



Scientific Panel on Plant Health

Minutes of the 83rd Plenary meeting

Held on 20-21 November 2019, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 11 December 2019)

Participants

■ Panel Members:

Claude Bragard, Francesco Di Serio, Katharina Dehnen-Schmutz, Paolo Gonthier, Marie-Agnès Jacques, Josep Jaques Miret, 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

■ Hearing Experts:

Nikolaos Papadopoulos, (University of Thessaly, Greece), Domenico Bosco, Cristina Marzachi and Luciana Galetto (CNR, Italy), Françoise Petter (EPPO)

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Maria Mirazchiyska, Wolfgang Reinert, Maria Kammenou and Belen Marquez-Garcia (via videoconference) (DG SANTE)

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Caterina Campese, Laura Carotti, Michela Chiumenti, Ewelina Czwieniczek, Eduardo De La Peña, Alice Delbianco, Ciro Gardi, Mart Kinkar, Svetla Kozelska, Andrea Maiorano, Maria Rosaria Mannino, Alzbeta Mikulova, Marco Pautasso, Stefano Preti, Maria Chiara Rosace, Oresteia Sfyra; Giuseppe Stancanelli, Franz Streissl, Emanuela Tacci and Sara Tramontini

AMU Unit: Olaf Mosbach Schulz

SCER Unit: Bernard Bottex

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Annemarie Fejer Justesen

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups 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 82nd Plenary meeting

The minutes of the 82nd Plenary minutes were agreed by written procedure.

5. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption

5.1. Art. 29 Scientific opinion on Pest categorisation of non-EU viruses of *Rubus* ([EFSA-Q-2018-00788](#))

The Panel on Plant Health of EFSA conducted a pest categorisation of 17 viruses of *Rubus* L. that were previously classified as either non-EU or of undetermined standing in a previous opinion. These infectious agents belong to different genera and are heterogeneous in their biology. Blackberry virus X, blackberry virus Z and wineberry latent virus were not categorised because of lack of information while grapevine red blotch virus was excluded because it does not infect *Rubus*. All 17 viruses are efficiently transmitted by vegetative propagation, with plants for planting representing the major pathway for entry and spread. For some viruses, additional pathway(s) are *Rubus* seeds, pollen and/or vector(s). Most of the viruses categorised here infect only one or few plant genera, but some of them have a wide host range, thus extending the possible entry pathways. Cherry rasp leaf virus, raspberry latent virus, raspberry leaf curl virus, strawberry necrotic shock virus, tobacco ringspot virus and tomato ringspot virus meet all the criteria to qualify as potential Union quarantine pests (QPs). With the exception of impact in the EU territory, on which the Panel was unable to conclude, blackberry chlorotic ringspot virus, blackberry leaf mottle-associated virus, blackberry vein banding-associated virus, blackberry virus E, blackberry virus F, blackberry virus S, blackberry virus Y and blackberry yellow vein-associated virus satisfy all criteria to be considered as potential Union QPs. Black raspberry cryptic virus, blackberry calico virus and *Rubus canadensis* virus 1 do not meet the criterion of having a potential negative impact in the EU. For several viruses, the categorisation is associated with high uncertainties, mainly because of the absence of data on biology, distribution and impact. Since the opinion addresses non-EU viruses, they do not meet the criteria to qualify as a potential Union regulated non-quarantine pests.

The Opinion was adopted on 21 November 2019.

5.2. Art. 29 Scientific opinion on the List of non-EU phytoplasma of *Malus*, *Pyrus*, *Cydonia*, *Prunus*, *Rubus*, *Vitis*, *Ribes* and *Fragaria* ([EFSA-Q-2019-00010](#), [EFSA-Q-2019-00012](#), [EFSA-Q-2019-00008](#), [EFSA-Q-2019-00011](#), [EFSA-Q-2019-00014](#), [EFSA-Q-2019-00015](#), [EFSA-Q-2019-00013](#), [EFSA-Q-2019-00009](#))

