

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON PLANT HEALTH**

**Minutes of the 49<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the Scientific Panel on Plant Health  
Held on 20-22 May 2014, Parma**

**(Agreed on 2 July 2014)**

**Participants**

- **Panel Members:**

Richard Baker, Claude Bragard, Thierry Candresse, Gianni Gilioli, Jean-Claude Gregoire, Imre Holb, Michael John Jeger, Olia Evtimova Karadjova, Christer Sven Magnusson, Charles Manceau, Maria Navajas, Trond Rafoss, Vittorio Rossi, Jan Schans, Gritta Schrader, Gregor Urek, Johan Coert Van Lenteren, Irene Vloutoglou, Stephan Winter, Wopke Van Der Werf

- **European Commission:**

Guillermo Cardon

- **EFSA:**

Animal and Plant Health Unit: Franck Berthe, Ewelina Czwieniczek, Gabor Hollo, Virag Kertesz, Svetla Kozelska, Tomasz Oszako, Marco Pautasso, Giuseppe Stancanelli, Sara Tramontini, Sybren Vos

**1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

The Panel Chair welcomed the participants to the 49<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the EFSA Plant Health Panel. Apologies were received from David Makowski and from Françoise Petter (European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation).

Charles Manceau did not participate in agenda points 4, 5, 7, 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3 and participated only partially to agenda points 6.1, 6.2 and 8.4 (apologies were received from Charles Manceau for the first day of the plenary meeting, 20 May 2014) .

**2. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

**3. Declarations of interest**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests<sup>2</sup>, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) and the Specific Declaration of interest (SDoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the SDoI, please refer to Annex I.

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

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf>

#### 4. Agreement of the minutes of the 48<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting held on 12-13 March 2014

The minutes were agreed without changes.

#### 5. Update on public consultations for discussion and possible endorsement of public consultation reports

No public consultations have taken place in the respective time period.

#### 6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and/or possible adoption/ endorsement

##### 6.1. Pest categorisation of *Clavibacter michiganensis* spp. *michiganensis* ([EFSA-Q-2012-00807](#))

The final version of the draft opinion was presented to the Panel for discussion and adoption.

*Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *michiganensis* (Cmm) is the agent responsible for vascular tomato wilt and canker and can be identified based on a range of sensitive and specific methods. Tomato is the main host, but peppers are also naturally susceptible to Cmm. Host plants are cultivated throughout Europe and conditions are conducive to disease development in open fields in southern Europe and in greenhouses. The disease is present in many EU Member States. Outbreaks are rare but usually severe. Despite tomato seed production being done under strict sanitation using recommended practices, seed contamination still occurs occasionally. Contaminated seeds and transplants are responsible for long-distance dissemination of the pathogen. Under conducive conditions, even low levels of seed contamination can result in disease outbreaks. Cultivation practices can favour secondary spread of the bacterium and an increase in disease incidence both in greenhouse and in open-field crops. Seed testing has proven to be a good control option by discarding contaminated seed lots. No effective biological or chemical control agents are registered for bacterial canker in Europe. Cmm meets all criteria defined in International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 21 but also meets ISPM 11 criteria: although it has been observed in 16 EU Member States, the outbreaks are usually severe but sporadic.

The opinion was adopted by the Panel with minor changes.

##### 6.2. Pest categorisation of *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *vesicatoria* ([EFSA-Q-2012-00808](#))

The final version of the draft opinion was presented to the Panel for adoption.

