported in the literature for Stewart's wilt, given the amount of traded seed, and in the case of voluntary (i.e. not mandatory) inspections of seed production fields at the origin (i.e. scenario A0), the frequency of introducing the disease is in the order of magnitude of some hundred introductions per year (median number). The EU conditions for derogation would lead to a decrease in the likelihood of entry compared to scenarios A0 (about 10,000 times fewer introductions) and A1 (about 2000 times fewer introductions). This protective effect is mainly due to the requirement that only genotypes resistant to Stewart's wilt are traded, with the additional field inspection (two instead of one per season) providing additional reassurance. The Panel also concluded that seed lot inspections, as currently carried out (e.g. with a sample of 400 seeds) are not likely to lead to a relevant reduction in the level of infected imported maize seed, given the low prevalence of Stewart's wilt at the origin. If, however, there is an aggregation in infection among consignments, inspection would work towards identifying the highly

infected consignments. Recently, outbreaks of Stewart's wilt have occurred in Italy (Emilia Romagna, Friuli, Lombardy, Veneto). A review is provided of the available information to assess the possible role of seed imports in these outbreaks.

The Opinion was adopted on 25 September 2019.

5.2 Art. 29 Scientific opinion on the List of non-EU viruses and viroids infecting potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) and other tuber-forming *Solanum* species (and supporting Excel file) (EFSA-Q-2019-0014)

The European Commission requested a pest categorisation of the non-EU viruses and viroids of potato (hereafter referred to as viruses). As a first step, a systematic literature and database search was carried out to identify the viruses reported to naturally infect *Solanum tuberosum* and other tuber-forming *Solanum* spp (hereafter referred to as potato). Based on the global distribution and on the prevalence inside the EU, the Panel identified 40 non-EU viruses known to occur only outside the EU or with only a limited presence in the EU (reported in only one or few member states (MSs) and/or with restricted distribution, outbreaks). Twenty-seven viruses were identified as having a significant presence in the EU (known to occur in several MSs, frequently reported in the EU, widespread in several MSs) or reported only from the EU so far, and will be excluded from further categorisation in the frame of the present mandate. Five viruses remained with an undetermined standing because the available information did not allow their allocation to one of the above groups. The viruses considered non-EU and those with undetermined standing will be further categorised if not addressed by EFSA in previous scientific opinions. Seven viruses for which non-European isolates are specifically regulated in Annex I of directive 2000/29/EC will be categorised separately. The main knowledge gaps and uncertainties of this grouping concern the natural host status of potato, the taxonomy, and/or information on the geographical distribution and prevalence of some of the analysed viruses.

The Opinion was adopted on 25 September 2019.

5.3 Art. 29 Scientific opinion on Pest categorisation of non-EU viruses and viroids of potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) and other tuber-forming *Solanum* species (EFSA-Q-2019-00426)

Following a request from the EU Commission, the Panel on Plant Health has addressed the pest categorisation of those viruses and viroids (hereafter referred to as viruses) of *Solanum tuberosum* and other tuber-forming *Solanum* spp. (hereafter referred to as potato) which are considered to be either non-EU or of undetermined standing based on a previous EFSA opinion. These viruses belong to different families and genera and either have an established identity or produce consistent symptoms. Plants for planting is the main pathway for entry for all categorised viruses as they can all be transmitted by vegetative

propagation. Several categorised viruses have a relatively wide host range and/or are vector-transmitted, increasing the potential for entry. The information currently available on geographical distribution, biology, epidemiology, impact and potential entry pathways has been evaluated with regard to the criteria to qualify as potential Union quarantine pest or as Union regulated non-quarantine pest (RNQP). Since this opinion addresses specifically the non-EU potato viruses, in general these viruses do not meet the criteria assessed by EFSA to qualify as potential Union regulated non-quarantine pests. The following viruses meet the criteria to qualify as potential Union quarantine pest: APLV, APMMV, APMoV, ChiLCV, CYSDV, PAMV, PBRSV, PVH, PVP, PVT, PYDV, PYMV, PYV, PYVV, RCVMV, SALCV, SB26/29, ToCV, ToLCNDV, ToMHaV, ToMoTV, ToSRV and ToYVSV. With the exception of the criterion regarding the potential for consequences in the EU territory, for which the Panel is unable to conclude because of lack of information, AVB, CPSbV, PaLCrV, PapMV, PVB, PVU, SB41 and TVBMV meet all the other criteria to qualify as potentional Union quarantine pest. PotLV and WPMV do not qualify as potential Union quarantine pest, since they are not reported to have any impact. For most of the categorised viruses, the conclusions of the Panel have inherent uncertainties, due to the lack of quantitative data on their impact and/or absence or limited availability of information on the biology, epidemiology and geographical distribution.