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health prepared a list of non-EU phytoplasmas of *Cydonia* Mill., *Fragaria* L., *Malus* Mill., *Prunus* L., *Pyrus* L., *Ribes* L., *Rubus* L. and *Vitis* L. A systematic literature review and search of databases identified 27 phytoplasmas infecting one or more of the host genera under consideration. These phytoplasmas were assigned to three categories. The first group (a) consists of 10 non-EU phytoplasmas, known to occur only outside the EU ('*Candidatus* Phytoplasma australiense', '*Ca. P. hispanicum*', '*Ca. P. pruni*'-related strain (NAGYIII), '*Ca. P. pyri*'-related strain (PYLR) and Buckland valley grapevine yellows phytoplasma) or having only limited presence in the EU ('*Ca. P. aurantifolia*'-related strains, '*Ca. P. fraxini*', '*Ca. P. phoenicium*', '*Ca. P. trifolii*' and '*Ca. P. ziziphi*'). The second group (b) consists of three non-EU phytoplasmas, whose presence in the target plant species

is not fully supported by the available literature. The third group (c) consists of 14 phytoplasmas which are originally described or reported from the EU or are known to occur or be widespread or frequently reported in some MSs. Phytoplasmas of categories (b) and (c) were excluded at this stage from further categorisation efforts. One phytoplasma from category (a) ('*Ca. P. phoenicium*') was excluded from further categorisation, as a Pest Risk Assessment has been performed by EPPO for this pest. The main uncertainties of this listing concern: (i) the geographic distribution and prevalence of the studied phytoplasmas; (ii) the taxonomy and biological status of a number of poorly characterised phytoplasmas; and (iii) the host status of particular plant genera in relation to some phytoplasmas. The phytoplasmas considered as non-EU and whose presence in target plant species is fully supported by literature (category (a)) are categorised by the Panel in a separate opinion.

The opinion was adopted on 21 November 2019.

5.3. Art. 29 Scientific opinion on Pest categorisation on non-EU phytoplasma of *Malus*, *Pyrus*, *Cydonia*, *Prunus*, *Rubus*, *Vitis*, *Ribes* and *Fragaria* (EFSA-Q-2019-00140, EFSA-Q-2019-00141, EFSA-Q-2019-00139, EFSA-Q-2019-00138, EFSA-Q-2019-00137, EFSA-Q-2019-00136, EFSA-Q-2019-00135, EFSA-Q-2019-00134)

Following a request from the European Commission, the EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of nine phytoplasmas of *Cydonia* Mill., *Fragaria* L., *Malus* Mill., *Prunus* L., *Pyrus* L., *Ribes* L., *Rubus* L. and *Vitis* L. (hereafter "host plants") known to occur only outside the EU or having a limited presence in the EU. This opinion covers the (i) reference strains of '*Candidatus* Phytoplasma australiense', '*Ca. P. fraxini*', '*Ca. P. hispanicum*', '*Ca. P. trifolii*', '*Ca. P. ziziphi*', (ii) related strains infecting the host plants of '*Ca. P. aurantifolia*', '*Ca. P. pruni*', and '*Ca. P. pyri*', and (iii) an unclassified phytoplasma causing Buckland valley grapevine yellows. Phytoplasmas can be detected by available methods and are efficiently transmitted by vegetative propagation, with plants for planting acting as a major entry pathway and a long-distance spread mechanism. Phytoplasmas are also transmitted in a persistent and propagative manner by some insect families of the suborders Fulgoromorpha, Cicadomorpha and Sternorrhyncha (order Hemiptera). No transovarial, pollen or seed transmission has been reported. The natural host range of the categorised phytoplasmas varies from one to more than 90 plant species, thus increasing the possible entry pathways. The host plants are widely cultivated in the EU. All the categorised phytoplasmas can enter and spread through the trade of host plants for planting, and by vectors. Establishment of these phytoplasmas is not expected to be limited by EU environmental conditions. The introduction of these phytoplasmas in the EU would have an economic impact. There are measures to reduce the risk of entry, establishment, spread and impact. Uncertainties result from limited information on distribution, biology and epidemiology. All the phytoplasmas categorised here meet the criteria evaluated by EFSA to qualify as potential Union quarantine pests, and they do not qualify as potential regulated non-quarantine pests, because they are non-EU phytoplasmas.

