



ASF UPDATE- INFO - 1/2020 (28/01/2020)

To: CVOs of all Member States, contact points of MS on ASF, EU Permanent Representations
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Number of pages: 5 + 1 + 1 + 2

Subject: Summary of main activities on African swine fever (3 December 2019 – 27 January 2020)

Message:

Please note the recent and most important activities related to African swine fever (ASF).

1. Epidemiological situation of ASF in the EU.

Summary of epidemiological situation (3 December 2019 – 27 January 2020) of ASF in the EU is attached to this info note.

2. ASF regionalisation measures for the EU.

The regionalisation measures for ASF were reviewed taking into account the epidemiological situation of ASF in the EU and are currently set up by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2020/46¹.

An indicative map summarising the current EU regionalisation is available online on the European Commission's website².

3. EU Veterinary Emergency Team.

EU Veterinary emergency team (EUVET)³ was dispatched by the Commission 10 times⁴ in 2019 on ASF.

¹ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2020/46 of 20 January 2020 amending the Annex to Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States (OJ L 16, 21.1.2020, p. 9).

² https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/ad_control-measures_asf_pl-lt-regionalisation.pdf

³ https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/emergency-team_en

In a view of ASF epidemiological situation in Poland (in the region of Lubuskie), the EUVET mission on ASF preparedness was dispatched by the Commission from 7 to 10 January 2019 to Germany. The experts of the mission provided scientific, technical, managerial and practical assistance on the spot on the refinement of the most suitable prevention and preparedness measures for ASF. The findings of this mission will be presented at the upcoming meeting of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (provisionally, 13 - 14 February 2020).

Another EUVET mission is currently taking place in Hungary (from 28 to 30 January 2020). Additional EUVET mission to Poland (as a follow up of EUVET mission from 19-22 November 2019 in the region of Lubuskie) is provisionally planned for 10-12 February 2020.

4. EU border controls.



Close cooperation between veterinary authorities and customs remains crucial for ASF prevention and control. In this regard, the letter from the World Customs Organisation regarding ASF (see in the Annex II) should be widely shared. It aims at emphasising the importance of Customs and all other relevant border agencies to ensure a Common Border Management approach and implementing effective risk mitigation measures, especially in view of periods of high passenger movement, such as the Lunar New Year (January 25 to February 20).

EU rules for the cases where and the conditions under which certain categories of animals and goods are exempted from official controls at border control posts and the cases where and the conditions under which specific control tasks may be performed by customs authorities or other public authorities, insofar as those tasks are not already falling under the

responsibility of those authorities, on passengers' personal luggage are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2122⁵.

5. Sustained Technical Assistance.

Within the framework of the Better Training for Safer Food Initiative (BTSF)⁶ Sustained Technical Assistance missions (STM) on ASF were organised 7 times in 2019⁷ by the Commission. These missions were focusing on training activities to strengthen EU law enforcement, assistance on ASF control plans, ASF prevention, surveillance activities etc.

⁴ Belgium (3), Romania, Luxembourg (on ASF preparedness), Bulgaria, Serbia (2), Slovakia, Poland.

⁵ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2122 of 10 October 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards certain categories of animals and goods exempted from official controls at border control posts, specific controls on passengers' personal luggage and on small consignments of goods sent to natural persons which are not intended to be placed on the market and amending Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 (OJ L 321, 12.12.2019, p. 45).

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/btsf_en

⁷ The Czech Republic, Serbia, Bulgaria (2), Hungary, Romania, Croatia.

6. Discussion on ASF in the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development (European Parliament).

Exchange of views on ASF⁸ with a Commission representative took place on 22 January 2020 in the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Parliament.

7. Agriculture and Fisheries Council.

Outcome of the high-level international conference "The future of global pork production under the threat of African swine fever" (Berlin, 17 January 2020) was presented by Commissioner Kyriakides in the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 27 January 2020.

8. Council CVO meeting.

ASF was discussed on 28 January 2020 in the Working Party of Chief Veterinary Officers of the Council. The Commission presented an update on ASF current situation in the EU and outcome of outcome of the high-level international conference "The Future of global pork production under the threat of African swine fever" held in Berlin (Germany) on 17 January 2020. In addition, EFSA presented the results of the ASF risk assessments in the south-eastern countries of Europe (adopted on 27 September 2019 and the fourth annual epidemiological analysis of ASF in the EU (which will be provisionally published by 31 January 2020).

9. The Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed.

The most recent Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed took place on 16 January 2020 in Brussels. Updates on ASF situation were presented by Belgium, Bulgaria, Poland and Hungary. In addition, Greece presented an ongoing activities in relation to ASF surveillance and preparedness. All presentations are available on the Commission's website⁹.

10. The Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases.

The Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), a joint initiative of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), remains an important platform to discuss ASF at regional and global level.

Europe. The most recent (14th) meeting of Standing Group of Experts on ASF in Europe¹⁰ (SGE ASF14) under GF-TADs was organised on 10-11 September 2019 in Sofia (Bulgaria). The next (15th) meeting (SGE ASF15) dedicated to ASF and crisis management will take place in Bratislava (Slovakia) and is provisionally planned for April 2020.