The Opinion was adopted on 25 September 2019.

5.4 Art. 29 Scientific opinion on Pest categorisation of non-EU isolates of Potato virus M (EFSA-Q-2019-00507)

Following a request from the EU Commission, the Panel on Plant Health has addressed the pest categorisation of non-EU isolates of potato virus M (PVM). The information currently available on geographical distribution, biology, epidemiology, potential entry pathways, potential additional impact compared to the current situation in the EU, and availability of control measures of non-EU isolates of PVM has been evaluated with regard to the criteria to qualify as potential Union quarantine pest. This opinion will not address the criteria of a regulated non-quarantine pest (RNQP), because any non-EU isolates would by definition not fulfil the RNQP criterion of being present in the EU. Populations of PVM can be subdivided into two strains: the ordinary strain (PVM-O) is present in the EU, while the divergent strain (PVM-D) is absent from the EU or considered to have at most a limited distribution in the EU. Non-EU isolates of PVM-O are not expected to have an additional impact in the EU compared to EU isolates and therefore do not meet the corresponding criterion to qualify as potential Union quarantine pest. The Panel is unable to conclude on the potential impact of non-EU PVM-D isolates in the EU territory, but PVM-D isolates meet all the other criteria to qualify as a potential Union quarantine pest.

The Opinion was adopted on 25 September 2019.

5.5 Art. 29 Scientific opinion on Pest categorisation of non-EU isolates of Potato virus S (EFSA-Q-2019-00508)

Following a request from the EU Commission, the Panel on Plant Health has addressed the pest categorisation of non-EU isolates of potato virus S (PVS). The information currently available on geographical distribution, biology, epidemiology, potential entry pathways, potential additional impact compared to the current situation in the EU, and availability of control measures of non-EU isolates of PVS has been evaluated with regard to the criteria to qualify as potential Union quarantine pest. This opinion does not address the criteria of a regulated non-quarantine pest (RNQP), because any non-EU isolates would by definition not fulfil the RNQP criterion of being present in the EU. Populations of PVS can be subdivided into two strains: the ordinary strain (PVS-O) with a worldwide distribution (including the EU), and the Andean strain (PVS-A) which is absent from the EU or considered to have at most a limited distribution in the EU. Two additional divergent isolates (PVS-A/PVS-O recombinants and PVS-arracacha) have also been categorised. Non-EU isolates of PVS-A are expected to have an additional impact as compared to the PVS isolates currently present in the EU, and therefore meet all the criteria to qualify as potential Union quarantine pests; the magnitude of the additional impact is however unknown. Non-EU isolates of PVS-A/PVS-O recombinants and of PVS-arracacha also meet these criteria, with the exception of the criterion regarding the potential additional consequences in the EU territory for which the Panel was unable to conclude. Non-EU PVS-O isolates are not expected to have an additional impact in the EU as compared to EU isolates and therefore do not meet the corresponding criterion.

The Opinion was adopted on 25 September 2019.

5.6 Art. 29 Scientific opinion on Pest categorisation of *Ribes* viruses (EFSA Q-2018-00787)

Following a request from the EU Commission, the Panel on Plant Health addressed the pest categorisation of the viruses of *Ribes* L. determined as being either non-EU or of undetermined standing in a previous EFSA opinion. These infectious agents belong to different genera and are heterogeneous in their biology. Alaska vitivirus 1 and *Ribes* virus F were excluded from categorization because these are very poorly characterized viruses. The pest categorisation was completed for seven viruses with clear identity and for which detection methods are available. All these viruses are efficiently transmitted by vegetative propagation techniques, with plants for planting representing the major pathway for long-distance dispersal and thus considered as the major pathway for entry. Depending on the virus, additional pathway(s) can also be *Ribes* seeds, pollen and/or vector(s). Most of the viruses categorised here are known to infect only one or few plant genera, but tomato ringspot virus (ToRSV) has a wide host range, thus extending the possible entry pathways. ToRSV meets all the criteria evaluated by EFSA to qualify as

potential Union quarantine pest (QP). With the exception of impact in the EU territory, on which the Panel was unable to conclude, Actinidia virus X, blackcurrant leaf chlorosis-associated virus, blackcurrant leafroll-associated virus, black currant-associated rhabdovirus, blackcurrant waikavirus A and *Ribes americanum* virus A satisfy all the other criteria to be considered as potential Union QPs. For several viruses, especially those recently discovered, the categorisation is associated with high uncertainties mainly because of the absence of data on their biology, distribution and impact. Since this opinion addresses specifically the non-EU viruses, in general these viruses do not meet the criteria assessed by EFSA to qualify as potential Union regulated non-quarantine pests.

