

PANEL ON PLANT HEALTH

MINUTES OF THE 28TH PLENARY MEETING
OF THE EFSA SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON PLANT HEALTH
HELD IN PARMA (ITALY) ON 15-16 SEPTEMBER 2010

(ADOPTED ON 17 NOVEMBER 2010)

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PARTICIPANTS

Members of the PLH Panel

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AMU Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

Apologies

Jean-Claude GRÉGOIRE, Jan SCHANS and Gábor LÖVEI (PLH Panel)

Harry ARIJS and Jean-François MALJEAN (European Commission)

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Panel Chair welcomed the Panel members and the Commission observer. Apologies were received from Jean-Claude GRÉGOIRE, Jan SCHANS and Gábor LÖVEI (PLH Panel), Harry ARIJS and Jean-François MALJEAN (European Commission).

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interest, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest (ADoI) and Specific Declaration of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the experts invited to the meeting. For further details on the outcome of the declaration of interest please refer to Annex 1.

4. REPORT ON THE WRITTEN ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 27TH PLENARY MEETING

The minutes were adopted by written procedure. The list of actions from the previous meeting was reviewed.

5. REPORT ON THE WRITTEN ADOPTION OF THE OPINION ON THE APPROPRIATENESS OF A COMPOSTING METHOD PROPOSED BY PORTUGAL AS A HEAT TREATMENT TO ELIMINATE PINE WOOD NEMATODE FROM BARK OF PINE TREES

EFSA is requested to provide a scientific opinion concerning the effectiveness and reliability of a composting method, proposed by the Portuguese authorities, as a heat treatment against pine wood nematode (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*) in the bark of pine trees in compliance with Commission Decision 2006/133/EC. The mandate is registered in the EFSA register of questions as EFSA-Q-2010-00946.

A report from the adoption of the opinion by written procedure was provided to the Panel. The Opinion was adopted unanimously.

EFSA secretariat thanked the Panel for the prompt adoption by the agreed date and reported that the necessary editorials have been made and the opinion published on 16 September 2010. The opinion is available at <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1717.htm>.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT OPINION ON THE TECHNICAL FILE SUBMITTED BY THE JAPANESE AUTHORITIES TO SUPPORT A DEROGATION REQUEST FROM THE EU IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR BONSAI AND TOPIARY TREES THAT ARE HOST PLANTS FOR *ANOPLOPHORA CHINENSIS*

EFSA is requested to provide a scientific opinion on a technical file submitted by the Japanese authorities to support a derogation request from the EU import requirements for bonsai and topiary trees that are host plants of *Anoplophora chinensis*. In particular, EFSA is requested to determine whether the alternative measures included in the Japanese derogation request provide a comparable level of protection of the Union against the introduction of *Anoplophora chinensis* as those stipulated in Commission Decision 2008/840/EC. The mandate is registered in the EFSA register of questions as EFSA-Q-2010-00945.

The draft opinion was presented to the Panel. The conclusions presented were discussed and amendments suggested. It was agreed that the opinion would be adopted by written procedure.

7. NEW MANDATES FROM THE COMMISSION

- **Opinion on a technical file submitted by the US authorities to support a request to list a new option among the EU import requirements for wood of *Agrilus planipennis* host plants**

The Commission representative presented the mandate. Requirements for imported wood that are host plants for *Agrilus planipennis* were outlined to the Panel and the background to the request presented. The organism is listed in Council Directive 2000/29/EC.

The Panel discussed the request and how to address the mandate. A mandate specific working group was proposed. In addition, the Chair requested that the secretariat progress a new self-task for the evaluation of management options.

8. UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE ON-GOING MANDATES

- **Evaluation of PRA of *Phytophthora ramorum***

EFSA is requested to provide a scientific opinion on the pest risk analysis on *Phytophthora ramorum* prepared by the FP6 project RAPRA. The mandate is registered in the EFSA register of question as EFSA-Q-2010-00841.

A progress report was provided to the Panel.

- **Self-task on ERA PLH**

EFSA is requested to develop guidance for the assessment of environmental risks of plant pests. The mandate is registered in the EFSA register of questions as EFSA-Q-2010-00794.

A progress report was provided, focusing on the work carried out in relation to the ecological risk associated with a reduction in biodiversity and the resulting impacts on ecosystem services. The progress made on developing trait and service clusters as well as a scoring system was also presented.

The Panel discussed the presentation made by the working group. Though agenda item 9 the EFSA horizontal task force on environmental risk assessment was postponed, the working group should read the document and if possible provide comments.

- **Assessment of the risk to plant health of *Monilinia fructicola* for the EU territory**

EFSA is requested to provide a pest risk assessment of *Monilinia fructicola* and if appropriate, to identify risk management options and to evaluate their effectiveness in reducing the risk to plant health posed by this organism. The area to be covered by the requested pest risk assessment is the EU territory. EFSA is also requested to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the special requirements linked to *Monilinia fructicola*, presently listed in Annex IV, Part A, Section I of Council Directive 2000/29/EC, in reducing the risk of introduction of this pest into the EU territory. The mandate is registered in the EFSA register of questions as EFSA-Q-2010-00912.