The Opinion was adopted on 21 November 2019.

5.4. Art. 29 Scientific opinion on Pest categorisation of non-EU Tephritidae (EFSA-Q-2018-00273)

The Panel on Plant Health performed a group pest categorisation of non-EU Tephritidae, a large insect family containing well studied and economically important fruit fly species and little studied species with scarce information regarding their hosts and species that do not

feed on plants. Information was sought on the distribution of each species and their hosts. Tephritidae occur in all biogeographic regions except in extreme desert and polar areas, where their hosts are scarce or absent. Non-European Tephritidae are listed in Dir 2000/29 EC as Annex 1/ A1 pests whose introduction into the EU is prohibited. Non-EU Tephritidae are regularly intercepted in the EU in trade from Third Countries. Interceptions mainly occur on fruits although there is potential for entry on other plant parts. Beginning with over 5,000 recognised species, factors relevant for pest categorisation were sequentially used to narrow down the list of species to create a list of Tephritidae not known to be established in the EU yet, which occur in countries with some EU climate types and which feed on plants that occur in the EU. Following the introduction of pest species, impacts on cultivated host plants could result in yield and quality losses; harmful impacts on wild hosts are uncertain. Phytosanitary measures are available to prevent the entry of non-EU Tephritidae. Results are presented in a series of appendices listing species screened during the process. Of 4,765 species regarded as non-EU Tephritidae, 257 species satisfy the criteria assessed by EFSA such that they can be considered as potential quarantine pests for the EU. Lack of information of the distribution of hosts and/ or impact means 1,087 species of non-EU Tephritidae do not satisfy all criteria to be considered as potential quarantine pests for the EU. Non-EU Tephritidae do not meet the criteria assessed by EFSA for consideration as regulated non-quarantine pests, as members of the group are not present in the EU and plants for planting are not the main means of spread.

The Opinion was adopted on 21 November 2019.

5.5. Art. 29 Scientific opinion on Pest categorisation of *Spodoptera eridania* (EFSA-Q-2019-00424)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Spodoptera eridania* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) for the European Union (EU). *S. eridania* (southern armyworm) is a highly polyphagous pest native to the Americas which has spread to Africa being first reported there in 2016. There are multiple generations per year. Although it can endure short freezing periods, prolonged frosts are lethal. Eggs are laid in batches on the leaves of host plants. Five to seven larval instars follow. Like other armyworms, early instars are gregarious and cause leaf skeletonization. Older instars disperse and become more solitary and nocturnal. Larvae feed on field vegetables and can bore into tomato fruit. They can eat apical portions of branches and can bore into stems and tubers if preferred foods are scarce. Pupation takes place in the soil. *S. eridania* is regulated in the EU by Directive 2000/29/EC (Annex IAI). Within this Directive, a prohibition of soil imported from countries where *S. eridania* occurs, prevents the entry of *S. eridania* pupae. However, immature stages on plants (excluding seeds), fruit and flowers provide potential pathways for entry into the EU. *S. eridania* adults have been intercepted in the EU as hitchhikers. Climatic conditions and the wide availability of host plants provide conditions to support establishment in frost-free regions of the EU. It could spread more widely forming transient populations during summer months. Impacts on field vegetables and ornamentals would be possible. Phytosanitary measures are available to reduce the likelihood of entry. *S. eridania* satisfies the criteria that are within the remit of EFSA to assess for it to be regarded as a potential Union quarantine pest. *S. eridania* does not meet the criteria to be regarded as a potential Union regulated non-quarantine pest.

The Opinion was adopted on 21 November 2019.