The Opinion was adopted on 25 September 2019.

5.7 Art. 29 Scientific opinion on Pest categorisation of non-EU *Acleris* species (EFSA Q-2018-00794)

The Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of non-EU *Acleris* spp. *Acleris* is a well-defined insect genus in the family Tortricidae (Insecta: Lepidoptera). Species can be identified using taxonomic keys based on adult morphology and genitalia. The genus includes 261 species attacking conifers and non-conifer plants in many areas in the world, among which forty species are present in the EU. The non-EU species are collectively listed in Annex IAI of Council Directive 2000/29/EC as *Acleris* spp. (non-European). Some species are important defoliators in North America, mainly on conifers but also on several broadleaf trees. Females lay eggs on the leaves or on the bark. The larvae bind together with silk the leaves upon which they feed. Pupation occurs in leaves attached with silk, or in the soil. Some species are univoltine, others are bivoltine or multivoltine. Flight capacity is not documented, but outbreak expansion suggests that the adults can probably fly long distances. The main pathways for entry are host plants for planting with or without soil, cut branches, fruits of host plants (including cones), round wood with bark, and bark. The presence of host plants and suitable EU climate would allow the establishment of the known non-EU harmful species. In the literature, nine non-EU *Acleris* species are reported as pests on various host plants, namely *A. gloverana*, *A. variana*, *A. minuta*, *A. nishidai*, *A. issikii*, *A. semipurpurana*, *A. robinsoniana*, *A. senescens* and *A. nivisellana*. These non-EU *Acleris* spp. satisfy all the criteria to be considered as Union quarantine pests. Concerning the other 212 non_EU *Acleris* species, there is scarce information on host plants, pests status and climatic suitablility. Measures are in place to prevent the introduction of non-EU *Acleris* spp. through the pathways described in the document. As non-EU *Acleris* spp. are not present in the EU and plants for planting are not the major pathway for spread, non-EU *Acleris* spp. do not meet the criteria to be considered as regulated non-quarantine pests.

The Opinion was adopted on 25 September 2019.

5.8 Art. 29 Scientific opinion on Pest categorisation of Diabrotica barberi (EFSA Q-2019-00132)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Diabrotica barberi* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae), the northern corn rootworm, for the European Union (EU). *D. barberi* is a univoltine species occurring in mid-western and eastern USA and Canada, where it reproduces on maize (*Zea mays*), the preferred larval host. A small proportion of individuals can develop to a lesser extent on spelt (*Triticum spelta*), rice (*Oryza sativa*), millet (*Panicum miliaceum*) and a few North American wild grasses. Eggs are laid in the soil of maize fields, where they overwinter and can enter a diapause which can extend for more than one winter. Larvae hatch in late spring and early summer. Adult emergence peaks in the summer to feed on maize tassels, silks and ear tips. Adults abandon maize fields looking for other feeding hosts and return to maize for oviposition during late summer and autumn. *D. barberi* is considered a key pest of maize, together with other rootworm species of the same genus. *D. barberi* is regulated in the EU by Directive 2000/29/EC (Annex IAI). Within this Directive, a general prohibition of soil from most third countries prevents the entry of *D. barberi* larvae. However, adults carried on sweetcorn or green maize are potential pathways for entry into the EU. Climatic conditions and the wide availability of maize provide conditions to support establishment in the EU. Following establishment, impact on maize yields is anticipated. Phytosanitary measures are available to inhibit entry of this pest. *D. barberi* satisfies the criteria, which are within the remit of EFSA to assess for it to be regarded as a potential Union quarantine pest. *D. barberi* does not meet the criteria of occurring in the EU nor plants for planting being the principal means of spread for it to be regarded as a potential Union regulated non-quarantine pest.

The Opinion was adopted on 25 September 2019.

