Brussels, 20th July 2016

Recommendation of the Working Group on the Annexes of the Council Directive 2000/29/EC – Section II – Listing of Harmful Organisms as regards the future listing of *Phialophora cinerescens* (Wollenweber) van Beyma [1]

Current regulatory status

Phialophora cinerescens is a regulated harmful organism in Annex IIAII of Council Directive 2000/29/EC on plants of Dianthus L. This genera (which includes around 300 species) is included under the requirements for the Marketing Directive for Ornamental Plants 98/56/EC.

As regards import and internal movement, there must be an official statement that the plants have been derived in direct line from mother plants which have been found free from *Phialophora cinerescens*, on officially approved tests, carried out at least once within the two previous years, and that no symptoms have been observed on the plants. However, the requirement for absence of symptoms does not always ensure absence of the pest, mainly because of the possibility of symptomless contamination of planting material.

Identity of the pest

Phialophora cinerescens is a single taxonomic entity and it can be adequately distinguished from other entities of the same genus. Sensitive and reliable methods exist for its detection and identification. In practice, *P. cinerescens* is mainly controlled by using disease-free cuttings from mother plants derived from nuclear stock subjected to meristem tip culture.

Distribution of the pest

The pathogen is an indigenous European species. It has been reported, with only a few occurrences, in several Member States., while absent in 12 Member States.

Potential for establishment and spread in the PRA area

EFSA concludes the environmental conditions are suitable in most parts of the risk assessment area and for most of the host growing season. However, owing to current cultural practices and control measures, new establishment in areas in which the pest was not previously present is considered very unlikely. Following establishment, the pathogen has the potential to spread by human-assisted means (movement of infected host planting stock, particularly asymptomatic plants or by plant debris in soil). It has the ability to survive in soil for many years, probably as saprophyte.

The pest can infect *Dianthus* L. plants systemically as a vascular pathogen and with a potential asymptomatic stage, therefore the association with plants for planting is very high, compared with other sources of infection. Risk reduction options to address the phytosanitary status of the propagation material were therefore considered to be the most effective and feasible (e.g., using a officially accepted carnation certification system for source planting material)

[1] Scientific basis for the recommendation: EFSA Panel on Plant Health (PLH); Scientific Opinion on the risk to plant health posed by *Phialophora cinerescens* (Wollenweber) van Beyma for the EU territory, with the identification and evaluation of risk reduction options. EFSA Journal 2013;11(1):3070. [88 pp.] doi:10.2903/j.efsa.2013.3070 www.efsa.europa.eu/efsajournal

Thus high infection would have an effect on their use, however due to existing cutting production techniques there have been very few cases reported in the EU (or worldwide) recently.

Potential for consequences in the PRA area

EFSA concludes under current measures, the consequences of *Phialophora cinerescens* on carnation are assessed as minimal and unlikely to increase in the future. Since certified plant material (i.e., cuttings) are used in the propagation of carnation and the crop is grown on disinfested substrates/soil on raised benches. No environmental consequences are known in the areas where the disease is or was present.

Impact of *Phialophora cinerescens* on the intended use of the plants for planting is concluded as high because this is the main source of infection, other mechanisms for introduction of the pest are unlikely under existing production systems.

Recommendation

The pest has a strong association with plants for planting compared with other sources of infection, thus high infection would have an effect on their use.

This fungus does not meet the definition of a Union Quarantine Pest under the Plant Health proposal (revised compromise draft 11 March 2015, Annex II, Section 1 (2)), as it is not present in a "limited part" of the EU, or that its presence is only "scarce, irregular, isolated and infrequent", although on *Dianthus* L. it is now infrequent. Eradication measures are also not officially required in *Dianthus* flowering crops.

The Working Group suggests listing this pest as a Regulated Non-Quarantine Pest. The pest may cause economic impact on the intended use of the plants for planting of carnation in flowering crops but is routinely managed successfully now by the use of voluntary certification schemes and other hygiene measures carried out by industry.