ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

Scientific Panel on Plant Health

Minutes of the 89th Plenary meeting

WEB conference, 30 September & 1 October 2020

(Agreed on 27 November 2020)

Participants

- **Panel Members**

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

- **Hearing Experts:**

Camille Picard (EPPO); Daniel Flø (VKM, NO); Andrew Hart.

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

Maria Kammenou, Rosalinda Scalia and Panagiota Mylona (EC, DG SANTE, Unit Plant Health)

- **EFSA:**

ALPHA Unit: Caterina Campese, Laura Carotti, Ewelina Czwienczek, Eduardo De La Peña, Alice Delbianco, Ciro Gardi, Ignazio Graziosi, Svetla Kozelska, Nikolaus Križ, Andrea Maiorano, Giulia Mattion, Alzbeta Mikulova, Marco Pautasso, Oresteia Sfyra; Giuseppe Stancanelli, Franz Streissl, Emanuela Tacci, Sara Tramontini and Sybren Vos.

AMU Unit: Olaf Mosbach Schulz

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes

3. Declarations of Interest of Scientific Committee/Scientific Panel/ Members

Nothing to declare.

4. Report on written procedures since 88th PLH Plenary meeting

4.1 88th Plenary minutes, agreed by written procedure

The minutes were published on the EFSA website at 88th PLH Plenary meeting - open for observers

5. Updates from EFSA

5.1 Update on EFSA working and meeting arrangements during Covid-19 pandemics (September-December 2020)

The Head of the EFSA Animal and Plant Health Unit Nikolaus Križ updated the Panel on EFSA working and meeting arrangements during Covid-19 pandemics, he also thanked the Panel for all the commitment shown in these months of working remotely in Panel and Working Groups.

5.2 Recommendations on duration and organisation of WG meetings

The Panel was updated on the recommendations from EFSA management on duration and organisation of WG meetings. Due to Covid-19 emergency, all EFSA Panels and WGs meetings are being conducted by web, thus the need to clarify aspects of duration and organisation of these meetings.

The duration of the WG and Panel online meetings is defined based on the agenda and the availability of the experts. If the meeting time is 6 hours or less, it is recommended the meeting to take place on one calendar day. If the meeting time is more than 6 hours, EFSA can decide to split the meeting over more days as follows: from 0 to 6 hours, max 1 calendar day; from 6 to 12 hours, max 2 calendar days; from 12 to 18 hours, max 3 calendar days. It remains however possible to have a meeting longer than 6 hours on a calendar day (e.g. 8 hours), when it is needed. If a meeting is organised on 2 or more calendar days, these days can be consecutive or not (as it is needed).

Regarding the organisation of the WG meetings, for each Panel WG, at the onset of the WG activities, a Panel member (or an expert that has positively passed the selection for Panel membership) is appointed by the Panel Chair as WG chair, as documented in Panel plenary minutes. Also a WG coordinator (EFSA staff or an Art 36 Tasking Grant organisation staff member) is appointed by EFSA and is responsible for the organisation and efficient running of the WG meetings, the tasks distribution and the coordination of the follow-up after the WG meetings. The participation of experts in WG meetings is determined based on the agenda and the tasks assigned to the WG members, ensuring that meetings remain targeted and efficient. In case of Panel WG, the Head of Unit (or his/her delegate) in

consultation with the WG Chair decides before finalising the meeting invitations, whether there is the need to have a chairperson in the respective meeting or it is sufficient to have EFSA staff to coordinate the meeting, in case there is no need for a WG chair to chair the meeting due to the lack of or limited complexity and/or sensitivity of the topic(s): examples in ALPHA Unit of such meetings with limited complexity and/or sensitivity are the EKE (expert knowledge elicitation) meetings and the preparatory meetings.

