

**MINUTES OF THE 7<sup>th</sup> PLENARY MEETING  
OF THE EFSA SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON PLANT HEALTH  
HELD IN PARMA ON 19-20 SEPTEMBER 2007**

(ADOPTED ON 17 OCTOBER 2007)

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## **PARTICIPANTS**

### ***Members of the PLH Panel***

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### ***Ad hoc experts***

Thierry CANDRESSE, Maria KÖLBER, Julian SMITH, Stefan WINTER

### ***Apologies***

James William CHOISEUL, Robert STEFFEK

### ***European Commission (DG SANCO)***

Harry ARIJS, Michael WALSH

### ***EFSA***

Elzbieta CEGLARSKA, Sharon CHEEK, Giuseppe STANCANELLI, Sara TRAMONTINI, Anna CAMPANINI, Ann DE BLOCK

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## **1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Panel's Chair welcomed the panel members and the Commission observers. Apologies were received from James William CHOISEUL and Robert STEFFEK.

## **2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No conflict of interests was reported.

## **4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF 6<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY MEETING**

The minutes were adopted with minor amendments.

## **5. REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

The Panel vice-Chair reported on the current work of the Scientific Committee (meeting of 17-18 September 2007). Main topics were: scientific expert allowances; new procedures on declaration of interests; inter-panels cooperation; scientific opinion on nanotechnologies;

qualification of safety presumption for beneficial microbes in food production; animal cloning; safety of botanical preparations; working groups' activities including WG on transparency.

## **6. EFSA SCIENTIFIC COLLOQUIUM 10**

The Chair of the organising committee presented the general outline of the EFSA Scientific Colloquia. The Colloquium on Plant Health will be EFSA 10<sup>th</sup> Scientific Colloquium and will take place in Parma on 6-7 December 2007. The main objectives are to present the EFSA role in the pest risk analysis process in the European Community and to discuss in an open scientific debate issues related to pest risk assessment with the aim of producing guidance document on phytosanitary risk assessment. The event is addressed to the academia, risk managers and stakeholders. Topics for the four discussion groups were discussed. It was particularly emphasized that, considering the limited time available for discussion groups (one afternoon), the themes of discussion should be particularly focused on key problematic issues of the pest risk assessment process.

## **7. PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF DRAFT OPINIONS ON PRAS MADE BY FRANCE ON ORGANISMS WHICH ARE CONSIDERED BY FRANCE AS HARMFUL IN 4 FRENCH OVERSEAS DEPARTMENTS, I.E. GUADELOUPE, FRENCH GUIANA, MARTINIQUE AND REUNION**

EFSA was requested to provide a scientific opinion on 30 PRAs made by France on organisms which are considered by France as harmful in 4 French overseas departments, i.e. Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Réunion, and in particular whether these organisms can be considered as harmful organisms for the endangered area of the above departments in the meaning of the definition mentioned in Art. 2.1.(e) of the Directive 2000/29/EC and thus potentially eligible for addition to the list of harmful organisms in the Directive 2000/29/EC.

The question was accepted for opinion at the Panel's plenary meeting in October 2006. The Panel was given 18 months period for elaboration on the question.

Two types of PRAs were prepared by the French risk assessors<sup>1</sup>:

- Full based on the EPPO scheme [PM 5/3(1)] only for harmful organisms for which the probability of introduction into the DOMs is high with economically important crops and,
- Simplified for organisms for which the probability of introduction is extremely low.

The Rapporteurs presented the following draft opinions for the Panel's discussion:

### **- Pest risk assessment on Banana mild mosaic virus BanMMV (full)**

The Panel discussed in depth the presented draft opinion. The conclusion is that BanMMV does not qualify for management options. The opinion was adopted unanimously, with minor amendment regarding comments on social and environmental damage and stronger justification of the conclusions proposed.

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<sup>1</sup> As described in the Commission's background document

- **Pest risk assessment on Banana streak virus BSV (full)**

The Panel thoroughly discussed the presented draft opinion. It was suggested that the opinion should address several aspects related to the quality of the pest risk assessment; clarity of the pest status in the four DOMs; specificity of the entry pathway of the virus and clarity of the conclusion reached. The opinion was proposed for written adoption procedure, subject to requested amendments.

- **Pest risk assessment on *Metcalfa pruinosa* (full)**

The Panel carefully discussed the presented draft opinion. The Panel agreed with the risk assessor that the organism could enter and establish in the French DOMs. The Panel argued whether the pest has the potential to cause significant economic impact and therefore found it potentially ineligible for inclusion in the list of harmful organisms. The Panel commented that the final conclusion should be reformulated, using both the IPPC risk assessment terminology (ISPM no. 11) and the terms of reference.

The Panel agreed on the general content of the opinion and proposed it for written adoption procedure, subject to amendments.

- **Pest risk assessment on *Prays citri* (full)**

In relation to the presented draft opinion the Panel expressed its concern whether consideration should be given to the main crops or whether the minor crops should also be given attention. In this respect, the consideration of social and environmental impacts in the original pest risk assessment would have been helpful.

Regarding the final conclusion, the Panel agreed that the organism does not qualify for quarantine measures, but, due to the high level of uncertainties, it is recommended that the pest risk assessment should be completed with the missing elements.

The Panel agreed on the general content and conclusions of the opinion. This opinion was proposed for written adoption, subject to the suggested amendments.