The European Commission requested the EFSA Panel on Plant Health to perform the pest categorisation for *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *vesicatoria*, which is the causal agent of bacterial spot of tomato and pepper. *X. campestris* pv. *vesicatoria* is not a single taxonomic entity, and four separate species have been described: *X. vesicatoria*, *X. euvesicatoria*, *X. perforans* and *X. gardneri*. These organisms can be accurately identified based on a range of discriminative methods. Detection methods are available for seeds. Among the four species described within *X. campestris* pv. *vesicatoria*, all except *X. gardneri* were reported to be present in the EU territory. The host plants (tomato and pepper) are cultivated throughout Europe and conditions are conducive to disease development in open fields in southern Europe and in greenhouses. Contaminated seeds and transplants are responsible for long-distance dissemination of the pathogen. Control is mainly based on prevention and exclusion. Extraction of seeds from fruit debris using fermentation and acid treatments and thermotherapy treatments were shown to be effective in reducing the bacterial load in seed lots. No methods and chemical control agents are available that effectively control xanthomonads in infected crops. Although no recent data are available on economic losses caused by these pathogens in the EU, the organisms are considered important bacterial pathogens of tomato and pepper, with reports of up to 30 % losses. Xanthomonads causing bacterial spot of tomato and pepper meet all criteria defined in International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 21 and they also meet ISPM 11 criteria, although *X.*

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*vesicatoria*, *X. euvesicatoria* and *X. perforans* are present in the EU territory, and only *X. gardneri* has not yet been reported in the EU.

The opinion was adopted by the Panel with minor changes.

## 7. Update on written adoptions

### 7.1. Environmental risk assessment of the apple snail for the EU ([EFSA-Q-2013-00739](#))

The opinion was adopted by written procedure on 31 March 2014. All comments received were addressed. The opinion has been published in the EFSA Journal.

### 7.2. *Daktulosphaira vitifoliae* pest risk assessment and evaluation of risk reduction options ([EFSA-Q-2012-00804](#))

The opinion was adopted by written procedure on 21 April 2014. All comments received were addressed. The opinion has been published in the EFSA Journal.

## 8. New External Mandates / Progress report and discussion

### 8.1. Soil and growing media ([EFSA-Q-2013-00405](#))

The working group presented the progress of the commodity risk assessment. Work is ongoing on the description of the current regulations, extracting risk reduction options from the different regulations. The listing of soil and growing media and the associated organisms have been outsourced and the report initially due in July 2014 will be delivered in September 2014. Following an extensive literature search, nearly 600 papers are being analysed in detail to evaluate the effectiveness of risk reduction options.

### 8.2. *Xylella fastidiosa* pest risk assessment and evaluation of risk reduction options ([EFSA-Q-2013-00891](#))

The WG chair presented the current status of the work. There are four accepted subspecies of the organism which is colonising the xylem of host plants. Information about the host plants has been extracted by an extensive literature search from scientific and technical literature revealing more than 300 host species in more than 60 plant families and 180 genera. All xylem-sap feeding insects in Europe can be considered as potential vectors. The pathogen is currently present in the Americas, from Canada in the north to Brazil in the south. Besides, it has been reported in Taiwan and, since 2013, in south Italy. Direct severe damage is caused in important crops, and there is no record of successful eradication. Several challenges of the assessment were described, including the need to address the vectors as well, the very wide host range, and the need to consider the Apulian outbreak while research is still ongoing.

### 8.3. Risk to plant health posed by the biological control agent *Trichilogaster acaciaelongifoliae* for the EU territory ([EFSA-Q-2013-00241](#))

EFSA was requested to provide a scientific opinion on the risk to plant health posed by the biological control agent *Trichilogaster acaciaelongifoliae*. This Australian bud-galling wasp has been reported to control the invasive plant *Acacia longifolia* in South Africa and studies are ongoing in Portugal to assess whether the release of *Trichilogaster acaciaelongifoliae* could be used to control *Acacia longifolia* in Portuguese natural vegetation. The working group is under establishment and will commence work soon. This is the first opinion of the PLH Panel dealing with the assessment of the plant health risk of the release of a biological control agent.

