Overview of African swine fever situation in EU

7 May 2019, Brussels

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Directorate G – Crisis management in food, animals and plants
DG SANTE European Commission, Brussels
### African swine fever outbreaks in domestic pigs

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### African swine fever notification of cases in wild boar

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Data extracted from ADNS on 24 April 2019
Current situation EU

9 MS affected by ASF (mostly in wild boar)

- Estonia
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Poland
- Hungary
- Romania
- Bulgaria
- Belgium
- Italy (Sardinia only)

Data extracted from ADNS on 24 April 2019
ASF in Belgium: from 13/09/2018 until 09/04/2019

- in 2018 - 163 ADNS notifications
- in 2019 – 375 ADNS notifications
- in the infected area only
- in wild boar only
Main initiatives of the EU on ASF

- Preparedness
- Scientific advice
- Research
- Legislation
- Regionalization
- Audits
- Financial support
- Guidance to MSs
- Public awareness
- Urgent intervention
  - EUVET
- International cooperation
  - GFTADS
Scientific opinion (July 2018) and technical report (November 2018):

- Wild boar density and threshold for ASF transmission
- Wild boar depopulation methods
- Surveillance strategy
- Seasonality
- Assessment of emergency measures
- Fencing methods, carcass removal, natural barriers
Example:
Proportion of positive sample over tested samples (PCR and AB-ELISA) in hunted wild boar and wild boar found dead in the Baltic Countries and Poland since the first introduction

Next:

Scientific opinion on:

- ASF risks related to feed and other matrices (June 2019)
- Risk factors identified in Romania (Nov. 2019)
- The risk of further spread of ASF in south-East EU (Nov. 2019)

Scientific and technical advice:

- Workshop on gap analysis in 2019 (focused on risk management needs)
Research on ASF

- **FP7 projects:**
  - **ASFORCE** – 2012 to 2015 – **5 MEUR** - contributed to better preparedness for ASF.
  - **ASFRISK** -2008 to 2011 – **3 MEUR** - generated serological and molecular diagnostic tools.

- **H2020 projects:**
  - **DEFEND** Topic SFS-10-2017: - **5.5 MEUR** - to identify the drivers of ASF emergence in Europe and to develop tools for its management (wild boar) and will also address preliminary work on development of a vaccine.
  - **Other: SWINOSTICS (3 MEUR), ASF-STOP** (COST action for an international network with a broad aim on ASF surveillance and control), **VETBIONET (10 MEUR)** network of facilities researching animal diseases on infectious animal diseases - including ASF.
  - **Topic SFS-12-2019**, an IA (10 MEUR) support the development of an **effective ASF vaccine.**
  - **ERANETs in agri-food** amended to broaden its scope to infectious animal diseases, with a strong focus on ASF/wildlife/epidemiology (5 MEUR). It is also expected that further calls/activities under this ERANET would pull additional €10-15 million over the years.

The portfolio of actions taken/planned covers extensively aspects of ASF and mobilizes at least **€43-48 million.**
Strategic approach to ASF management

Wild boar management:
- Hunting: depending on the area
- Feed ban
- Carcass removal disposal: fast
- Tailored measures for newly infected areas

Human factor:
- Awareness
- Enforcement swill feeding ban
- Biosecurity strengthened
- Hunter vs farming: behaviour risks

ASF regionalisation measures in EU

Based on Decision 2014/709/EU

- Clearly defined roles for Member States and Commission
- Risk based
- Rapid and transparent flow of information
- Urgent adoption of emergency measures
- Agreed with Member States
- Immediately applicable
- Decisions published in the Official Journal of the European Union in 23 languages
Examples of regionalisation:
the river of Danube
Examples of regionalisation: the highway
Examples of regionalisation: electric fence
Examples of regionalisation:

electric & odour fences
Examples of regionalisation: administrative divisions (e.g. counties)
Online interactive map of areas subject to regionalization measures for ASF in the EU

- Enhanced transparency
- Rapidly updated
- Allows:
  - Zoom
  - Measurements
  - Search

https://eu-commission.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=3db65168d4ad4d829a38560d7f868ace
EU international cooperation on ASF: Ministerial meetings

- 6 High level Ministerial meetings on ASF:
  - Vilnius – 17/05/15
  - Tallinn – 26/02/16
  - Warsaw – 28/10/16
  - Riga – 02/06/17
  - Prague - 08/11/17
  - Warsaw – 26/03/2018
  - Brussels – 06/09/2018
    High-Level Conference "Transboundary Animal Diseases in Europe: The Importance of International Cooperation for a sustainable livestock"
  - Brussels – 19/12/2018
Ministerial meeting on ASF
19 December 2018, Brussels

Eradication of African swine fever in the EU and the long-term management of wild boar populations

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/control-measures/asf/conference_en
Control of African Swine Fever in the EU

The key role of hunters

African swine fever (ASF) is a devastating, usually deadly, infectious disease of pigs and wild boar for which no vaccine exists.