5.6. Art. 29 Scientific opinion on the List of non-EU Scolytinae of coniferous hosts (EFSA-Q-2017-00567)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health prepared a list of non-EU Scolytinae spp. (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) affecting coniferous hosts. A literature review and search of databases,

conducted up to January 2019, identified 804 Scolytinae species and subspecies of coniferous hosts. These Scolytinae were assigned to two categories: (a) 705 non-EU species and subspecies, known to occur only outside the EU or having only limited presence in the EU, and (b) 99 species and subspecies with substantial presence in the EU (i.e. they are only reported so far from the EU or known to occur or be widespread in some Member States or reported in more than three EU MS). Scolytinae of category (b) will be excluded from further categorisation efforts. The main knowledge gaps and uncertainties of this listing concern (i) the status of species that are present in only a few MS, and (ii) the status of the species that are present only at boundaries of the EU territory. The non-EU Scolytinae will be categorised by the Panel in a separate opinion.

The Opinion was adopted on 21 November 2019.

5.7. Art. 29 Scientific opinion on Pest categorisation of non-EU Scolytinae of coniferous hosts (EFSA-Q-2019-00425)

The Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of non-EU Scolytinae (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) of coniferous hosts (hereafter NESC). NESC occur worldwide, and some species are important forest pests. Species can be identified using taxonomic keys and molecular methods. Most NESC species (bark beetles) live in the inner bark of their hosts (phloem and cambium), while the remaining species mostly colonize the sapwood (ambrosia beetles). Bark- and ambrosia beetles are often associated with symbiotic fungi, which behave as pathogens towards the host trees, or are used as food by ambrosia beetle larvae. The larvae live in individual tunnels or in communal chambers. Pupation occurs in the wood or in the bark. Some species are semi- or multivoltine, others are monovoltine. Some species attack and kill living, apparently healthy trees. Other species specialize in weakened, dying or dead trees. The pathways for entry are cut branches, cones, round wood with or without bark, sawn wood with or without bark, wood packaging material, bark, manufactured wood items and wood chips and plants for planting (including seeds) of conifers. Availability of host plants and suitable climate would allow the establishment in the EU of NESC. Measures are in place to prevent their introduction through the pathways described above. NESC satisfy all the criteria to be considered as Union quarantine pests. As NESC are not present in the EU and plants for planting are not their major pathway for spread, they do not meet the criteria to be considered as regulated non-quarantine pests.

The Opinion was adopted on 21 November 2019.

5.8. Art. 29 Scientific opinion on the pest Categorisation on *Saperda tridentata* ((EFSA-Q-2019-00170)

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health (PLHP) performed a pest categorisation of *Saperda tridentata* (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) for the European Union (EU). *S. tridentata* (elm borer) occurs in eastern North America. *Ulmus americana* and *U. rubra* are almost exclusively reported as hosts, apart from two 19th century records from the USA of larvae from *Acer* sp. and *Populus* sp. The Panel does not exclude the possibility of a post-entry shift in host range to European *Ulmus* or *Acer* and *Populus*. *S. tridentata* infests trees that are already weakened, and severe infestations can result in tree death. *S. tridentata* occurs across a range of climate types in North America that occur also in Europe. Between 2016 and 2019 *S. tridentata* larvae were intercepted with North American *Ulmus* logs imported into the EU. In the EU, American *Ulmus* species are mainly found in arboreta and as ornamental specimen trees. If only North American *Ulmus* are hosts, establishment is unlikely. However, if European *Ulmus*, *Populus* or *Acer* species become hosts, establishment is much more likely, with impact confined to already weakened trees. The information currently available on geographical distribution, biology, impact and potential entry pathways of *S. tridentata* has been evaluated against the criteria for it to qualify as potential Union quarantine pest or as Union regulated non-

quarantine pest (RNQP). Since the pest is not reported in EU, it does not meet the criteria assessed by EFSA to qualify as potential Union RNQP. *S. tridentata* satisfies the criterion for quarantine pest regarding entry into the EU territory. Due to the scarcity of data, the Panel is unable to conclude if *S. tridentata* meets the post-entry criteria of establishment, spread and potential impact.

