



Joint Conference of EPPO, FAO-REUFIS and BFW

Safeguarding Forests in Europe:

Emerging Risks of *Agrilus* Wood Borers (Buprestidae)

Vienna, 21-23 April 2026

Draft Programme

Start	Duration	Presenter	Title of the presentation	Page
Day 1: 21 April 2026 (Tuesday)				
9:00	1:00	Registration and coffee		
Session 1. Moderator: Gernot Hoch				
10:00	0:10	Gernot Hoch & Peter Mayer	Opening of the conference Welcome to the Austrian Research Centre for Forests (BFW)	
10:10	0:10	Nico Horn	Greetings from the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO)	
10:20	0:10	Gernot Hoch	The Conference in 2018: ' <i>Preparing Europe for invasion by the beetles emerald ash borer and bronze birch borer, two major tree-killing pests</i> '	10
10:30	0:20	Ferenc Lakatos & Shiroma Sathyapala	From Networks to action: How the FAO Regional Forest Invasive Species Networks contribute to the detection, monitoring and control of <i>Agrilus</i> species	11
10:50	0:20	Dmitrii Musolin	EPPO activities and resources on <i>Agrilus</i> species and its Network of experts working on surveillance, monitoring, and control of the emerald ash borer, <i>Agrilus planipennis</i>	12
11:10	0:30	Andrew Liebhold	<i>A keynote lecture:</i> European trees on the precipice of their demise?	13
11:40	1:00	Group photo and light lunch		
12:40	0:30	Eckehard Brockerhoff	<i>A keynote lecture:</i> Outcomes of attempts to eradicate incursions of <i>Agrilus planipennis</i> in North America and potential lessons for European incursion responses	14

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13:10	0:20	Pascal Rouse	Capacity building for reliable identification of non-native <i>Agrilus</i> in Europe: the role of the European Union Reference Laboratory for insects and mites	15
13:30	0:20	Elena Bacher	Between bark and barcode: Integrating morphology and molecular tools in forest pest diagnostics	16
13:50	0:20	Sofia Windstam	Surveys and contingency preparedness in Sweden for bronze birch and emerald ash borers	17
14:10	0:30	Coffee		
Session 2. Moderator: Marc Kenis				
14:40	0:15	Katrina Dainton	Preliminary investigation into the threat of the bronze birch borer, <i>Agrilus anxius</i> , to Scotland	47
14:55	0:15	Céleste Merckx & Alexandre Kuhn	Designing risk-based detection surveys for quarantine <i>Agrilus</i> species in Belgium	53
15:10	0:15	Ülle Metsman	Keeping the emerald ash borer out: Risk-based surveillance, preparedness and public engagement in Estonia	54
15:25	0:15	Lara Salido	Building capacity for ash pest and disease surveillance in eastern Europe: Botanic gardens as sentinel sites	57
15:40	0:15	Jean-Marc Henin	RAMWOOD: Risk assessment and mitigation in wood chips and fuelwood in international trade	49
15:55	0:15	Kolos Lórántfy	Phytosanitary risk posed by the emerald ash borer, <i>Agrilus planipennis</i> , in Hungary	46
16:10	0:20	Poster teaser session		
16:30	2:00	Poster session and mixer		
18:30	Closing of Day 1			
Day 2: 22 April 2026 (Wednesday)				
Session 3. Moderator: Eckehard Brockerhoff				
9:30	0:20	Yuri Baranchikov & Dmitrii Musolin	The emerald ash borer in the Russian Federation: 30 years of the range expansions	20
9:50	0:20	Natalia Kirichenko	Molecular genetics of the emerald ash borer, <i>Agrilus planipennis</i> , invasion in European Russia and eastern Europe	21
10:10	0:20	Rimvydas Vasaitis	Invasion of emerald ash borer and ash dieback in Ukraine, – concerted action: an update year 2025	22
10:30	0:20	Tobias Frühbrodt	Recent mass outbreak of <i>Agrilus biguttatus</i> associated with local oak decline following drought and heat in south-east Germany	23