The consequences of the disease affect:

1. Farms and the economy:
   - the virus kills animals
   - economic losses for EU farmers are aggravated by disruption of international trade of animals and meat
   - economic losses for the hunters

2. Wildlife and hunting:
   - because of the disease wild boar populations can decrease significantly or even disappear
   - hunting may be restricted or even banned in some infected areas (including collection of carcasses and trophies)

Hunters can make the difference – for better or worse – as they may increase or reduce the spread of the disease.

Disease transmission and spread

Transmission can happen through direct contact of healthy pigs or wild boar with infected (dead or sick) pigs or wild boar. However, humans and especially hunters – while not being affected by the disease – can help spreading it by:

- Any contact with infected animals and dead bodies (carcasses).
- Contact with anything contaminated by the virus (e.g., clothing, vehicles, other equipment).
- Feeding the animals with meat or meat products from infected animals (e.g., sausages or uncooked meat) or garbage containing infected meat (e.g., kitchen waste, swill feed, including offal).
Conference on **ASF with hunters**

*30 January 2019, Dortmund*

EU international cooperation: GF-TADs (FAO/OIE):

- 11 meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on ASF in the Baltic and Eastern Europe region since 2014:
  - Bern (22/09/14) - **Kick-off**
  - Minsk (1-2/12/14) – **Wild boar management**
  - Tallinn (11-12/02/15) – **backyard holding management**
  - Moscow (15-16/03/16) - reviewing the outcome of the ASF filed visits
  - Lisbon (19/09/16) - **ASF situation and planning actions**
  - Vilnius (28-29/11/16) - **ASF situation and planning actions**
  - Paris (23/05/17) - **ASF situation and planning actions**
  - Moldova (20-21/09/17) – awareness and communication
  - Kiev (22-23/03/2018) - cross border cooperation addressing (legal and) irregular movements of pigs and their products
  - Paris (22/05/18) - **ASF situation and planning actions**
  - Warsaw (September 2018) - **ASF epidemiology in wild boar population and in the environment**
  - **Prague, SGE ASF12 (11-12 March 2019)** – **building up on the Czech Republic experience in eradicating ASF in wild boar**

- **NEXT:** Paris (29/5/19) and Bulgaria (10-11 September)

11 Field visits by GFTADs experts in Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, the Czech Republic, Romania and Bulgaria.
Recommendations
SGE ASF12 (11-12 March 2019, Prague)

- Countries continue to implement the recommendations of all previous SGE ASF meetings. In particular in relation to transparency, trust and sharing of information.
- Preparedness activities and awareness campaigns.
- Trans-boundary collaboration between countries even without the disease. Examples and protocol of cooperation should be shared.
- Surveillance of dead wild boar and carcass removal – most efficient too for early detection.
- Long-term management solutions for wild boar populations, including appropriate reduction.
- Any dispatch of live wild boar must be banned because of the high risk for transmitting the disease.

Recommendations
SGE ASF12 (11-12 March 2019, Prague)

• Countries should approach the introduction of ASF taking advantage of the field experience gained by the Czech Republic.
• The added value of the Lithuanian 'African Swine Fever competence center'
• An update of the list of GF-TADs expert and SGE ASF mission to be sent to Belgium.
• The next SGE ASF meeting (SGE ASF13) should be held in the margins of the OIE 87th General Session (28 May 2019, Paris), followed by an SGE ASF technical meeting (SGE ASF14) in October/November 2019 (tbc).

The example of the Czech Republic:
African swine fever

06.2017-04.2018

04.2018-02.2019
Next Steps

- Continue supporting **scientific research** in the EU and GLOBALLY (research GAPS – Vaccine)
- Updated **risk assessment** by EFSA
- Manage and review the **EU measures** for ASF (learn from experience – protect internal market)
- Maintain highest **political involvement** (Ministerial meetings)
- Dialogue and coordinate efforts with **third countries** (bilaterally and GFTADs)
- Awareness campaigns
- Financial support