5.3 Main discussion points from dialogues with Panel members (July-September 2020)

Individual mid-mandate dialogues were conducted between the Panel members and the EFSA Panel coordinator during the summer 2020, with the scope of a mutual assessment to understand what is working well and what could be improved. Overall, the very high commitment and high-level scientific contribution of PLH panel members were highlighted and the excellent scientific and administrative support by ALPHA Unit to Panel and WGs was remarked, particularly regarding the conduct of the web-plenaries and Open Plenary in TEAMS. It was agreed the need to go back to physical meetings when again feasible for a better interaction and discussion. General notes and recommendations included: the current longer time lapse between WG meetings and Panel meeting allows an early WG response to the Panel comments on the drafts, this is a good practice to be kept also when we will go back to physical meetings; more detailed minuting of key Panel discussions can help avoiding repeating plenary discussion on same items; need sometimes to review/discuss more carefully "prototype/pilot"-opinions, to avoid re-opening discussions on issues already decided: tasking Grants support to WG was highly appreciated and proved also an occasion to actively involve scientists in EFSA risk assessment; good Impact Factor of EFSA Journal important for recognition of EFSA scientific work; need for searchable and up to date database of information collected during the preparatory work for High Risk Plants Commodity pest lists and Pest categorisation of large crop/taxonomic pest groups; EFSA trainings on EKE and Uncertainty were considered essential particularly when moving from the academic world to risk assessment and it was recommended sharing with Panel the catalogue of available EFSA trainings; very positive feedback on the Quantitative Pest Risk Assessment discussion plenary sessions; need for an upfront planning of the participation of PLH Panel and EFSA PLH team to key conferences; need to present at Panel plenary the EFSA accidents insurance policy. Summary and recommendations from mid-mandate dialogues were shared within EFSA to draw general actions for the EFSA Panels.

6 New mandates

6.1 Request to provide a scientific opinion on the request from United States regarding import of oak logs with bark under a system approach (Ares(2020)3956670) (EFSA-Q-2020-00547)

This mandate was received in July 2020: the working group was immediately set with the nomination of the Working Group chair (Paolo Gonthier) by the Panel chair on 30th July. The current Working Group composition is provided at https://ess.efsa.europa.eu/doi/doiweb/wg/686392

More details on the mandate can be found under section 8.6 of this document.

6.2 Request to provide scientific opinions on the effectiveness of the citrus systems approach for *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* submitted by Israel and South Africa (Ares(2020)3956604) (M-2020-0141)

This mandate was received in July 2020: the working group was immediately set with the nomination of the Working Group chair (MILONAS Panagiotis) by the Panel chair. The current Working Group composition is provided at https://ess.efsa.europa.eu/doi/doiweb/wg/686393

7 Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption

7.1 Art. 29 Scientific opinion on Pest categorisation of *Diabrotica undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* (EFSA-Q-2020-00117)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of the beetle *Diabrotica undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) for the EU. This species occurs in western USA and Mexico. Adults oviposit on annual plants in the families Chenopodiaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Fabaceae, Poaceae, Polygonaceae, and Solanaceae. Adults feed on tender plant parts in hosts in 30 additional botanical families. Preimaginal development takes place on the roots of the host plant, where larvae feed and pupate. The insect completes one to three generations per year depending on temperature. Overwintering adults (no diapause) may abandon crops to seek shelter in wild vegetation and reinvade crops in spring. *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* is not known to occur in the EU and is regulated in Annex IIA of Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072. This species is a competent vector of squash mosaic virus, a pathogen already present and not regulated in the EU. Within Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072, potential entry pathways for *D.*

undecimpunctata undecimpunctata, such as Poaceae and Solanaceae plants for planting with foliage and soil/growing medium, and soil/growing media by themselves can be considered as closed. However, plants for planting of the families Chenopodiaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Fabaceae, and Polygonaceae are not specifically regulated. Should *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* arrive in the EU, climatic conditions and availability of susceptible hosts provide conditions suitable for establishment and further spread. Economic impact is anticipated. *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* satisfies the criteria that are within the remit of EFSA to assess for this species to be regarded as a potential Union quarantine pest. This species does not meet the criteria of being present in the EU nor plants for planting being the main pathway for spread for it to be regarded as a potential regulated non-quarantine pest.

The scientific opinion was adopted on 1 October 2020.

During the discussion the panel was informed that from May 2020 all new interceptions on plant pests are recorded in the database TRACES (online platform for sanitary and phytosanitary certification https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/traces/how-does-traces-work_en). In the transition period, in May and June 2020, the two systems TRACES and EUROPHYT coexisted. Europhyt is still maintained for historical interceptions but new interceptions (from July 2020) are not included in Europhyt anymore. As a consequence both databases have to be consulted.