5.9 Art. 29 Scientific opinion on Pest categorisation of *Diabrotica virgifera zeae* (EFSA Q-2019-00133)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Diabrotica virgifera zeae* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae), the Mexican corn rootworm, for the European Union (EU). This is one of two subspecies of *D. virgifera* which occurs in Central America, Mexico, and central southern parts of the USA (Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico). The preferred larval host is maize (*Zea mays*) roots, although larvae can feed on the roots of sorghum and other grass species. Adults feed on the leaves, silks, immature seeds of maize, and pollen of up to 63 plant genera. Eggs are laid in the soil of maize fields in late summer/early autumn and hatch in late spring. Adults are found in and near maize fields from May until frosts appear later in the year. *D. virgifera zeae* is univoltine except where maize is grown continuously when there can be multiple overlapping generations each year. In the Americas *D. virgifera zeae* is considered a key maize pest. *D. virgifera zeae* is regulated by

Directive 2000/29/EC (Annex IAI). A general prohibition of soil from most third countries prevents the entry of immature stages of *D. virgifera zeae*. However, adults could be carried on sweetcorn or green maize. Maize is grown widely across the EU but establishment may be limited to warmer parts of southern EU. Should it establish in the EU, impact on maize yields is anticipated. Phytosanitary measures are available to inhibit entry of this pest. *D. virgifera zeae* satisfies the criteria, which are within the remit of EFSA to assess for it to be regarded as a potential Union quarantine pest. *D. virgifera zeae* does not meet the criteria of occurring in the EU, nor plants for planting being the principal means of spread, for it to be regarded as a potential Union regulated non-quarantine pest.

The Opinion was adopted on 25 September 2019.

6. Feedback from Scientific Panel including their Working Groups

6.1 Update from the Working Group on Plant Bacteria Pest Categorisation on the non-EU phytoplasma of *Malus, Pyrus, Cydonia, Rubus, Ribes, Fragaria, Prunus* and *Vitis* (M-2017-0055)

The Panel was updated about the progress of the WG on this pest categorisation, with a presentation on two additional non-EU phytoplasmas that have been categorised: Ca. P. aurantifolia-related strains and Ca. P. ziziphi. The list of non-EU phytoplasmas of the target host species and the related pest categorisation are scheduled for possible adoption at the next PLH Panel plenary in November.

6.2 Update from the Working Group on Potato viruses categorisation (M-2017-0055)

The Panel was updated about the ongoing pest categorisations of non-EU isolates of potato viruses A, V, X, Y and of potato leafroll virus. They will be proposed for possible adoption in the November 2019 panel plenary meeting.

6.3 Update from the Working Group on plant viruses categorisation (M-2017-0055)

The Panel was updated about the ongoing pest categorisation of non-EU viruses of *Rubus* L., which is scheduled for possible adoption in November.

6.4 Update from the Working Group on *Saperda tridentata* on: Scientific opinion on the pest Categorisation on *Saperda tridentata* (EFSA-Q-2019-00170), and Scientific opinion on the pest risk assessment of *Saperda tridentata* (EFSA-Q-2019-00171)

The working group on *Saperda tridentata* showed a presentation including the outcome of the pest categorization. A comprehensive literature review including documents since the end of 1800 was not able to produce information on hosts different from the American elm species. There is no evidence that European elm species are hosts. Due to the lack of fundamental information regarding the host preference, the WG can only make broad assumptions on the establishment, spread, and impact in Europe, and uncertainties are very high, which are likely to be reflected in the final conclusion on whether *S. tridentata* would meet the criteria for being classified as quarantine pest or not. Deadline of this mandate is end of November 2019. The WG was requested to add more information on the distribution of European and American elm species in Europe and to check whether more clear conclusions could be reached, based on the information available.

6.5 Update from the Agricultural Insects Pest Categorisation Working Groups (M-2017-0055)

The WG Chair gave an update on the current activities of the group, especially on the 'Pest categorisation of non-EU Tephritidae'.

6.6 Update from the Forest Insects Pest Categorisation Working Groups (M-2017-0055)

The Panel was updated on the progress of the WG on the development of the list of non-EU Scolytinae. The Panel was informed on the next meeting dates of the WG and on the possible adoption of the draft opinion on non-EU Scolytinae species of coniferous trees in the November plenary.

6.7 Update on High Risk Plants commodity risk assessment mandate, including a short update on dossiers submitted by National Plant Protection Organisations of Applicant Third Countries

An update was delivered by the Chairs of the three WGs and EFSA staff.

