

## **COST ACTION FA0807**

# **Action FA0807: Integrated Management of Phytoplasma Epidemics in Different Crop Systems**

# **Draft Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Management Committee Meeting**

**COST Office  
Avenue Louise 149, Brussels, Belgium  
11 May 2009**

### **1 Welcome to participants**

The participants of the inaugural meeting of COST Action FA0807 were welcomed by Dr. Albino Maggio, the Science Officer for this Action.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Albino Maggio until the election of a chairperson for the Action, which was carried out under agenda item 7.

### **2 Adoption of the agenda**

The draft agenda was amended so as item 9 was NON-COST countries

### **3 Presentation of the delegations**

A total of 37 participants from the following 23 Parties were attending the meeting: Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, The Republic of Serbia. Delegates not attending from Austria, Lithuania, Malta and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were not present but they sent justification to Prof. Assunta Bertaccini.

The COST Office was represented by the Science Officer of the COST Domain on Food and Agriculture Dr. Albino Maggio. The list of officially nominated delegates and the participants of the meeting is presented in Annex 1.



#### **4 General information on the COST mechanism and the Annual Grant Scheme**

At the beginning of this item Dr. Albino Maggio gave a briefing on the COST mechanism, presenting the general framework for that programme created to promote scientific and technical co-operation in Europe. Relevant information can be found on the COST Website.

Dr. Albino Maggio informed the delegates about the principles and procedures related to the COST Actions and about the possibilities of getting activities funded from the COST budget. The relevant documents can be found at the official Website of COST:

- Rules and procedures for implementing COST Actions
- Financing of COST activities
- Rules of Procedure for Management Committees of COST Actions
- Guidelines for the implementation of Short-Term Scientific Missions
- Guidelines for evaluation and monitoring of COST Actions (DOC. 271/07)
- Memorandum of Understanding of COST Action FA0807
- COST Grant System (CGS)
- Rules for reimbursement of expenses for experts eligible for reimbursement

With reference to the COST guidelines Dr. Albino Maggio called into mind that Acceptances are committed to making every effort to ensure that the necessary funds for participating in the Action are made available under their internal financing procedure. The document 'Rules and Procedure for Implementing COST Actions' provides various modes for the participation in a COST Action (see Chapter 4).

Furthermore, the MC decided to change *Article 8* defining the minimal number of participating Acceptances that must attend a MC meeting for that meeting to be considered as official. In the light of the current number of accepted countries it has been agreed to lower the relevant threshold from two-thirds to a half.

#### **5 Status of the Action**

COST Action FA0807 was approved by the Committee of Senior Officials on 24 November 2008. The Action entered into force on 14/01/2009 after five Parties had accepted the Memorandum of Understanding. The Action officially starts with the first MC Meeting and will end in four years – 10/05/2013.

As of the first Management Committee meeting, a total of 23 Parties had accepted the MoU according to the official records of the COST Council Secretariat. The acceptance countries were Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel,

Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, The Republic of Serbia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Five Parties have the intention to accept the MoU; these are Belgium, Croatia, Lithuania, Malta, Romania.

## **6 Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

The Management Committee elected Assunta Bertaccini to the Chair of COST Action FA0807. Mogens Nicolaisen was elected Vice-Chair.

The new Action Chair took over the chair of the meeting from this item onwards.

## **7. Election of the Grant Holder Institution & 2 Financial Rapporteurs**

Grant-holder: A. Bertaccini proposed the University of Bologna, Italy, as Grant Holder for the Action, which was unanimously approved. A. Bertaccini also proposed Dijana Škorić from the University of Zagreb, Croatia for the responsibility of Secretary, again with unanimous approval.

## **8 Working plan for implementing the Action**

### **8.1 Objectives and working programme**

The objectives of the Action FA0807 are outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) ([Annex 7](#)). The newly elected Chair, Assunta Bertaccini presented a summary of the Action background on the current status of phytoplasma research worldwide and in Europe, ongoing projects, research trends, networking activities in the phytoplasma research community within Europe and the purpose of this action.

### **8.2 Working method - organisation and management**

It was decided that the Action will be carried out mainly through four Working Groups: Detection/diagnostics (WG1), Epidemiology including vector ecology (WG2), Phytoplasma control in crop systems (WG3) and Phytoplasma/host interactions (WG4). Also the Action will function through Short Term Scientific Missions (STMS). All four Working Groups should address the relevant key areas as described in the MoU. Working Groups have been invited by the Management Committee to cooperate as closely as possible and to ensure the necessary flow of information.

Regarding the grant system the Chair A. Bertaccini expressed the readiness of her institution, University of Bologna, which should be issued at the end of the year 2009. It has been agreed that 15% of the budget will be allocated to the grant holder for the necessary administration.