7.2 Art. 29 Scientific opinion on Pest categorisation of *Diaphorina citri* (EFSA-Q-2020-00119)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Diaphorina citri* (Hemiptera: Liviidae) (Asian citrus psyllid) for the European Union (EU). The updated draft opinion was presented to the PLH Panel following the comments received from the panel members. During discussion, the WG's attention was drawn to a very recent paper published in 2020 summarising work that shows indirect evidence of long-distance natural dispersal. It was agreed that the WG experts will review the paper and potential further evidence and update the section on spread. The updated draft opinion will be presented for possible adoption at the November meeting of the PLH Panel.

8 Feedback from Scientific Panel including their Working Groups, Scientific Committee, EFSA and European Commission

8.1 Update from Pest categorisation WG on plant bacteria: non-EU potato phytoplasmas

The chair of the plant bacteria pest categorisation WG updated the Panel about the progress of the WG since the last PLH plenary meeting. The main points related to two organisms included in the pest categorisation draft on non-EU potato phytoplasmas were presented. These two pests are '*Ca*. P.

aurantifolia'-related strains and '*Ca*. P. pruni'-related strains. The plan for the rest of the work was presented: the list and pest categorisation of non-EU potato phytoplasmas drafts will be sent to the Panel for feedback in mid-October; the revised drafts in the light of the comments from the Panel are likely to be ready for discussion for possible adoption at the November 2020 PLH plenary meeting.

8.2 Short update from Pest categorisation WG on agricultural insects, including methodological issues

The WG Chair updated the panel on the ongoing activities. The WG started drafting the remaining two pest categorisations of the mandate on *Leptinotarsa decemlineata* and *Diabrotica undecimpunctata howardi*. These two opinions are due for adoption at the November plenary meeting. By the end of 2020, the WG will have finished 43 pest categorisations in 63 meetings. The WG is also working currently on another mandate assessing the risks of *Musa* species as a pathway for Tephritidae. Following a couple of hearings with external experts, the WG is closely examining literature and information received about practical aspects of growing and harvesting bananas, their handling, storage and transport to the EU. The draft opinion will be presented for adoption in January 2021.

8.3 Short update from Pest categorisation WG on plant viruses, including methodological issues

The WG Chair updated the Panel on the ongoing categorisation of Beet necrotic yellow vein virus (BNYVV), that will be possibly adopted in the November plenary. A general description of the virus and the main challenges of this pest categorisation were presented.

8.4 Update from High Risk Plants WGs section I, II and III including methodological issues

The WG Coordinator updated the Panel on the ongoing work performed by the WG High Risk Plants Section I. The WG is currently working on two dossiers from Turkey: *Nerium oleander* and *Robinia pseudoacacia*. The status of the two dossiers was presented.

The WG Chair updated the Panel on the ongoing work performed by the WG High Risk Plants Section II. The WG is currently finalising the opinion dealing with the dossier from Israel on *Ficus carica* and in parallel is evaluating the dossier from Serbia on *Corylus avellana.* For other dossiers the clock is stopped until EFSA will receive the requested additional information.

The WG Coordinator updated the Panel on the ongoing work performed by the WG High Risk Plants Section III. The WG is working on two dossiers:

Persea americana (Israel) and *Ullucus tuberosus* (Peru). The evaluation of *Persea americana* is almost completed so the WG will now proceed with the drafting of Scientific Opinion; for *U. tubesosus* the EKE for the selected actionable pests will be conducted in October. A short update on the progress of the work conducted by the EFSA Art. 36 Tasking Grant supporting this WG was also given, i.e. pests list for *Prunus domestica* from Ukraine is now completed. The status of some other dossiers was also presented.

8.5 Update from High Risk Plants WG on Momordica and *Thrips palmi*, including methodological issues

The WG Chair presented the approach used to assess the five dossiers received from Momordica. All dossiers were evaluated by estimating, based on the information provided in the dossier and by a literature search, the following three factors: 1) potential pest pressure in the field; 2) effectiveness of control measures applied in the field; and 3) effectiveness of control measures applied in the packing house. Three elicitations covering each of these three sections of the dossier for each country were conducted to come up with a final estimation of pest-freedom. In the particular case of the measures applied in the packing house, the same elicitation was used for all countries as the same measures with the same uncertainties were applied by all applicant countries.

