



EFSA PLH one year of activity Accomplishments & challenges

**EFSA Scientific Colloquium 10
Parma, 6-7 December 2007**

EFSA mission - plant health

Reg. (EC) No 178/2002 & Reg. (EC) No 575/2006:

- **The Authority shall contribute to a high level protection of human life and health and in this respect to take account of (...) **plant health** and the environment**
- **... shall provide **scientific opinions** on ... **matters** relating to ... **plant health** [Art. 22.5(b)]**

- **Created 2006 (Comm. Reg. 575/2006).**
- **Started June 2006 (1st Plenary)**
- **The mandate: to assess risks related to plant health in order to help secure the safety of the food chain**
- **The job: to produce opinions on organisms harmful to plants or plant products posing a threat to crop production and/or biodiversity within the European Community**
- **The goal: to build a reputation of scientific excellence to underpin development of Community plant health policy and make EFSA the reference body for pest risk assessment in the EC.**

- **The objectives:**
 - **To provide scientifically sound, independent and transparent advice to the risk manager on organisms harmful to plants or plant products posing a threat to crop production and/or biodiversity within the European Community**
 - **To contribute to EFSA's goal at developing, promoting and applying new and harmonized scientific approaches and methodologies for hazard and risk assessment of food and feed**

The Panel

- **21 high level scientists + ad hoc experts**
- **5 permanent working groups**
- **Independent (annual and specific DoI)**
- **Knowledge, experience and skills in pest risk assessment area**
- **9 plenary meetings**
- **55 working group meetings (incl. teleconferences)**
- **EFSA PLH Secretariat: 3 scientists, 3 supporting admin & scientific staff**

- **An evaluation made by the US Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of asymptomatic citrus fruit as a pathway for the introduction of citrus canker disease (*Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *citri*)**
- **PRA made by Spain on *Bactrocera zonata*, a fruit fly listed in the quarantine list of the Community plant health legislation (Council Directive 2000/29/EC)**

- **PRAs made by EPPO for invasive alien species that pose a threat to plant health, environment and biodiversity in the EPPO region, i.e. *Lysichiton americanus* and *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides***
- **PRAs made by Lithuania and Poland respectively on a pest risk assessment made by both countries as regards *Ambrosia* spp.**

- **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**

- **Separation of pest risk assessment from pest risk management**
- **Relationship with national food safety agencies/phytosanitary authorities**
- **Specific situation in PLH: ISPM 11 requires evaluation of economic impact;**

EFSA pest risk assessment: Prospects

- **Networking of MS organisations operating in the fields within the Authority's mission (Art. 36)**
- **The aim: to facilitate a scientific cooperation network by the coordination of activities, the exchange of information, the development and implementation of joint projects, the exchange of expertise and best practices**
- **PLH – call announced in 2007: Inventory of data sources for phytosanitary pest risk assessment in the European Community**

For more information consult:

- **EFSA Scientific Panel on Plan Health:**

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/ScientificPanels/efsa_locale-1178620753812_PLH.htm

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