

EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATION
**ORGANISATION EUROPEENNE ET MEDITERRANEENNE
POUR LA PROTECTION DES PLANTES**

18-24487

Terms of reference of the Working Party on Phytosanitary Regulations (2018)

Background

The first meeting of the WPPR took place in 1955 in Paris and it has met every year since. The EPPO Council approved in 1990 the ToRs for the Working Party on Phytosanitary Regulations which were revised in 2005. A second revision of the ToR was made and approved by the Executive Committee in 2017 to better reflect the activities carried out.

Scope

The WPPR covers all aspects of EPPO's work to support Member Countries' activities in preventing the introduction and spread of plant pests, including quarantine pests, regulated non-quarantine pests, invasive alien species and any such organisms presenting a potential phytosanitary risk for the EPPO region.

Tasks

The Working Party reports on the work it oversees to the Executive Committee and Council. Some of the following tasks may be delegated by the Working Party to one or more of the Panels which it oversees, in which case this should be made clear through the Panels' Terms of Reference.

- Oversight of technical Panels within its scope, including considering their reports and recommendations and periodically reviewing their terms of reference
- Making any necessary recommendations to the Executive Committee about the membership of Panels
- Approving relevant sections of the annual Work Programme, including the priority actions for Panels and the Secretariat, and actions to maintain and strengthen relationships with other organisations working in the phytosanitary area
- Communicating as necessary with the Working Party on Plant Protection Products in relation to issues within the remit of both Working Parties.
- Development, review, revision and recommendations to Council for approval or withdrawal of EPPO Standards in these series:
 - PM1 - General Phytosanitary Measures
 - PM2 - Specific Phytosanitary Requirements [currently all withdrawn]
 - PM3 - Phytosanitary Procedures
 - PM4 - Production of Healthy Plants for Planting
 - PM5 - Guidance for Pest Risk Analysis
 - PM6 - Safe use of Biological Control
 - PM7 - Diagnostics
 - PM8 - Commodity Specific Phytosanitary Measures
 - PM9 - National Regulatory Control Systems
 - PM10 - Phytosanitary Treatments

- Establishment of collective views on global issues (especially the IPPC, ISPMs, and SPS agreement of WTO) (this task is largely delegated to the CPM Affairs Panel, under their current Terms of Reference),
- identification of pests presenting a potential phytosanitary risk and their prioritisation for evaluation by PRA
- Review of conclusions and recommendations resulting from PRAs carried out by Expert Working Groups or by member countries,
- Exchange of information on pests of concern, including their biology, geographical distribution, hosts, pathways
- Exchange of information on phytosanitary regulations
- Other work delegated by the Executive Committee or Council

Way of Working

All member countries are invited to send representatives to the Working Party. Member countries may decide the size and composition of their delegation. Some continuity in attendance is helpful to the efficient conduct of business.

Invitations and agendas are sent to EPPO's official contact points in the member countries and permanent observer organisations at least 2 months before the meeting. Delegates are invited to register at least 1 month before the meeting. Documents are posted on an Extranet where they are available to all registered participants.

Meetings of the Working Party are normally chaired by the Director General, assisted by other members of the Secretariat. Decisions are generally taken by consensus. When consensus cannot be achieved the issue or document concerned is normally referred back to the relevant expert Panel for further technical work. In exceptional cases, where reference back to the Panel is unlikely to resolve the issue, the discussion may be reported to Council along with the recommendation which can be supported by most countries, and statements from countries which object, with their reasons. Where decisions have to be confirmed after a meeting, for example by redrafting a document, consultation of those who attended the Working Party may be carried out by e-mail or teleconference. The Working Party may also provisionally approve recommendations to be presented to Council, delegating final agreement of a text to the relevant Panel which can then be consulted by e-mail or teleconference.

Representatives of permanent observer organisations participate in Working Party meetings as observers. They may speak in meetings, with the agreement of the Chairman, and contribute to discussion, but do not otherwise take part in the decision making process, whether this is by consensus or voting. Where the Chairman considers this necessary the Working Party may meet for certain agenda items without observers present.