The Opinion was adopted on 21 November 2019

5.9. Art. 29 Scientific opinion on Commodity Risk Assessment of High risk plants - ISRAEL - *Albizia julibrissin* (EFSA-Q-2019-00107)

The EFSA Panel on Plant health was requested to prepare and deliver risk assessments for commodities listed in the relevant Implementing Acts as "High risk plants, plant products and other objects" (Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 establishing a provisional list of high risk plants, plant products or other objects, within the meaning of Article 42 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031). The current scientific opinion covers all plant health risks posed by *Albizia julibrissin* imported from Israel, taking into account the available scientific information, including the technical information provided by Israel. The relevance of an EU-regulated pest for this opinion was based on: (a) evidence of the presence of the pest in Israel and its absence in the EU; (b) evidence that *Albizia julibrissin* is a host of the pest and (c) evidence that the pest can be associated with the commodity. The relevance of other pests present in Israel (not regulated in the EU) for this opinion was based on (i) evidence of the absence of the pest in the EU; (ii) evidence that *A. julibrissin* is a host of the pest; (iii) evidence that the pest can be associated with the commodity and (iv) evidence that the pest may have an impact and can pose a potential risk for the EU territory. Three pests (two insects and one fungus) that fulfilled all criteria were selected for further evaluation (*Aonidiella orientalis*, *Euwallacea fornicatus* and *Fusarium euwallaceae*). For the three selected pests, the risk mitigation measures proposed in the technical dossier were evaluated. Limiting factors on the effectiveness of the measures were documented. For each of the three pests, an expert judgement is given on the likelihood of pest freedom taking into consideration the risk mitigation measures acting on the pest, including any uncertainties. Taking account of the uncertainties associated with the assessment, the Panel is 95% sure that 9900 or more units per 10000 would be pest free from these three pests.

This opinion was adopted on 21 November 2019.

5.10. Art. 29 Pest categorisation of non-EU isolates of potato virus A (EFSA-Q-2019-00506)

The Panel on Plant Health has addressed the pest categorisation of non-EU isolates of potato virus A (PVA). The information currently available on geographical distribution, biology, epidemiology, potential entry pathways, potential additional impact over the current situation and availability of control measures of non-EU isolates of PVA has been evaluated with regard to the criteria to qualify as potential Union quarantine pest. Because non-EU isolates of PVA are absent from the EU, they do not meet one of the requirements to be regulated as an RNQP (presence in the EU); as a consequence, the Panel decided not to evaluate the other RNQP criteria for these isolates. This categorisation was performed considering two groups of isolates: those reported in *Solanum betaceum* (PVA-TamMV, not reported from the EU) and all other isolates (hereafter referred to as PVA, worldwide distribution). Non-EU isolates of PVA and of PVA-TamMV do not meet one of the criteria evaluated by EFSA to be regarded as a potential Union quarantine pest, since they are not expected to have an additional impact in the EU.

This opinion was adopted on 21 November 2019.

5.11. Art. 29 Pest categorisation of non-EU isolates of potato virus V (EFSA-Q-2019-00509)

The Panel on Plant Health has addressed the pest categorisation of non-EU isolates of potato virus V (PVV). The information currently available on geographical distribution, biology, epidemiology, potential entry pathways, potential additional impact and availability of control measures of non-EU isolates of PVV has been evaluated with regard to the criteria to qualify as potential Union quarantine pest. Because non-EU isolates of PVV are absent from the EU, they do not meet one of the requirements to be regulated as an RNQP (presence in the EU); as a consequence, the Panel decided not to evaluate the other RNQP criteria for these isolates. This categorisation was performed considering two lineages, PVV-I (present in and outside the EU) and PVV-II (not reported in the EU), and isolate PVV-PA4 (unknown distribution). Non-EU isolates of PVV-I and PVV-PA4 do not meet one of the criteria evaluated by EFSA to be regarded as a potential Union quarantine pest, since they are not expected to have an additional impact in the EU. With the exception of the criterion regarding the potential consequences in the EU territory, for which the Panel is unable to conclude, non-EU isolates of PVV-II meet all the other criteria to qualify as potential Union quarantine pest.

This opinion was adopted on 21 November 2019.