### 8.4. Risk to plant health of 38 regulated harmful organisms for the EU territory

EFSA was requested to provide a pest risk assessment of 38 plant pests: *Clavibacter michiganensis* spp. *insidiosus* (EFSA-Q-2014-00243); *Erwinia amylovora* (EFSA-Q-2014-

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00252); *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *persicae* (EFSA-Q-2014-00255); *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *phaseoli* (EFSA-Q-2014-00257); *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *pruni* (EFSA-Q-2014-00258); *Xylophilus ampelinus* (EFSA-Q-2014-00259); *Elm phloem necrosis mycoplasma* (EFSA-Q-2014-00251); *Grapevine flavescence dorée* (EFSA-Q-2014-00253); *Spiroplasma citri* (EFSA-Q-2014-00256) and its vectors *Circulifer haematoceps* (EFSA-Q-2014-00268) and *Circulifer tenellus* (EFSA-Q-2014-00269); *Potato stolbur mycoplasma* (EFSA-Q-2014-00254); *Beet leaf curl virus* (EFSA-Q-2014-00281); *Cherry leafroll virus* (EFSA-Q-2014-00282); *Citrus tristeza virus* (EFSA-Q-2014-00283); *Prunus necrotic ringspot virus* (EFSA-Q-2014-00284); *Strawberry latent C virus* (EFSA-Q-2014-00285); *Strawberry vein banding virus* (EFSA-Q-2014-00286); *Tomato yellow leaf curl virus* (EFSA-Q-2014-00287); *Atropellis* spp. (EFSA-Q-2014-00260); *Ceratocystis fimbriata* f. sp. *platani* (EFSA-Q-2014-00261); *Cryphonectria parasitica* (EFSA-Q-2014-00262); *Diaporthe vaccinii* (EFSA-Q-2014-00263); *Phoma tracheiphila* (EFSA-Q-2014-00264); *Verticillium albo-atrum* (EFSA-Q-2014-00265); *Verticillium dahliae* (EFSA-Q-2014-00266); *Ditylenchus destructor* (EFSA-Q-2014-00278); *Radopholus citrophilus* (EFSA-Q-2014-00279); *Radopholus similis* (EFSA-Q-2014-00280); *Aculops fuchsiae* (EFSA-Q-2014-00276); *Eotetranychus lewisi* (EFSA-Q-2014-00277); *Aonidiella citrina* (EFSA-Q-2014-00267); *Helicoverpa armigera* (EFSA-Q-2014-00270); *Paysandisia archon* (EFSA-Q-2014-00271); *Rhagoletis cingulata* (EFSA-Q-2014-00272); *Rhagoletis ribicola* (EFSA-Q-2014-00273); *Scirtothrips dorsalis* (EFSA-Q-2014-00274); *Spodoptera littoralis* (EFSA-Q-2014-00275).

In line with the experience gained with the previous two batches of pest risk assessments of organisms listed in Annex II, Part A, Section II of Directive 2000/29/EC and to further streamline the preparation of risk assessments for regulated pests, EFSA was requested to split the work in two stages, each with specific outputs: first a pest categorisation for each of these 38 regulated pests (step 1); then upon receipt and analysis of these outputs, the Commission will inform EFSA for which organisms it is necessary to complete the pest risk assessment, to identify risk reduction options and to provide an assessment of the effectiveness of current EU phytosanitary requirements (step 2). For the preparation of the pest categorisations, EFSA was requested, in order to define the potential for establishment, spread and impact in the risk assessment area, to focus on the analysis of the present distribution of the organism in comparison with the distribution of the main hosts and on the analysis of the observed impacts of the organism in the risk assessment area.

The mandate and the 2-steps-approach was presented and discussed. As explained in the background of the EC request, the objective of this mandate is to provide updated scientific advice to the European risk managers for their evaluation of whether these 38 organisms listed in the Annexes of the Directive 2000/29/EC still deserve to remain regulated under Council Directive 2000/29/EC, or whether they should be regulated in the context of the marketing of plant propagation material, or be deregulated. Therefore, to facilitate the decision making process, the Panel decided to address in the pest categorisations the key criteria for quarantine pest according to ISPM 11 (FAO, 2013) but also for regulated non quarantine pest according to ISPM 21 (FAO, 2004) and to include additional information required as per the specific terms of reference received by the EC. In addition, the Panel agreed to include in the pest categorisation a short description of the main uncertainties. Based also on the experience and discussion on the pest categorisations of the two tomato bacteria opinions (see items 6.1 and 6.2 above), a template for pest categorisation was discussed and agreed.

