







Minutes

**Meeting of the Expert Group on Plant Health Legislation (E00925)
Discussion of the Delegated Act on Priority Pests
9 July 2018, 14H30 - 18H00**

Chair : European Commission (COM), DG SANTE (Unit G1 - Plant Health),
Present : Experts of the Member States, DG JRC and EFSA

	Topic	Documents
1.	<p>Welcome and introduction</p> <p>The Commission welcomed the participants of the second Expert Group meeting and noted that no representatives of the European Parliament and the Council were present. The draft agenda was adopted as proposed.</p>	
2.	<p>Presentation by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) of the expert knowledge elicitation process and data support to the activities carried out by the Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC) on priority pests</p> <p>EFSA presented the expert knowledge elicitation process which is currently ongoing in order to generate the relevant information to be transmitted to JRC for follow-up analysis as part of the priority pests methodology. EFSA explained the source of information, as well as the selection process and quality checks. Further clarifications were provided as regards the data collection for polyphagous pests and vector borne diseases. EFSA invited the Expert Group to express views about the relevance of the parameter “number of additional treatments” that is currently used to inform and complement the indicator “undesired effects”. The expert group was invited to provide comments by end of July 2018.</p>	 ITEM 2- EFSA_20180703.pdf
3.	<p>Presentation by JRC of the updated methodology for the identification of the Union quarantine pests qualifying as priority pests</p> <p>JRC presented the updated methodology, addressing the comments and remarks provided by the Expert Group following the first meeting of 16 January 2018. JRC also informed that for some criteria to identify the priority pests as listed under Annex I, Section 2 of the Plant Health Regulation (EU) 2016/2031, relevant information was missing (e.g. resources additional research and advice) and therefore not taken into account in the methodology. The first pilot pest <i>Tilletia indica</i> was presented, together with the preliminary results of its economic, social and environmental impact for the Union territory. Finally, JRC informed that some further consultation of the Expert</p>	 ITEM 3 - JRC Presentation on upda

	<p>Group may be necessary as regards the UNESCO heritage sites which are of concern for some particular pests, and eventually other additional information which may be needed during the course of the JRC work. A follow-up email explaining further details of this additional consultation may follow in the coming weeks.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Update by JRC about the state of play of forestry data submitted by Member States</p> <p>JRC presented the state of play of the forestry data request launched in February 2018 among the Expert Group. Participants were informed that the deadline for submitting the final data was extended until end of July 2018. The Commission stressed the importance to participate in this exercise to support the analysis of forestry pests and to ensure a solid basis to apply the priority pests methodology.</p>	 <p>ITEM 4-JRC-Forestry data request.pdf</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Exchange of views about the list of potential candidate priority pests and follow-up activities</p> <p>The Commission presented the potential priority pests which are currently being addressed by EFSA and JRC. The Commission also informed that some members of the Expert Group had submitted additional pests for assessment and other pests to be removed as not considered of great impact for the Union or widely distributed. Considering the long list of pests currently being assessed by EFSA and JRC and the need to optimize resources and time in view of the short deadline for the delivery of the tasks (by May 2019), the Expert Group was invited to consider possible removal of pests from the current assessment or being assessed at a later stage, and focus more on the pests of important concern for the Union as a whole. The Expert Group was invited to submit comments by end of July 2018.</p> <p>Overall, Member States expressed general support about the comprehensive approach taken by EFSA and JRC for the development of the methodology, and stressed the need to keep the focus on the most important pests, given the resource implications for Member States when dealing with the new <i>priority pests</i> (e.g. setting up of contingency plans, action plans for eradication, information activities, etc.). The Commission stressed that the delegated act on priority pests will be updated on a regular basis taking into account the evolution of the situation for each specific pest in the Union territory and new emerging risks.</p>	 <p>ITEM 5 - Exchange of views list of potent</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>The Commission thanked the Expert Group for the assistance, and the commitment to contribute with relevant data for the good implementation of the methodology. As requested in the different presentations, the expert group was invited to submit any comments and views, if any, at the latest by July 2018, in order to proceed smoothly with the continuation of the work and extend the application of the methodology to the remaining potential priority pests. The group was informed that a follow-up meeting of the Expert Group may take place by end of 2018.</p>	