After a comprehensive discussion the following structures and responsibilities were agreed upon:

#### **8.2.1 Working Group 1: Detection / diagnostics**

Co-ordinators: Bojan Duduk, Republic of Serbia  
Jana Franova, Czech Republic

**8.2.2 Working Group 2: Epidemiology including vector ecology**

Co-ordinators: Phyllis Weintraub, Israel  
Barbara Jarausch, Germany

**8.2.3 Working Group 3: Phytoplasma control in crop systems**

Co-ordinators: Wolfgang Jarausch, Germany  
Ester Torres, Spain

**8.2.4 Working Group 4: Phytoplasma / host interactions**

Co-ordinators: Saskia Hogenhout, United Kingdom  
Xavier Foissac, France

**8.2.5 STSM coordinators: Matthew Dickinson, United Kingdom (STSM committee chair)**

Bojan Duduk, Republic of Serbia  
Phyllis Weintraub, Israel  
Wolfgang Jarausch, Germany  
Saskia Hogenhout, United Kingdom  
Assunta Bertaccini, Italy  
Mogens Nicolaisen, Denmark

**8.2.6 Executive Committee**

In accordance with the existing COST rules the MC has set up an Executive Committee consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chair, the four Working Group Co-ordinators, the STSM Coordinator and the Action Secretary.

**8.2.7 STSM**

All MC members have been invited to encourage young scientists to participate in the scheme. It has been agreed during the MC meeting that the application for STSM should be at the moment continuous and welcomes any proposals.

Applications can only be submitted by using the on-line registration tool ([www.cost.esf.org/stsm](http://www.cost.esf.org/stsm)) described in the relevant guidelines.

**8.2.8 INTERNET/WEB site**

To facilitate communication between the members of the Action and to promote distribution of information on the research activities going on in the field of COST Action FA0807 Dr. Martin

Verbeek expressed the readiness of his institute, PRI, Wageningen, the Netherlands, to host and maintain a Website for this Action on its server. The offer of the PRI, Wageningen has been welcomed by the Management Committee. A general support grant of 2000 euros has been agreed to be made available to the Chair for the general support of Action management and the website launching and maintenance.

### **8.2.9 DC Rapporteur of the Action**

The Domain Committee on Food and Agriculture (DC FA) nominated Ozlem Ekici as Rapporteur for COST Action FA0807, whose task will be to report about the activities of this COST Action to DC FA.

### **8.3 Distribution of tasks**

Furthermore, MC members have been invited to support the Action Chair in building up an informative Website by providing adequate information material.

## **9 Place and date of future meetings**

The date of the next meeting will be at the end of January or beginning of February 2010 in the vicinity of Barcelona, Spain. It has been agreed that 40,000 (see below) Euros will be allocated for this meeting, and a workshop subvention of up to 3,000 Euros (if required by the local organizer).

A training school within the first project year will be held in Germany on the Psyllid collection and identification (4-5 days, early spring 2010, WG2 leaders initiative)

#### Budget relevant decisions:

The Management Committee has approved the following requests:

Grant 2009 for the website (2,000 Euro)

For the STSM (15,000 Euro)

For the training school (15,000 Euro)

For the first meeting in Barcelona (40,000-43,000 Euro depending on the

final budget)

Action Grant: University of Bologna (Administrating Institute), Overheads 15%.

## **10 Non-COST countries**

The MC decided to approve the following requests of the institutions with the exception that the procedure will continue only if the relevant template and official letter addressed to the President of the CSOs are obtained by all interested institutions.

The institutions (scientists) were the following ones:

- Duška Delić - University of Banja Luka – Bosnia and Herzegovina

from Lebanon – as the Cost neighbour country

- Youssef Abou Jaoude American University of Beirut, Beirut and Elia Choueri Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI)

## **11 Any Other Business**

The participation of some non-cost countries was discussed and it was concluded not to reimburse their members participation (Chile, Japan, Canada, Iran, Colombia). The participation of New Zealand, Australia, Cyprus, Sweden, Luxembourg as countries that have their own cost funds or cost countries was discussed and some MC members volunteered to make contact with phytoplasma researchers in order to get them involved within the first six months of the Action.

Criteria and procedure for STSM host institution selection and beneficiaries (young researcher) selection were discussed. Preliminary procedures were agreed on.

## **12 Closing of the meeting**

In closing the meeting on 11 May 2009 at 17:00 hrs Action Chair Assunta Bertaccini expressed her gratitude to the members of the Management Committee for their active participation in the meeting.

## Annex 1

### **List of participants**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Country</b>
Belien Tim	BE
Duchene Cedric	BE
Sakalieva Dimitrijka	BG
Kehrli Patrik	CH
Schaerer Santiago	CH
Navratil Milan	CZ
Spak Josef	CZ
Jarausch Barbara	DE
Maixner Michael	DE
Nicolaisen Mogens	DK
Lavina Gomila Amparo	ES
Torres Guell Ester	ES
Lemmetty Anne	FI
Foissac Xavier	FR
Sauvion Nicolas	FR
Katis Nikolaos	GR
Rumbos Ioannis	GR
Skoric Dijana	HR
Ember Ibolya	HU
Sule Sándor	HU
Mawassi Munir	IL
Weintraub Phyllis	IL
Bertaccini Assunta	IT
Bianco Piero Attilio	IT
De Kock Maarten J.D.	NL
Verbeek Martin	NL
Blystad Dag-Ragnar	NO
Spetz Carl	NO
Kaminska Maria	PL
Pereira Ana Maria	PT
Oancea Florin	RO
Duduk Bojan	RS
Dermastia Marina	SI
Caglayan Kadriye	TR
Ertunc Filiz	TR
Dickinson Matthew	UK
Hogenhout Saskia	UK