The mandate for the pest categorisations was then discussed in breakout sessions focusing on the common methodologies and on the taxonomy of the pests.

To deliver the 38 pest categorisations by end of 2014, the work of the Panel will be organised through one methodological WG and seven taxonomic Working Groups. The scope of the methodological WG is to develop fit for purpose risk assessment methodologies and

processes to support risk managers in updating the EU listing of regulated plant pests: this WG will develop templates for pest categorisation (step 1), pest risk assessment and evaluation of risk reduction options (step 2) of regulated plant pests, to be used by the seven taxonomic WGs; and it will deliver by end of 2015 a Guidance on risk assessment of regulated plant pests (2015). The scope of the seven taxonomic WGs is to deliver by end of 2014 the pest categorisations (step 1) of the 38 plant pests, whereas the conduct by end of 2015 of the full risk assessments (step 2) on part of these 38 pests will depend on the risk managers feedback on step 1.

A plan for the preparation and adoption of the 38 pest categorisations was presented by the Chairs of the seven taxonomic WGs:

Working Group	Planned adoption July 2014	Planned adoption September 2014	Planned adoption November-December 2014
Dir 2000/29/EC Viruses	<i>Strawberry vein banding virus</i> <i>Strawberry latent C virus</i>	<i>Prunus necrotic ringspot virus</i> <i>Cherry leafroll virus</i> <i>Beet leaf curl virus</i> <i>Tomato yellow leaf curl virus</i>	<i>Citrus tristeza virus</i> <i>Potato stolbur mycoplasma</i>
Dir 2000/29/EC Bacteria		<i>Pseudomonas syringae</i> pv. <i>persicae</i> <i>Xanthomonas campestris</i> pv. <i>pruni</i> <i>Xanthomonas campestris</i> pv. <i>phaseoli</i>	<i>Xylophilus ampelinus</i> <i>Erwinia amylovora</i> <i>Clavibacter michiganensis</i> spp. <i>insidiosus</i>
Dir 2000/29/EC Phytoplasma	<i>Elm phloem necrosis mycoplasma</i>	<i>Grapevine flavescence dorée</i>	<i>Spiroplasma citri</i> <i>Circulifer haematoceps</i> <i>Circulifer tenellus</i>
Dir 2000/29/EC Fungi	<i>Diaporthe vaccinii</i> <i>Phoma tracheiphila</i>	<i>Ceratocystis fimbriata</i> f. sp. <i>platani</i> <i>Cryphonectria parasitica</i>	<i>Atropellis</i> spp. <i>Verticillium albo-atrum</i> <i>Verticillium dahliae</i>
Dir 2000/29/EC Nematodes	<i>Ditylenchus destructor</i>	<i>Radopholus citrophilus</i> <i>Radopholus similis</i>	
Dir 2000/29/EC Mites	<i>Eotetranychus lewisi</i>	<i>Aculops fuchsiae</i>	
Dir 2000/29/EC Insects	<i>Helicoverpa armigera</i> <i>Paysandisia archon</i>	<i>Rhagoletis cingulata</i> <i>Rhagoletis ribicola</i>	<i>Spodoptera littoralis</i> <i>Aonidella citrina</i> <i>Scirtothrips dorsalis</i>

## 9. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/the Scientific Panel, EFSA, the European Commission

### 9.1. Scientific Committee and other Scientific Panels

#### a. SC WG on Review of Guidance documents

Activity in relation to the new template has been conducted by the Scientific Committee (SC) WG on Review of Guidance documents, aiming at standardising the format of the opinions that appear at the EFSA Journal. The template has been tested by ALPHA unit scientific staff

on a PLH panel opinion already published and the only major changes identified regard the introduction of a specific separate section on the interpretation of the terms of reference and the increased focus on methodology. It was noted that the conversion from the old into the new template of a scientific opinion already formatted will take a considerable amount of working time, therefore it is recommended that the change of template is planned and communicated well in advance. The template will be presented to and discussed by the Scientific Committee for approval at its next meeting. The SC WG is also discussing how often EFSA guidance documents should be reviewed and revised.

