Bestilling av oppdatert risikovurdering av *Phytophthora ramorum* i Norge – engelsk versjon av mandat og bakgrunn

Terms of reference

The Norwegian Food Safety Authority (Mattilsynet) asks the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment (VKM) to perform an updated pest risk assessment of *Phytophthora ramorum* in Norway. In its report VKM is asked, in particular to include:

1. Description of lineages, mating types and isolate groups of *P. ramorum*, as well as updated knowledge of their occurrence in Norway, the rest of Europe and elsewhere in the world. The report should also provide information on the total distribution and establishment of *P. ramorum* in Norway.

2. Overview of diagnostic possibilities for distinguishing different lineages, mating types and isolate groups of *P. ramorum*.

3. Updated information on host plants for *P. ramorum*.

4. Updated assessment of possible pathways for introduction for *P. ramorum*, including which host plants and other articles that, when imported, will entail a particularly high risk of introducing the pest to Norway, as well as differences in risk when importing from different countries or regions.

5. Updated knowledge of the future potential for establishment and spread of *P. ramorum* in Norway, particularly in those areas of the country where so far few or no detections have been made in parks/gardens or in natural vegetation.

6. Pest categorization of *P. ramorum* against criteria for what characterizes a potential quarantine pest or a potential regulated non-quarantine pest for Norway. If there are differences in the assessment for different lineages, mating types or isolate groups this should be described in more detail.

7. Assessment of effects if *P. ramorum* is further spread to areas in Norway where few or no findings have been recorded to date, including the consequences of the possible establishment of new lineages, mating types and isolate groups. This includes the potential for damage to various types of cultivated plants, forests and uncultivated plants, as well as any other economic and environmental effects in the short and long term. In addition, a corresponding assessment of the effects for parts of the country where the pest has been repeatedly found.

8. Identification of relevant risk-reducing options and evaluation of their effectiveness and feasibility:

   a. in connection with imports, domestic plant production, and plant sales
   b. when found in a park/garden and in natural vegetation, including an assessment of the possibility of eradication or containment of the pest where it has already been detected and possibly established in Norway.

Background

VKM published in 2009 a pest risk assessment of *Phytophthora ramorum* in Norway, commissioned

by Mattilsynet. In the report VKM concluded i.a. that there is a high probability that infested plants will also be imported into Norway in the future, and that presence of host plants and a favourable climate gives a high probability of further establishment and spread in most of the country. However, it is indicated that there is some uncertainty regarding the size of the endangered area, as the distribution of the most susceptible host plants in particular could be a limiting factor.
Since the risk assessment was published in 2009, there have been several introductions of *P.ramorum* to Norway, and the pest has been repeatedly detected in open fields, in garden centers and in nurseries, mostly in Western Norway. In cooperation with NIBIO Mattilsynet has carried out surveys from 2003 onwards, the last time in 2020. In addition, import controls and controls in Norwegian production nurseries have been carried out. In the cases where the pest has been found, official measures with the purpose of pest eradication have been carried out. Consignments found infested at import controls have been refused entry.
The knowledge base has changed since the last pest risk assessment. There is increased genetic knowledge concerning populations, lineages and mating types, and also changes in the risk picture since the disease has become epidemic in new host plants, for example larch trees in England.

Regulation

In Norway the pest is currently regulated in Forskrift om tiltak mot *Phytophthora ramorum* (Werres et al., 2001), (Regulations 17 March 2003 no. 341 on measures against *Phytophthora ramorum* (Werres et al., 2001), which was laid down as a temporary measure in 2003, pursuant to the Regulations relating to plants and measures against pests § 40. Mattilsynet is now in the process of revising the national plant health regulations and in this connection, it is also relevant to consider the future regulatory status of *P. ramorum*. We have therefore looked at how other European countries have regulated this pest.
In its regulation, the EU has distinguished between "EU isolates" and "non-EU isolates". EU isolates of *P. ramorum* are listed as regulated non-quarantine pests (RNQP), included in parts D, E and J of Annex IV to the Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072, with associated measures to prevent the occurrence of the pest (EU isolates) in plants for planting of the same plant categories in Annex V. Furthermore, the EU has listed *P. ramorum* ("non-EU isolates") on the list of the Union quarantine pests not known to occur in the Union territory (Annex II, part A) and included special requirements for the introduction of specified plants (Annex VII point 32.5) and specified wood (Annex VII point 111) originating in Canada, United Kingdom, United States and Vietnam.

The UK have distinguished between European and non-European isolates in their legislation. *P. ramorum* ("non-European isolates") is regulated as a quarantine pest in The Plant Health (Phytosanitary Conditions) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020, Schedule 1/Annex 2 – list of GB quarantine pests part A (Pests not known to occur in Great Britain). In the same regulations, *P. ramorum* ("European isolates") is listed in Annex 2A - List of provisional GB quarantine pests.