

**MINUTES OF THE 9TH PLENARY MEETING
OF THE EFSA SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON PLANT HEALTH
HELD IN BUDAPEST ON 28-29 NOVEMBER 2007**

(ADOPTED ON 16 JANUARY 2008)

#	Items
1.	Welcome, apologies for absence
2.	Adoption of the agenda
3.	Declarations of interests
4.	Adoption of the minutes of 8th Plenary meeting
5.	Progress made in developing the Panel's proposal for procedure for peer-review of pest risk assessments
6.	<p>Presentation and discussion 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, Guyana, Martinique and Reunion:</p> <p>“Full PRAs”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ralstonia solanacearum "race2" (Moko)</i> • <i>Viruses: BBrMV, BBTV</i> <p>“Simplified PRAs”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Aceria sheldonii</i> • <i>Trachysphaera fructigena</i>
7.	EFSA Scientific Colloquium 10
8.	Miscellaneous

PARTICIPANTS

Members of the PLH Panel

Richard BAKER, David CAFFIER, James William CHOISEUL, Patrick DE CLERCQ, Erzsébet DORMANNSNÉ SIMON, Bärbel GEROWITT, Olia Evtimova KARADJOVA, David MAKOWSKI, Luisa MANICI, Alfons OUDE LANSINK, Dionyssios PERDIKIS, Angelo PORTA PUGLIA, Jan SCHANS, Gritta SCHRADER, Robert STEFFEK, Anita STRÖMBERG, Kari TIILIKKALA, Irene VLOUTOGLOU

Ad hoc experts

Harm HUTTINGA, David JONES, Maria KÖLBER, Julian SMITH

Apologies

Thierry CANDRESSE, Charles MANCEAU, Gábor LÖVEI, Johan Coert VAN LENTEREN

European Commission (DG SANCO)

Harry ARIJS, Michael WALSH

EFSA

Elzbieta CEGLARSKA, Sharon CHEEK, Giuseppe STANCANELLI, Anna CAMPANINI,

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Panel's Chair welcomed the panel members and the Commission observer.

Apologies were received from Thierry CANDRESSE, Charles MANCEAU, Gábor LÖVEI, Johan Coert VAN LENTEREN.

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No conflicts of interest were reported.

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF 8TH PLENARY MEETING

The minutes were adopted.

5. PROGRESS MADE IN DEVELOPING THE PANEL'S PROPOSAL FOR PROCEDURE FOR PEER-REVIEW OF PEST RISK ASSESSMENTS

The Secretariat presented the revised guidelines for evaluation, aimed at ensuring a consistent approach for the 30 organisms under consideration. Proposals based on a two-phase (preliminary +

detailed evaluation) procedure by the Panel were rejected in favour of an initial review (completeness check), undertaken by the Secretariat, prior to detailed evaluation by the Panel. A revised version of the guidelines will be circulated for further consideration by the Panel at the next plenary meeting in January.

The opinion template was further discussed. Although all elements of ISPM 11 are included in the template, these are provided as a guide to be used flexibly. Strict presentation of all subheadings may not be necessary in all cases (particularly subsections in the first “pest categorisation” phase), although it should be clear from the opinion text that these subheadings have been evaluated by the Panel and are considered irrelevant.

6. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION 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, GUYANA, 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 assessors¹:

- 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 discussion by the Panel:

- **Pest risk assessment on *Aceria sheldoni* (simplified)**

The Panel discussed the draft opinion presented and suggested some amendments to the document, particularly further clarification of impacts on lemon, including further consideration of social and environmental (arising from additional pesticide treatments). Additional factors affecting establishment were also recommended for further discussion (influence of humidity).

The opinion was accepted for written adoption procedure subject to the changes requested by the Panel.

- **Pest risk assessment on *Trachysphaera fructigena* (simplified)**

¹ As described in the Commission’s background document

The Panel discussed the draft opinion and made suggestions to clarify aspects including the entry pathways, consideration of additional hosts and the effect of post-harvest treatment in potentially masking the symptoms. Further differentiation of impacts (economic, social and environmental) according to differences in the PRA area was suggested.

The opinion was accepted for written adoption subject to the changes requested by the Panel.

- **Pest risk assessment on *Ralstonia solanacearum* “race 2” (full)**

The Panel discussed the draft opinion and made suggestions particularly with regard to the need to clarify differences in economic and social impacts in different DOM regions. The basis for limiting the assessment only to “race 2” was questioned due to uncertainties relating to the taxonomy and expression of Moko disease. It was stressed that only the pathogen could be regulated, not the disease. A revised version is to be prepared by the WG and reconsidered by the Panel.

- **Pest risk assessment on *Banana bract mosaic virus BBTV* (full)**

The Panel discussed the draft opinion and made suggestions for amendments to the document. The main concern raised was the limited evidence available to support claims of substantial yield losses attributed to this disease, which is the basis for conclusion that BBrMV is potentially eligible for addition to 2000/29/EC. In addition, greater distinction between the DOMS was suggested with regard to potential economic/social impact and further review of information extracted from opinions relating to other banana pathogens. Further review was requested by the Panel before adoption by written procedure.

- **Pest risk assessment on *Banana bunchy top virus BBTV* (full)**

The draft opinion was discussed by the Panel. The economic and social impact on specific DOM regions was discussed further, particularly to strengthen justification of quarantine status for Guiana, where economic impact may be low but social impact was considered high. This issue would be revisited in a joint WG meeting to ensure consistency across the opinions. Minor amendments were suggested to the opinion and the opinion was accepted for written adoption subject to any necessary changes following provision of further economic/social impact data.

7. EFSA SCIENTIFIC COLLOQUIUM 10

The Scientific Coordinator confirmed the topics, Chairs and Rapporteurs of the four discussion groups and thanked Panel members who were able to participate in the Scientific Colloquium on Plant Health to be held in Parma on Dec 5-6th.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

The Chair reported from the EFSA Scientific Committee meeting (19-20th November) that environment impact assessment under discussion for GMOs was recognized as relevant for other Panels including PLH. A meeting will be organised with DG Environment to further discuss this topic.

A workshop is also planned for May 2008 on the harmonisation of terminology relating to risk assessment.

A meeting of the DOMs Joint WG was scheduled for 14th January to review consistency of approach, particularly to the evaluation of economic/social impact in all opinions.

The Panel Chair and Scientific Coordinator reported on feedback from member states on opinions published on *Lysichiton americanus*, *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* and *Ambrosia* spp., following attendance of the November (26th) meeting of the Plant Health Standing Committee in Brussels.

Promotional material to mark the 5th Anniversary of EFSA was made available to the Panel.