#### **b. SC WG on Emerging Risks**

The WG is divided in two subgroups, one on biological risks and the other on chemical risks, the former involving the area of plant health. Their focus is on the identification of potential drivers that could end up as emerging risks. Another task of the subgroups is to see how these drivers could combine. The general morphological analysis process that is used in other fields to identify drivers was investigated to understand whether it could be used in the plant health field. The framework of the approach is promising but the capacity needs to be expanded so that it can be used in the plant health field. A report on the drivers of emerging risks produced by the WG has been published.

#### **c. SC WG on Environmental risk assessment**

The PLH Panel scientific opinion on ERA Pomacea will be presented to the SC WG on Environmental risk assessment.

#### **d. SC WG on Uncertainty**

Starting from the EFSA-wide guidance on uncertainty, the WG is working on harmonising the approach taken in different EFSA Panels to address uncertainty in risk assessment for food and feed safety and animal and plant health. The approach is considering different tiers. The WG is also discussing about a semi-quantitative approach to address uncertainty.

### **9.2. Update on publications related to PLH Panel activity**

No new update was provided.

### **9.3. EFSA: Scientific and technical assistance on a pilot project for gathering information on pests and diseases of apple fruit (*Malus domestica*) in the EU territory ([EFSA-Q-2014-00046](#))**

The mandate and its background were introduced to the Panel. Being a request following article 31 of the Reg. 178/2002, this mandate does not require the delivery of a scientific advice by the PLH Panel, but a data collection by EFSA. EFSA is requested to collect data and information on the pests and diseases of apple fruit present in the EU. The exercise is a pilot project in support of bilateral trade agreements concerning the EU export of apple fruit. There is a need for standardised and validated dataset and information to be used for the preparation of PRA by third countries when trading with EU. Since the collection of EU-wide data and information for PRA purposes is a complex exercise, EFSA was requested to carry out this pilot project. For setting up the database containing data and information on the pests and diseases of apple fruit present in the EU, the following issues are requested to be considered in the mandate: pest distribution in the EU, regulatory status, biology of the pests, consequences expressed in yield and quality loss, methods used for surveillance, detection or diagnosis, as well as control measures applied in affected areas. The construction of the database will involve outsourcing through public procurement of extensive literature search, data extraction and database population. The deadline is December 2015.

#### **9.4. European Commission**

The EC representative provided information on the current mandates on *Trichilogaster acaciaelongifoliae* and on the 38 pests, and provided feedback on the fitness for purpose of the pest categorization template.

#### **10. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion**

No further topics or discussions were raised.

#### **11. Any Other Business**

The dates of 2014 plenary meetings were confirmed.

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## Annex I

### Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Specific Declaration of Interests (SDoI)<sup>3</sup>

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** In the SDoI filled for the present meeting Prof. Johan Coert Van Lenteren declared, in relation to the item 8.3, Risk to plant health posed by the biological control agent *Trichilogaster acaciaelongifoliae* for the EU territory (EFSA-Q-2013-00241), the following interest under Activity III. Member of a scientific advisory body: member of the Commission on Harmonisation of Regulation of Invertebrate Biological Control Agents of the International Organization of Biological Control Western Palaearctic Section (IOBC WPRS).

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was deemed to represent a conflict of Interest.

Therefore, the expert abstained from the discussion on the item "Risk to plant health posed by the biological control agent *Trichilogaster acaciaelongifoliae* for the EU territory (EFSA-Q-2013-00241)".

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<sup>3</sup> The Annual Declarations of Interests have been screened and approved before inviting the experts to the meeting, in accordance with the Decision of the Executive Director implementing the Policy on Independence regarding Declarations of Interests.

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