An update on the mandate was provided. The issue of access to data on impact from member states was discussed. The secretariat advised that they would determine the data collection procedure for contacting member states directly.

- **Assessment of the risk to plant health of Plum pox virus for the EU territory**

EFSA is requested to provide a pest risk assessment of Plum Pox Virus (PPV), to identify risk management options and to evaluate their effectiveness in reducing the risk to plant health posed by this organism. The area to be covered by the requested pest risk assessment is the EU territory. EFSA is also requested to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the special requirements linked to PPV, presently listed in Annex IV, Part A, Section I and II of Council Directive 2000/29/EC, in reducing the risk of introduction and spread of this pest into the EU territory. The mandate is registered in the EFSA register of questions as EFSA-Q-2010-00913.

EFSA has been recently informed that a pest risk assessment on the organism is being prepared also in one of the member states. Therefore, a clarification will be sought from the Commission whether this would determine any modifications in the scope of the working group activities.

- **Assessment of the risk to plant health of *solanaceous pospiviroids* for the EU territory**

EFSA is requested to provide a pest risk assessment of the *solanaceous pospiviroids*, to identify risk management options and to evaluate their effectiveness in reducing the risk to plant health posed by this organism. The area to be covered by the requested pest risk assessment is the EU territory. EFSA is also requested to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the measures listed in Commission Decision 2007/410/EC in reducing the risk to plant health posed by this organism. The mandate is registered in the EFSA register of questions as EFSA-Q-2010-00911.

The question of data availability and national surveys was discussed.

9. PRESENTATION OF THE EFSA HORIZONTAL TASKS FORCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT

Item postponed.

10. MISCELLANEOUS

- **Report from Scientific Committee**

The Panel Chair presented an update from the recent meeting of the Scientific Committee. A draft opinion on nanotechnologies will be circulated to the Panel for comments. Though issues fall largely outside the remit of the Panel part of the opinion does address plant pathogens.

Internal report on environmental risk assessment can be accessed by the Panel.

Other matters discussed include animal cloning and forthcoming EFSA colloquium on emerging risk in food and the research priority proposals under the DG research framework programme. Suggestions were sought for research areas.

- **Update on EmRisk PLH**

A representative of the EFSA Emerging Risk Unit (EmRisk) provided an update for the Panel. The legislative framework, identification process, analysis of emerging risks, time horizons and overall strategy were given. Interactions between the EmRisk Unit and the Panel were addressed and the Panel was given the opportunity to question the speaker on various aspects of the project.

- **PLH Colloquium 2011**

In connection with the presentation on EmRisk, a feedback session on the discussion that took place at the previous plenary meeting was given. In addition to relations with the EFSA EmRisk Unit the areas of the definition of EmRisk for Plant Health and the forthcoming scientific colloquium was outlined. Proposals for the discussion groups in the colloquium were outlined and contributions sought from the Panel on other aspects to consider as part of the colloquium.

- Update from PLH Secretariat

The EFSA Secretariat provided an update to the Panel. The deadline to the Article 36 call for a review of the survey methods used to identify quarantine pests has been extended. Forthcoming events of interest to the Panel were presented by the Secretariat. The Panel was advised that the call for experts (including experts in the field of plant health) has been extended. The Panel was informed by the Commission representative of the organization in DG SANCO of the unit dedicated to Plant Health matters.

- Next meeting confirmation

17-18 November 2010 Parma, Italy

Annex 1

With regard to the mandate on *Phytophthora ramorum* Dr. Richard Baker declared an interest with respect to these mandates in relation to his involvement in preparation of the PRA under evaluation. In accordance with EFSA's policy on Declarations of Interest and Implementing documents thereof, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting above, the interest above was deemed to be represent a conflict (level C). Pursuant to EFSA's Procedure on Identifying and Handling Declarations of Interest, the said expert as per point C.III¹ is excluded from drafting the opinions, and discussing and adopting the final Panel output.

With regard to the mandate on plum pox virus Dr. Thierry Candresse declared an interest with respect to this mandate in relation to his current activity with INRA in France. In accordance with EFSA's policy on Declarations of Interest and Implementing documents thereof, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting above, the interest above was deemed to be represent a conflict (level C). Pursuant to EFSA's Procedure on Identifying and Handling Declarations of Interest, the said expert as per point C.III¹ is excluded from drafting the opinion, and discussing and adopting the final Panel output.

With regard to the mandate on *Agrilus planipennis* and citrus canker Dr. Marina Zlotina declared an interest with respect to these mandates in relation to her current activities with USDA APHIS. In accordance with EFSA's policy on Declarations of Interest and Implementing documents thereof, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting above, the interest above was deemed to be represent a conflict (level C). Pursuant to EFSA's Procedure on Identifying and Handling Declarations of Interest, the said expert as per point C.III¹ is excluded from drafting the opinions, and discussing and adopting the final Panel outputs.

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/doiconflicts.pdf>