



**Minutes**

**Meeting of the Expert Group on Plant Health Legislation (E00925)  
 Discussion of the Delegated Act on Priority Pests  
 16 January 2018, 09H00 - 13H00**

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

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Documents</b>
	<p><b>Welcome and introduction</b></p> <p>The Commission presented the provisions of Article 6(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031, detailing the conditions for listing the Union quarantine pests as priority pests; introduced the overall timeline and process of preparation and adoption of the delegated act, as well as explained the role of the expert group during the preparatory work of the delegated act.</p>	
	<p><b>EFSA Mandate and the Administrative Agreement between DG SANTE and JRC</b></p> <p>The expert group was informed that in order to prepare the delegated act on priority pests, the Commission has asked the Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to develop a methodology that can support the Commission in the identification of the <i>Union Quarantine pests</i> qualifying as <i>priority pests</i>.</p>	
	<p><b>Presentation by JRC and EFSA of the methodology that is currently being developed for the identification of the <i>Union quarantine pests</i> qualifying as <i>priority pests</i>;</b></p> <p>JRC and EFSA presented the draft methodology that is currently being developed, highlighting some open issues for discussion. More particularly, the expert group was informed about the JRC need of data at Member State level and suggestions for possible sources, especially as regards forest plant species; they were also informed about possible <i>ad-hoc</i> consultations at Member State level which JRC may carry out as regards some data gaps on specific pest treatment and related costs; and lastly the group was informed about the ongoing reflection as regards the specificity of agricultural crops and forestry in the overall methodology context.</p>	
	<p><b>Exchange of views</b></p> <p>Member States expressed general support about the comprehensive approach taken by EFSA and JRC for the development of the methodology, and they overall welcomed the possibility to assist DG SANTE and JRC with any data available at</p>	

	<p>national level. Comments were raised about the importance of transparency about data collection, stakeholders' involvement, and the political dimension of the weighing factors for the different economic, environmental and social criteria listed under the plant health legislation. The expert group provided views about the specificity of forests and natural ecosystems compared to the agricultural crops. Lastly, it was stressed to consider, when setting up the list of priority pests, the resource implications for Member States in order to comply with the follow-up obligations, especially as regards the need of developing simulation exercises, contingency and action plans, together with awareness raising campaigns.</p>	
	<p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>The Commission thanked the expert group for the assistance, and the general interest to contribute with relevant data during the development and implementation of the methodology.</p> <p>The expert group was invited to provide comments to the Commission about the draft methodology as presented by JRC and EFSA by 16 February 2018.</p> <p>The expert group was informed that a specific data request will follow very soon.</p>	