5.12. Art. 29 Pest categorisation of non-EU isolates of potato virus X (EFSA-Q-2019-00510)

The Panel on Plant Health has addressed the pest categorisation of non-EU isolates of potato virus X (PVX). The information currently available on geographical distribution, biology, epidemiology, potential entry pathways, potential additional impact and availability of control measures of non-EU isolates of PVX has been evaluated with regard to the criteria to qualify as potential Union quarantine pest. Because non-EU isolates of PVX are absent from the EU, they do not meet one of the requirements to be regulated as an RNQP (presence in the EU); as a consequence, the Panel decided not to evaluate the other RNQP criteria for these isolates. On the basis of their ability to overcome potato resistance genes, PVX isolates can be divided into several pathotypes. PVX isolates that are not able to overcome resistance genes and PVX isolates that are able to overcome the *Nb* and/or *Nx* resistance genes are already present in the EU. Isolates able to overcome the *Rx* resistance gene have only been reported from South America. These *Rx* breaking isolates could potentially have an additional impact over the current situation in the EU and therefore meet all the criteria to qualify as a potential Union quarantine pest. All other non-EU isolates, should they be introduced, are not expected to have additional impact and therefore do not meet this criterion to qualify as a potential Union quarantine pest.

This opinion was adopted on 21 November 2019.

5.13. Art. 29 Pest categorisation of non-EU isolates of potato virus Y (EFSA-Q-2019-00511)

The Panel on Plant Health has addressed the pest categorisation of non-EU isolates of potato virus Y (PVY). The information currently available on geographical distribution, biology, epidemiology, potential entry pathways and potential additional impact of non-EU isolates of PVY, has been evaluated with regard to the criteria to qualify as potential Union quarantine pest. Because non-EU isolates of PVY are absent from the EU, they do not meet one of the requirements to be regulated as an RNQP (presence in the EU); as a consequence, the Panel decided not to evaluate the other RNQP criteria for these isolates. Populations of PVY can be subdivided into several strains and groups of isolates: strain C (PVY-C), strain N (PVY-N), strain O (PVY-O), and a wide range of recombinant isolates (PVY-recombinants) which have a worldwide distribution (including the EU). Two groups of isolates, i.e. the Brazilian (PVY-Br) and Chilean (PVY-Ch) isolates, are considered absent from the EU. Non-EU isolates of

PVY-C, PVY-N, PVY-O and PVY-recombinants identified so far are not expected to have an additional impact in the EU compared to the PVY isolates already present and, therefore, do not meet the corresponding criterion to qualify as potential Union quarantine pest. The Panel is unable to conclude on the potential additional impact of isolates of PVY-Br and PVY-Ch in the EU territory, but these isolates meet all the other criteria to qualify as potential Union quarantine pests.

This opinion was adopted on 21 November 2019.

5.14. Art. 29 Pest categorisation of non-EU isolates of Potato leafroll virus (EFSA-Q-2019-00512)

The Panel on Plant Health has addressed the pest categorisation of non-EU isolates of potato leafroll virus (PLRV). The information currently available on geographical distribution, biology, epidemiology, potential entry pathways, potential additional impact and availability of control measures of non-EU isolates of PLRV has been evaluated with regard to the criteria to qualify as potential Union quarantine pest. Because non-EU isolates of PLRV are absent from the EU, they do not meet one of the requirements to be regulated as an RNQP (presence in the EU); as a consequence, the Panel decided not to evaluate the other RNQP criteria for these isolates. This categorisation was performed considering two groups of PLRV isolates: those associated with the tomato yellow top disease (PLRV-TYTV), not reported from the EU, and all other isolates (hereafter referred to as PLRV), with a worldwide distribution. Isolates of PLRV-TYTV could potentially have an additional impact over the current situation in the EU and therefore meet all the criteria to qualify as a potential Union quarantine pest. All other non-EU PLRV isolates, should they be introduced, are not expected to have additional impact and therefore do not meet this criterion to qualify as a potential Union quarantine pest.

This opinion was adopted on 21 November 2019.

6. Feedback from Scientific Panel including their Working Groups

6.1. Update from WG on High Risk Plants Section I

A general overview of the number and the progress on the High Risk Plants dossiers received and a summary of the webinar held on the 17th October were presented.

It was presented also an update of the activities of Working Group (WG) on High Risk Plants – Section I and the next steps foreseen, particularly on work ongoing on the dossier on Robinia pseudoacacia (EFSA-Q-2019-00108) from Israel.