8.6 Update from WG on US oak logs with system approach for oak wilt

The WG Chair presented the mandate to the Panel. The EU Commission Decision 2005/359/EC, which allows for the import into the EU of oak logs with bark attached, originating in the US, if fumigated with Methyl bromide (MB), against *Bretziella fagacearum*, will expire by end 2020. For this reason, the US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) has submitted a dossier to the European Commission proposing an integrated system approach, which includes fumigation using sulfuryl fluoride (SF), to achieve equivalent risk mitigation when compared with existing required MB fumigation while maintaining wood quality for veneer processing in the EU. The system approach proposed in the dossier involves not only a change in the process at the country of origin (the substitution of MB with SF) but also a series of actions after entry in the EU.
The WG started its activity in August 2020 and, after having reviewed the dossier and conducted a hearing with USDA APHIS representatives, is now collecting information from the EU National Plant Protection Organisations and preparing an expert knowledge elicitation in line with the methodological approach of the Guidance on commodity risk assessment for the evaluation of high risk plants dossiers (EFSA PLH Panel, 2019). The alternative Risk Reducing Options until entry will be assessed quantitatively, while the actions taken after the import of the commodity,

both at the borders and at the sawmills level, will be reviewed and discussed in a narrative manner.
The Panel discussed the higher tolerance to *B. fagacearum* expressed by white oak compared to red oak. The potential role of temperature during treatment with SF was also discussed. Finally, the higher efficacy at lower doses presented in the paper by Yang et al. (2019) was also discussed.

8.7 Short update from WG on Israel and South Africa citrus fruit with system approach for false codling moth

The WG coordinator gave an update on the composition of the WG, the scheduled plan and the terms of reference of the mandate.

8.8 Feedback from Scientific Committee ongoing activities

The PLH Panel chair updated the panel with the work of the Scientific Committee (SC) and informed that the next SC plenary meeting will be on November 11 & 12, 2020.

8.9 Feedback from European Commission

The DG Sante representative thanked the Panel for the contribution given by its Scientific opinion to the new EU Plant Health Legislation and updated the Panel about the next upcoming meetings and deadlines.

8. Feedback from Scientific Panel including their Working Groups, Scientific Committee, EFSA and European Commission (continues)

8.10 Update on Quantitative pest risk assessment and uncertainty guidances. Session on Climate suitability for potential establishment.

During the July 2020 Panel Plenary various experts presented different approaches for modelling the climate suitability for pest establishment of plant pest and pathogens, namely the Köppen-Geiger climate classification, the Magarey's generic infection model for foliar fungal pathogens, the CLIMEX model and the Species Distribution Models (SDM) approaches.
In this session, the Panel discussed in more details the characteristics of the four approaches in order to better understand assumptions, advantages and limitations. The objective of the session was to discuss further the appropriateness and usefulness of the four different approaches for assessing establishment as well as the interpretation of differences in outcomes among them. This item was discussed into seven breakout sessions considering two different pest case studies (i.e. the Fall army worm *Spodoptera frugiperda* and the Citrus Black Spot fungus *Phyllosticta citricarpa*) and 7 pairwise model comparisons. Modelling approaches considered included the ones that have been used in past EFSA pest risk

assessments: CLIMEX, Magarey's model, SDM (Early et al. 2018), Köppen-Geiger.
The outcomes of the breakout session were discussed in a plenary discussion where Panel members shared thoughts on the strengths, limitations, pro/cons, appropriateness of the different approaches in relation to Plant Health Risk assessments.

9 AOB

9.1 Update on EFSA activities for International Year of Plant Health (IYPH 2020)

The Panel was updated on EFSA activities and webinars developed for the awareness raising and communication for the International Year of Plant Health.

9.2 Update on EFSA Art. 36 Call for proposals in plant health

A new Call for proposals was launched by EFSA with deadline end October 2020 for proposals submitted by EFSA Art. 36 organisations to collect data on global use of antibiotics in plant protection, antimicrobial resistance in plant pathogenic bacteria and alternative and innovative methods for control of systemic plant pathogenic bacteria.

9.3 PLH Panel plenary meetings calendar 2020 and 2021

The 2021 PLH plenary calendar was shown to do Panel.