

Approved by Executive Committee on 2017-09-25

Membership of EPPO Panels

Membership of, and withdrawal from, EPPO Panels are subject to EPPO procedures which periodically need to be restated:

1) According to the EPPO Rules of Procedure, Article 21:

“Permanent Panels are composed of persons designated by the Executive Committee. Except where otherwise decided by the Executive Committee, ad hoc Panels are composed of persons designated by the Working Party concerned. Membership of all Panels is subject to the approval of the Governments concerned.”

In practice, the way these rules are implemented is that members of Panels nominated by permanent observers¹ are included in the lists of Panel members provided and approved each year at Council. Other nominations are endorsed by the relevant member Government before being submitted to the Executive Committee;

2) suitable expertise is the main criterion for membership but the balance of members from different countries in the EPPO region is also considered;

3) nominations for Panel membership may be made by anyone (NPPOs, the Panel itself, Working Party, Secretariat, permanent observers ...);

4) members mostly come from NPPOs but there is no limitation on the institutions for which they work. Members may, for example, come from research institutions, universities, industry, or even non-EPPO countries;

5) the travel expenses of Panel members are not paid by EPPO, nor is it EPPO's concern how they are paid (by the NPPO, by the administration of the member ...);

6) members serve as individuals, and EPPO expects the member (not another person) to attend. NPPOs, or other bodies, should not normally send other persons to replace Panel members (but this can be arranged on specific occasions, where appropriate);

7) Additional experts may be invited to attend Panel meetings for specific subjects in which case their NPPO should be informed. An expert who has been nominated by a member Government or permanent observer but not yet appointed by the Executive Committee may attend a meeting as an invited expert. Panel meetings are not normally open to observers, but observers from the host country may be permitted by the agreement of the Panel Chair;

8) Panel members are as far as possible expected to attend all meetings;

9) Panel members may withdraw at any time by simply informing the Secretariat (or the NPPO concerned may at any time withdraw its agreement);

10) Panel members are deemed to have withdrawn if they are absent from two consecutive meetings without reasonable explanation or if it is clear that they have retired or fundamentally changed their employment;

11) the withdrawal of a Panel member does not automatically open the place for a replacement. In particular, an NPPO should not simply designate another person. Every new member should be duly proposed and approved;

12) Members who have withdrawn are no longer notified of meetings, nor receive documents.

¹ Currently (2017) the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Union have permanent observer status in EPPO and the European Crop Protection Association has permanent observer status in the Working Party in Plant Protection Products