7. Feedback from the European Commission

DG SANTE officers provided feedback and appreciation on current Panel work.

8. Feedback from Scientific Committee and its Working Groups

8.1 Report back from SC and its Working Groups:

The PLH panel chair presented the status of the projects from SC and its working groups (epidemiology guidance, implementation of the guidance on uncertainty in scientific assessment, draft framework for protocol development for EFSA's scientific assessments).

9. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

9.1 Discussion on the need and plan for reviewing the five PLH Panel guidances

The Panel discussed whether there was a need to review its current Guidance documents. The EFSA PLH Panel has currently 5 valid guidance documents:

1. Guidance on commodity risk assessment for the evaluation of high risk plants dossiers (2019)
2. Guidance on quantitative pest risk assessment (2018)
3. Guidance on methodology for evaluation of the effectiveness of options for reducing the risk of introduction and spread of organisms harmful to plant health in the EU territory (EFSA PLH Panel, 2012)
4. Guidance on the environmental risk assessment of plant pests (EFSA PLH Panel, 2011)
5. Guidance on the evaluation of pest risk assessments and risk management options prepared to justify requests for phytosanitary measures under Council Directive 2000/29/EC. (EFSA PLH Panel, 2009)

The validity of the above-mentioned guidance documents 3, 4 and 5 was already reviewed by the Panel in a chapter of its recent Guidance on quantitative pest risk assessment (2018).

The Panel reviewed the scope and application of these five Guidance documents and conclude that they are still valid and that there is currently no need to review them or update them.

9.2 Plant health and EFSA strategy for biological risk assessment

The panel was informed that EFSA is updating its scientific strategy for risk assessment for food safety, animal and plant health (period covered up to 2027). The panel discussed what should be considered the main achievement in plant health to date and what should be the main targets and priorities for EFSA plant health risk assessment up to 2027.

The main achievements (including both PLH Panel and EFSA activities) were considered the following:

- The risk assessment of specific pests and pathogens in plant health is established, in the framework of the EU Plant health law and the FAO IPPC International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, following a fit for purpose (2-step tiered approach) and quantitative methodology described in the 2018 PLH Panel guidance on quantitative pest risk assessment. This methodology has been already tested on various types of assessments: two-tiered quantitative pest risk assessments; one-tiered assessment of impacts, spread and time to detection for candidate EU priority quarantine plant pests; assessment of derogation requests for phytosanitary measures).
- The risk assessment of multiple plant pests and pathogens in imported plant commodities is established in the framework of the EU Plant health law and the FAO IPPC International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, following the 2019 PLH Panel Guidance on commodity risk assessment for High Risk Plants. This methodology is currently being applied within the assessment of Third Countries dossiers on High Risk Plants commodities.
- The methodology for environmental risk assessment of plant pests is established applying an ecosystem services and biodiversity approach, but it has not been widely tested so far.
- A fit for purpose and high throughput process for plant health risk assessment is established that includes a two-step approach for outputs delivery and interaction with risk managers, standardised templates, active pre-adoption commenting by Panel and written adoption procedure in Distiller. This process allows fast and timely delivery of risk assessment and scientific advice.
- A system for horizon scanning of new or emerging plant pests is established in cooperation with the Joint Research Centre and MS risk assessment bodies. Media are automatically screened in the JRC Medisys platform for articles about quarantine and new plant pests and the, after expert review, the findings are presented monthly to risk managers at PAFF Committee, ranked and published. This exercise supports risk managers to identify new threats and priorities for enhanced surveillance or for risk assessment.
- A system to support MS risk-based plant health surveillance is established in the framework of the EU Plant health law and the FAO IPPC International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, Pest survey cards are routinely produced with a focus on the quarantine plant pests listed by MS in the EU co-financed pest survey programme, whereas risk- and statistics-based pest survey guidelines (based on the R4EU RIBESS+ and SAMPELATOR online tools developed by EFSA) has been applied for three pilot plant

pests (Xylella, Citrus black spot fungus and the insect Emerald ash borer).