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10:50	0:30	Coffee		
11:20	0:30	Benno Augustinus	<i>A keynote lecture:</i> Urban ash trees in Europe: risks and opportunities	24
11:50	0:20	Franz Streissl	EFSA plant health activities with a focus on <i>Agrilus</i> species	25
12:10	0:20	Iryna Matsiakh	Project EABRACE – combined efforts in the Baltic region	26
12:30	0:20	Neil Audsley	Preparing for the emerald ash borer in Great Britain	27
12:50	0:20	Maarten de Groot	Challenges in eradication of <i>Agrilus planipennis</i> in Slovenian forests: Are we ready?	28
13:10	0:50	Light lunch		
Session 4. Moderator: Jean-Claude Grégoire				
14:00	0:20	Enrico Ruzzier	Improving invasion scenarios for <i>Agrilus</i> species in Europe through advanced SDMs	29
14:20	0:20	Aleksander Dziuk	The influence of the selected morphological features of <i>Agrilus biguttatus</i> (F.) beetles on their potential dispersal abilities	30
14:40	0:20	Michelle Cleary	The bronze birch borer, <i>Agrilus anxius</i> , as a potential risk for European birch: Host naivety and early detection tools	31
15:00	1:00	Group work	Surveillance: Data sourcing to plan surveys for <i>Agrilus planipennis</i> and <i>A. anxius</i> : Where to get data on host plant population, risk activities, risk locations, etc. Moderators: Benno Augustinus, Maarten De Groot, Gernot Hoch, Iryna Matsiakh	
16:00	0:30	Coffee		
16:30	0:30	Davide Rassati	<i>A keynote lecture:</i> Innovative tools and strategies for the surveillance of <i>Agrilus</i> species and other beetles	32
17:00	0:20	Wim Jennes	Design of a survey for <i>Agrilus planipennis</i> in the Benelux ecoclimatic region	33
17:20	0:20	Madeleine van Eijk	<i>Agrilus</i> survey in the Netherlands	34
17:40	0:20	Jasmin Wilhelm	Survey design and contingency planning for <i>Agrilus planipennis</i> in Austria	35
18:00	Closing of Day 2			
19:00	3:00	Conference dinner at <i>Brandauer Schlossbräu</i>		

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Day 3: 23 April 2026 (Thursday)				
Session 5. Moderator: Michelle Cleary				
9:30	0:20	Jean-Claude Grégoire	Propagule pressure in invasive pests of woody plants: Change the metrics?	38
9:50	0:20	Anastasia Uglow	Host responses and potential diagnostic tools for the emerald ash borer in European ash	39
10:10	0:20	Donnie Peterson	Early detection using LAMP assays for the emerald ash borer (<i>Agrilus planipennis</i>) and the two-lined chestnut borer (<i>Agrilus bilineatus</i>)	40
10:30	0:30	Discussion	Surveillance: Will the surveys achieve early detection? Potential for improvement? Data deficiency for survey planning? Improved or additional methods needed? Moderator: Benno Augustinus, Maarten De Groot, Gernot Hoch, Iryna Matsiakh	
11:00	0:30	Coffee		
11:30	0:20	Christine Dodge	Current status, successes, and limitations of the USDA APHIS PPQ emerald ash borer biological control program	41
11:50	0:30	Marc Kenis	<i>A keynote lecture:</i> Parasitoids of European <i>Agrilus</i> spp. and their potential for controlling invasive <i>Agrilus</i> spp.	42
12:20	0:20	Adnan Uzunovic	Treatments against <i>Agrilus</i> borers (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) in wood products: An update on dielectric heating and fumigation with EDN as potential treatments, and a systems approach for wood chips	43
12:40	0:20	Véronique Martel	Detection using tomodesitometry and heat treatment of <i>Agrilus</i> spp.: Towards efficient and sustainable phytosanitary measures	44
13:00	1:00	Light lunch		
Session 6. Moderators: Gernot Hoch, Dmitrii Musolin, Ferenc Lakatos				
14:00	1:30	Discussion	Preparedness: Are we prepared? Reflect the discussions during the meeting, check national surveillance, contingency planning and identify challenges. Update Regional Standards? What is needed? Moderators: Gernot Hoch, Dmitrii Musolin, Ferenc Lakatos	
15:30	0:30	Organizers	Reflections and concluding remarks	
16:00	Closing of the conference			