- **Pest risk assessment on *Parlatoria ziziphi* (full)**

With regard to the presented draft opinion the Panel discussed the probability estimates used in the qualitative risk assessment applied by the French risk assessors, suggesting a consistent approach to this aspect. It was suggested to use consistent wording for the opinions on *Parlatoria ziziphi* and on *Prays citri*.

The Panel agreed on the general content and conclusion of the opinion. This opinion was proposed for written adoption, subject to the suggested amendments.

- **Pest risk assessment on *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* (full)**

In the discussion of the presented draft opinion the Panel pointed out that the main weaknesses of the French risk assessment laid in the characterisation, diagnosis and identification of the pest.

Regarding the pest identification the French risk assessors indicate *F. oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* as the subject of the pest risk assessment, regardless the fact that races 1 and 2 are already present in the PRA. The risk assessment focuses then only on race 4 and T4.

The Panel emphasised that race 1 and 2 are already present in the PRA area without causing damages, while race 4 and tropical 4 are absent and have the potential to enter, establish and cause damage to the PRA area. The panel commented that the economic impact should be differentiated between the French Antilles (Martinique and Guadeloupe) and the other two departments (Guiana and Reunion). Reference to the scores should be explicit.

The Panel agreed that the conclusions should be reformulated focusing on race 4 and T4 and also that a more detailed risk assessment should be recommended.

The Panel proposed that a new version be presented at the next plenary meeting.

**- Pest risk assessment on *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *musacearum* (simplified)**

The panel carefully discussed the draft opinion prepared in result of the evaluation of a simplified risk assessment. The evaluation clearly follows the steps and elements of the relevant IPPC standards (ISPM no. 2 and ISPM no. 11). The conclusion is that *X. campestris* pv. *musacearum* can be considered as potential harmful organism for the French overseas departments in the meaning of the Directive 200/29/EC.

The Panel appreciated the structure of the opinion and the additional information presented on banana crops and on the French overseas departments. Nevertheless, the Panel expressed concern regarding the excessive amount of data inputs provided by the WG. In the Panel's opinion careful consideration of risks should have been the task of the risk assessor. Therefore, the Panel suggested considering this draft opinion as an exception. The explanation given by the Rapporteur was that, being *X. campestris* pv. *musacearum* an emerging disease, the additional literature cited by the WG was not available at the moment the original PRA was formulated. The panel recommended avoiding remarks on management options, as review of the management option falls outside of the Panel's mandate in relation to this question.

The Panel agreed on the general content and conclusion of the opinion. The Panel agreed to apply a written adoption, provided an amended version is produced as suggested.

**- Pest risk assessment on *Mycosphaerella eumusae* (simplified)**

The conclusion of the presented draft opinion is that, should *M. eumusae* enter the PRA area, there is a high potential of establishment and a significant potential of economic impact and thus *M. eumusae* can be considered as harmful for the endangered area and eligible for addition to the list of harmful organisms. However, due to the lack of published data, high uncertainties remain especially regarding the yield losses that would be caused by this pathogen and the control strategies to be undertaken once established.

The Panel suggested harmonising the text of the conclusions according to that proposed for the opinion on *Metcalfa pruinosa*. Use of the term "PRA" should be avoided.

The Panel agreed on the general content and conclusion of the opinion. A new version of the opinion incorporating the Panel's suggestions should be presented for written adoption.

- **Pest risk assessment on *Nacoleia octasema* (simplified)**

Commenting on the presented draft opinion the Panel found irrelevant the recommendation on the acceptable level of risk. The Panel recommended addition of references on tourist flows to support the estimate of a negligible probability of entry.

The conclusion of the opinion is that, although it can establish and cause damage especially in Martinique and Guadeloupe, without a credible pathway of entry *Nacoleia octasema* cannot be considered as a harmful organism for the French overseas departments.

The Panel agreed on the general content and conclusion of the draft opinion. Final version amended in accordance to the panel's comments will be subjected to a written adoption procedure.

- **Pest risk assessment on *Prays endocarpa* (simplified)**

Comments made on the presented draft opinion related to clarity of used terms and statements. The conclusion was that, given the very low probability of entry and the insufficient evidence regarding the potential impact of the pest in the PRA area, *P. endocarpa* cannot be considered as a harmful organism for the endangered area.

The Panel agreed on the general content and suggested amending the conclusions. New version of the opinion finalised as recommended by the Panel will be subjected to a written adoption procedure.

## **8. PROCEDURE FOR REVIEW OF PRAS**

The Panel Secretariat presented a draft proposal for the assessment part of the new EFSA opinion template adapted to the evaluation procedure of the DOM PRAs. For the simplified PRAs it was proposed to structure the opinion on the IPPC standard for risk assessment of quarantine pests (ISPM no. 11); whilst for the full PRAs the opinion would include evaluation of Part 1 (following the structure of the original document) and evaluation of Part 2 (following the mentioned standard).

The Panel agreed that the scientific opinions should follow a common structure based on the ISPM 11 standard. However, the Panel considered that, for the full PRAs, the information of Part 1 and the pest risk assessment of Part 2 should be evaluated together following the ISPM11 standard, without including in the opinion a separate evaluation of Part 1 following the structure of the original document.

## **9. MISCELLANEOUS**

The Chairs of Working Groups reported on the current work and on the planning of opinions to be presented at the next plenary meetings.

It was announced that the EFSA Executive Director would participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting in October in Parma and that the 9<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting on 28-29 November would be held abroad.