The following were discussed as challenges and priorities for plant health risk assessment activities (including both PLH Panel and EFSA activities) up to 2027:

- Develop a rapid quantitative pest risk assessment approach, starting from the experience already gained with the 1-tier impact assessment for priority pests.
- Develop and add climate change scenarios to the quantitative pest risk assessment of specific plant pests and pathogens.
- Develop and add sustainable agriculture scenarios to the quantitative pest risk assessment of specific plant pests and pathogens, considering the changes in plant protection products and the availability (and/or lack of availability) of integrated pest and disease management and biological control tools.
- Develop a more advanced integration of spatial and landscape aspects in quantitative pest risk assessment.
- Analyse the EU "hot spots" for plant pests introduction, to better prepare for new plant pest invasions.
- Further develop approaches for risk assessment of new genetic strains of plant pathogens.
- Given the new global emergency of highly destructive bacterial plant pests (e.g. *Xylella*, HLB), analyse comprehensively the efficacy of bactericides and the risk of development of antimicrobial resistance n plant pathogens.
- Further develop risk-based guidelines and tools for MS surveillance for quarantine plant pests, integrating when applicable syndromic surveillance and citizen science.
- Further develop the application of automatic monitoring of scientific literature and social media in the horizon scanning for new and quarantine plant pests.

9.3 Update on the organisation of the second European research conference on Xylella fastidiosa, Ajaccio (FR) 29-31 October 2019

The Panel was updated on the ongoing organisation of the second European conference on *Xylella fastidiosa* and the draft program was discussed.

9.4 2020: International Year of Plant Health

UN has proclaimed 2020 the International Year of Plant Health.

EFSA is planning to organise and participate in different activities to celebrate the 2020 International Year of Plant Health:

- March 2020 –Workshop with the EU Chief Plant Health Officers (COPHs) hosted at EFSA premises to present and discuss EFSA plant health activities and workplan.
- 5-8 October 2020 - Contribution to the International Plant Health Conference "Protecting Plant Health in a changing world" (Helsinki, Finland)
- a series of webinars dedicated to current methodologies applied at EFSA in support to plant health risk assessment and related matters
- reinforcement of the EFSA communication activity in plant health through different media

Part of these activities will require the contribution of PLH Panel members.

10. Feedback from EFSA including its Working Groups

10.1 Update from EFSA WG on pest surveillance

The Panel was updated on the recent developments and the progress of the WG. The update included an introduction into the main outputs of the Pest Survey WG (EFSA Toolkit for Surveillance), an overview about the recent meetings and workshops and also the preliminary planning of the WG outputs until the end of the mandate in June 2020.

10.2 Update from EFSA WG on horizon scanning

EFSA presented an overview of the project focusing on the ongoing collaborations and activities on the pest ranking. The results of the first exercise of ranking on unlisted pests found in media monitoring were presented as well as the next steps: ranking of pests found through the scientific literature monitoring, publication of the review of ranking systems already in use, publication of the methodology implemented by EFSA in collaboration with ANSES and of the first ranking results. EFSA also presented a review of the main topics covered by the media and scientific newsletters of August and September 2019. The publication on Wiley of all the 30 media newsletters was announced.

The Panel raised comments and requests. After discussion with ANSES, EFSA will modify the label "General" in use in the ranking methodology for criteria linked to the pest characteristics, e.g. using "Pest traits". The Panel will receive the newsletters as soon as they are published. EFSA is available to add new pests in the platform at the request of Panel members and will indicate how to access the articles found by the tool. EFSA will also update the EFSA webpage of MEDYSIS with links to pages gathering articles on specific pests.

11. AOB

11.1 Discussion on draft agenda of November 2019 plenary meeting and possible half-day additional plenary meeting by Skype in December 2019 for commodity risk assessments of high risk plants

Panel agreed to have a 1.5 day meeting in November starting from 9 to at least 18:30 in the first day, taking into account the quite busy agenda.

A half day Skype web conference is going to be organised in December 2019 for urgent discussion and possible adoption of scientific opinions, after having found a suitable day for the majority of Panel members.

11.2 Testing Session for Panel access to Office 365

A first glance of the SharePoint dedicated to the PLH Panel was provided: this new support could, in the future, substitute at least partially DMS and it is considered important for the Panel to get accustomed to it. The PLH team will ensure its accessibility to all Panel members and start populating it with all relevant information and files.

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 opinions on:

- List and categorisation of non-EU phytoplasma of *Cydonia* Mill., *Fragaria* L., *Malus* Mill., *Prunus* L., *Pyrus* L., *Ribes* L., *Rubus* L. and *Vitis* L.;
- Categorisation of *Ribes* viruses

He informed the Panel that he participates to the work on these opinions 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 he 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