The Chair of the EFSA Plant Health Panel nominated Panagiotis Milonas as vice-chair of the WG High Risk Plants Section I.

6.2. Update from WG on High Risk Plants Section II

The WG chair presented the content and progress in the evaluation of the current dossier the WG is dealing with, on *Acer* spp. from New Zealand ([EFSA-Q-2019-00601](#), [EFSA-Q-2019-00600](#), [EFSA-Q-2019-00599](#)), followed by a short update regarding the work performed by the WG so far and specifying the next steps including the working group meeting plan.

The chair of the PLH Panel nominated Francesco Di Serio and Christer Magnusson as vice-chairs of the WG High Risk Plants Section II.

6.3. Update from WG on High Risk Plants Section III on Art. 29 Scientific opinion on Commodity Risk Assessment of High risk plants - Serbia - *Malus* (EFSA-Q-2019-00532)

The WG chair presented the content and progress in the evaluation of the current dossiers, in particular the dossier on *Malus* spp. plants from planting from Serbia (EFSA-Q-2019-00532), followed by a short update regarding the work performed by the WG so far and specifying the next steps including the working group meeting plan.

The chair of the PLH Panel chair nominated Lucia Zappalà as vice-chair of the WG High Risk Plants Section III.

6.4. Update from PLH panel Working Groups on Pest Categorisation

The chair of the WG on bacterial plant pathogens pest categorisation updated the Panel about the next task of the WG, i.e. a list and categorisation of non-EU potato phytoplasmas.

7. Feedback from EFSA, including its Working Groups

7.1. Feedback on the organisation of the second European research conference on *Xylella fastidiosa*, Ajaccio (FR) 29-31 October 2019

The main results of the second European conference on *Xylella fastidiosa* (Ajaccio, 29-30 October 2019) were presented and discussed. The Posters presented by EFSA staff and Panel members were presented during the coffee break.

8. Feedback from the European Commission

European Commission quickly update on the status of the High Risk Plants dossiers that they have received and that they are analysing.

9. Update from Scientific Committee and its Working Groups

PLH Panel Vice Chair Di Serio is going to replace PLH Panel Chair Bragard to the next SC plenary in December. Stephen Parnell will attend the SCER WG on uncertainty.

10. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

10.1. 2020: International Year of Plant Health

EFSA ALPHA Unit in cooperation with EFSA Communication, Engagement and Cooperation Department) is organizing for the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) a series of activities, which includes

- hosting a workshop with EU Chief Plant Health Officers (COPHS) meeting at EFSA in Parma in spring 2020;
- participating actively to the International Plant Health Conference (5-8 October 2020, Helsinki) "Protecting Plant Health in a changing world";
- delivering a series of webinars during the year, targeted to phytosanitary services, EU pest risk assessors and importing countries on the tasks and methodologies performed by EFSA in Plant Health;
- communicating for the IYPH2020 on EFSA website;
- organising additional activity through the @Plants_EFSA twitter account, such as live tweets and campaigns: technical aspects are currently under evaluation.

7 Feedback from EFSA, including its Working Groups (continues)

7.2 Update from EFSA WG on horizon scanning

EFSA presented an overview of ongoing collaborations and activities on the newsletters and pest ranking. The results of the second exercise of ranking on unlisted pests found in media and scientific literature monitoring were presented as well as the next steps: 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 October and November 2019.

The Panel raised comments on the ranked pests and suggested a deeper discussion on the methodology.

11. AOB

11.1. Calendar of PLH Panel plenaries:

Web-plenary 18 December 2019; 2020 calendar

Some Panel members highlighted the difficulties in finding accommodation in Parma within EFSA reimbursement rate in March and May 2020 due to trade shows/exhibitions. ALPHA unit will look at possible solutions for March plenary meeting and check whether periods, instead of the EFSA price, especially for the months of March and May. PLH team to look into possible solution, May plenary might be moved to another period.

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 *Rubus* 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 Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², 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 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3, however, he can participate to this agenda meeting to present the work he conducted as coordinator of the related EFSA Art 36 Tasking Grant Specific Contracts.

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