Asia. Three meetings of the Standing Group of Experts on ASF in Asia under GF-TADs were already organised. The 2nd meeting of this group took place in Tokyo (Japan) on 30-31 July 2019

⁸ <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/streaming/?event=20200122-1430-COMMITTEE-AGRI&start=2020-01-22T13:40:03Z&end=2020-01-22T17:07:01Z&language=en>

⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/health/regulatory_committee/presentations_en

¹⁰ https://web.oie.int/RR-Europe/eng/Regprog/en_GF_TADS%20-%20Standing%20Group%20ASF.htm#ASF14

(on biosecurity and border controls)¹¹ and the 3rd meeting in Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam) on 26-28 November 2019 (in combination with 4th Regional Workshop on Swine Disease Control in Asia)¹². The 4th meeting of SGE-ASF for Asia under GF-TADs on outbreak management will take place from 31 March to 2 April 2020 in Incheon (Republic of Korea).

Americas region. The first meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on ASF of the GF-TADs in the Americas region was recently organised on 3-4 December 2019 in Bogotá (Colombia). Recommendations and report of this meeting is available online¹³.

11. A high-level international conference „The Future of global pork production under the threat of African swine fever“.



In the framework of this unprecedented spread of ASF worldwide, a global action and effective collaboration and communication between all relevant stakeholders is urgently needed. ASF has serious economic implications for the pig meat and related sectors, including indirect costs related to trade restrictions. The future of global pork production, and therefore food

security, is under threat from this devastating disease. For these reasons, the Commission organised an international conference¹⁴ aimed at fostering coordinated global actions to reduce the impact of ASF to the pig sector and adverse consequences to environment, agriculture, international trade and food security.



This high-level conference titled ‘The Future of global pork production under the threat of African swine fever’ took place in the margin of the International Green Week in Berlin on 17 January 2020. The conference received broad political attention and was attended by 20 EU and non-EU Ministers and vice-Ministers, 50 country delegations, 20 international

organisations including the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). More than 220 participants registered to the event.

¹¹ <https://rr-asia.oie.int/en/events/2nd-sge-asf-meeting-for-asia/>

¹² <https://rr-asia.oie.int/en/events/3rd-meeting-of-sge-on-afs-for-asia-4th-regional-ws-on-sd-in-asia/>

¹³ <https://rr-america.oie.int/en/events/standing-group-of-experts-on-asf/>

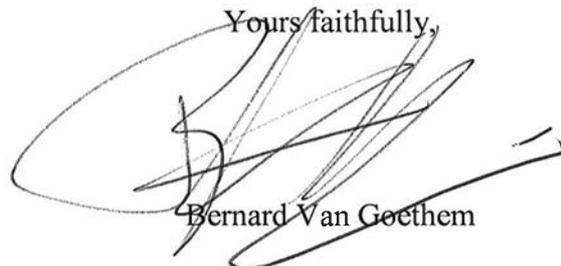
¹⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/high-level-international-conference-2020-jan-17_en

From the Chair's conclusions¹⁵, it emerged that without a vaccine, the global eradication of ASF is unlikely. Therefore, prevention and control of the disease is critical. Only with a long-term global strategy including significant resource allocations – both human and financial – as well as scientific and technical collaboration on research, ASF can be tackled. Transparent communication, cooperation, sharing of experiences and best practices on preparedness, prevention and control can reduce the risks that come with international travel and illegal cross-border activities. Targeted awareness campaigns and risk communication strategies are also essential. The management of wild boar population is a pre-requisite. A transparent and robust recognition and application of the fundamental principles of regionalisation in line with the OIE international standards will contribute to the sustainability of the farming and trade system limiting the global consequences of ASF.

More information on ASF:

- European Commission's website on ASF: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/control-measures/asf_en
- Chronology of main initiative taken or supported by the European Commission: https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/ad_control-measures_asf_chronology_en.pdf
- Interactive map of areas subject to measures for ASF in the EU: <https://eu-commission.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=3db65168d4ad4d829a38560d7f868ace>

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bernard Van Goethem', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Bernard Van Goethem

C.c.: G. Rossides, A. Ojala, I. E. Prainsack-Ward, T. Ernst (Cabinet Commissioner Kyriakides), V. Loonela, D. Cassidy (COMM/SPP), L. Carrouée, T. Van Cangh, D. Von Buxhoeveden, R. Domenech Amado, F. Vincent, N. Chaze, P. Colombo, M. Hudson, D. Lange, K. Van Dyck, A. Di Giulio, A. Ramirez Vela, E. Zamora Escribano, A. Gavinelli, F. Reviriego Gordejo, Ž. Ilevičius (DG SANTE), M. Arias (ASF EURL), DG AGRI, DG TRADE, DG NEAR, EFSA, OIE, FAO, Council Secretariat, Del Belarus, Del Moldova, Del Russia, Del Switzerland, Del Turkey, Del Ukraine.

¹⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/animals_and_animal_products/documents/20200117_chairs-conclusions-asf.pdf