

Report of EFSA

Report of the Public Consultation of the guidance on the evaluation of pest risk assessments and risk management options prepared to justify phytosanitary measures in the European Community

(Related to Question No EFSA-Q-2008-299)

EFSA's Scientific Panel on Plant Health provides independent scientific advice on the risks posed by plant pests that can cause harm to plants and plant products in the EU. The Panel prepared a draft guidance document that describes the process and criteria used for evaluating pest risk assessment documents prepared to justify phytosanitary measures taken in the European Community under Council Directive 2000/29/EC. The guidance document was launched for public consultation in January 2009.

The consultation closed on 2 March 2009 and comments were received from the European Commission and Czech Republic. These comments were reviewed in detail and discussed by the Panel on Plant Health in its 19th plenary meeting. Recommendations were agreed for amending the document to:

- include the evaluation of risk management options
- provide clarification of EFSA terminology in plant health risk assessment in the context of international standards for pest risk analysis
- reflect more recent clarifications on the scope of EFSA activities with regard to the evaluation of potential consequences arising from pest introductions.

Following incorporation of the recommendations, the "Guidance on the evaluation of pest risk assessments and risk management options prepared by third parties to justify requests for phytosanitary measures under Council Directive 2000/29/EC" was adopted in May at the 20th plenary meeting of the Panel.

A further guidance document is in preparation to provide a harmonised framework for pest risk assessment and evaluation of risk management options.