Minutes of First Scientific Meeting of COST FP1002 PERMIT

Local Organiser: Prof Milka Glavendekic, Faculty of Forestry, University of Belgrade,

Serbia

Chair: Prof Hugh Evans, Forest Research, Aberystwyth, UK Vice Chair: Dr Thomas Jung, Phytophthora Research and Consultancy,

Brannenburg, Germany

Participants: See Annex 1

Thursday 05.05.2011

Management Committee meeting

1. The Agenda was accepted by the participants.

- 2. Australia, Austria, Ireland, Malta, Slovakia and Albania were not able to attend the meeting.
- 3. Chair made a call for a new WG2 leader to replace Thomas Schröder. Prof Jean-Claude Grégoire (entomologist) from ULB, Belgium volunteered and was elected by the MC as WG2 leader. The Deputy leader will be the pathologist Dr Treena Burgess from Murdoch University, Australia.
- 4. A detailed report on COST activities was provided by Melae Langbein from the COST office in Brussels:
- 23 COST countries and 8 non-COST institutions have accepted the MoU. Greece is also interested in signing the MoU. Since after 23.05.11 MC approval will be required for participation in the Action, the MC voted to approve any application from Greece. Also the group of Prof. Mike Wingfield from FABI in South Africa will join the Action as a reciprocal non-COST institution.
- The EU has voted to provide COST with an additional 10 Mio €per year which requires new contracts from 2012.
- Information about Reciprocal STSMs: agreements with reciprocal non-COST countries; usually 3000€(in exceptions up to 4000€), not out of Action budget! Only from COST to reciprocal countries, not *vice versa* and it is not restricted to early stage researchers.
- 5. For future meetings, the MC voted to require that a participant will not receive reimbursement if an invitation is not accepted within 4 weeks of transmission or if the reimbursement form is not sent in within 4 weeks after a meeting.
- 6. For the Belgrade meeting the reimbursement for hotel costs will be fixed to 80€per night, to reflect the low hotel costs. Since there were fewer reimbursements than expected for the Belgrade meeting there are funds available for two smaller (ca. 10 people) WG meetings in 2011. It was suggested that combined meetings of WG1 and WG2, and of WG3 and WG4 could be held. Following the meeting, an invitation was received to hold the small meetings at the new EPPO HQ in Paris.
- 7. The Action will hold 1 full scientific meeting including MC meeting, and probably two combined WG workshops per year. From the 2nd year on the Action will also hold training schools, if appropriate.

- 8. There is funding for 4 to 10 STSMs. These are open to <u>every</u> early stage researcher (2nd year master student, PhD student and Postdoc within 8 years from finishing PHD) in COST countries for visits to <u>any</u> institution in COST countries. A detailed explanation of procedure was provided. The STSM coordinator is Dr Rimvys Vasaitis from Sweden and applications should be directed to him.
- 9. There is funding to invite 1 scientist from a non-COST country per full scientific meeting.
- 10. Action website at Forest Research, UK, is in progress and participants were requested to send the Chair, Hugh Evans, information to post on the website. Password restricted areas will be kept to an absolutely necessary minimum!
- 11. The Location and dates for the next full meeting will be decided by the end of May 2011 in order to to provide participants from non-COST countries, ie. Australia, with detailed information required to apply for funding.
- 12. Chair, Vice-chair, Rapporteur and WG leaders and their eligible deputies will automatically receive invitations to MC meetings.
- 13. Participants were requested to inform the Chair, Hugh Evans, about any related projects relevant to PERMIT with which they are involved: Short title, duration, role in project.

After the formal meeting sessions, participants enjoyed a field visit to the Avala Mountain near Belgrade.

Friday, 06.05.11

Working Groups meetings (held as a plenary session)

Discussion on the approach of PERMIT

After an active discussion with various contributions by Hugh Evans, Thomas Jung, Eckie Brockerhoff, Jean-Claude Grégoire, Thomas Schröder, Andrei Orlinski and others, participants agreed on a 4 step procedure:

- 1. Pathway characterisation (with reference to subcategories of pathways)
- 2. Identification of pests/pathogens moving along these pathways followed by characterisation into groups with similar biology; this will also cover the unknown unknowns!
- 3. Choose key organisms from each group for case studies.
- 4. Define measures and analyse their efficiency of controlling these key organisms or find out why they have not been effective. Investigate and characterise which biological properties helped these key organisms to escape the measures!
- 5. The WG3 discussion was led by Mariella Marzano (UK) who provided clear guidance on the requirements of social and educational needs. She called for participation in the WG and was supported by Jelena Tomicevic (Serbia) who subsequently volunteered to act as Deputy Leader of the WG.

Offers for next meeting:

Thomas Schröder, Julius-Kühn-Institut in Braunschweig, Germany; 60-70 participants. Edmundo Sousa, Lisbon, Portugal; no limit in numbers of participants.

Acknowledgement

The Chair thanked Prof Milka Glavendekic and her colleagues for their excellent local organisation of the meeting. This was endorsed by all participants.

Annex 1: PERMIT participants, Belgrade, May 2011

Management Committee and reciprocal non-COST participants

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