



**Standing Group of Experts on Lumpy skin disease (LSD)  
for South-East Europe**  
under the GF-TADs umbrella

**First meeting (SGE LSD1)  
Brussels, Belgium, 4-5 July 2016**

## Final recommendations

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Considering that:

- LSD in 2016 is spreading (for the second consecutive year) fast through the countries of South-East Europe;
- If there is a chance to stop disease spread and prevent it from becoming endemic in large areas of Europe, there is a need to act now in a swift and coordinated manner;
- LSD is clearly a regional problem, involving many countries and can only be dealt with through coordinated international efforts;
- Considering the recommendations of the 6th meeting of the GF-TADs for Europe Steering Committee meeting (RSC6, 30 September – 1 October 2015, Brussels) on LSD;
- Building on the positive outcomes of the Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever in the Baltic and Eastern Europe region under the GF-TADs umbrella, in place since 2014;
- The current review of the OIE Terrestrial Code chapter on LSD;

### **General recommendations:**

1. A standing Group of Experts on LSD for South-East Europe under the GF-TADs (SGE LSD) be established on the basis of the Modus Operandi presented during the SGE LSD1 (Annex);
2. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova and possibly further European countries be associated to the SGE LSD initiative in the near future;
3. The SGE LSD2 (1,5 hour meeting) be organised in the margins of the 27<sup>th</sup> OIE regional Conference for Europe (Porto / Portugal, 19-23 September 2016) and the SGE LSD3 (1,5 day meeting) be organised in Istanbul, Turkey before the end of the 2016;
4. The topic of the SGE LSD3 be 'how to design a smart LSD vaccination strategy' (including procurement issues);
5. Countries share any tools and resources (communication leaflets, information on vaccines, access to clinical cases, laboratory capacity and reagents) with other countries directly among each other or through the GF-TADs for Europe Secretariat;

6. The FAO expert meeting to be held 25 July in Belgrade be labelled under GF-TADs and its outcomes be shared with the GF-TADs Europe SGE;
7. Countries actively participate in the review of the amended Terrestrial Code chapter on LSD and the OIE to consider it as a priority, envisaging its adoption as early as May 2017;

## **Technical recommendations:**

### ➤ Notification / transparency

8. Countries provide fully transparent and timely information and fulfil their reporting obligations to the OIE(WAHIS) and if applicable the EU (ADNS);

### ➤ Preparedness and early detection:

9. Infected countries procure sufficient vaccine doses to vaccinate the entire population of susceptible animals in the affected zone(s) or the entire country, as applicable;
10. At-risk countries make provisions to procure sufficient vaccine doses as soon as possible and in any case so as to be in a position to perform timely emergency vaccination in a sufficient large area in case of disease incursion on their territory;
11. Efforts be enhanced to ensure early detection of and laboratory capacity for LSD in at risk countries and zones;
12. Awareness of LSD be enhanced among political decision makers, official and private veterinarians as well as farmers through appropriate communication tools;

### ➤ Vaccination

13. Vaccination be conducted in affected and at risk countries or zones taking into account the following indications:
  - the seasonality of the disease ;
  - in a sufficiently large area (for example at least 50 km radius from an outbreak, including in the case of an outbreak occurring in a neighbouring country, taking into account the epidemiological circumstances);
  - using preferably live homologous vaccines; possible future use of inactivated vaccines be explored when available;
  - considering the production systems in the country (large commercial farms versus backyard systems) and the likelihood of having the most and fastest impact;
  - with strong considerations for logistics aspects;
  - ensuring very high and homogeneous vaccine coverage (minimum 90%);
14. A detailed LSD vaccination map of the region be drawn up and kept up to date, including vaccine coverage of each country or zone, vaccine type, date and frequency of vaccination;
15. A flexible and conducive legal framework be explored to encourage preventive LSD vaccination in at-risk areas, and facilitate the trade of vaccinated animals and their products;

### ➤ Stamping-out policy

16. A stamping-out policy suitable for the objective of eradication (total) or disease control (modified/partial) adapted to the epidemiological situation and the situation objectives of the country be designed and applied;
17. Carcasses be disposed of in a safe and practical manner, considering the options and the location of rendering plants as well as the vaccination status of the animals;

### ➤ Sustainable and safe movement restriction

18. Strict movement restrictions be applied for live animals, semen and other genetic material to infected and at risk herds in affected zones;
19. Within infected zones, only vaccinated animals (more than 28 days) be allowed to move;
20. Transit of animals through affected countries or zones deserves specific attention;
21. Regionalisation should be based on science and robust knowledge of the prevailing epidemiological conditions;
22. Consideration be given to defining safe commodities (as proposed in the draft revised OIE Code chapter on LSD currently circulated for member country comments) and the safety of vaccinated animals;
23. Rules for regaining free status in countries or zones should be elaborated to enable an exit strategy from using vaccination;

### ➤ LSD data collection and science

24. The collection of surveillance data and scientific information that may be relevant (e.g. incidence, weather conditions) be coordinated for purposes of better risk assessment and management;
25. In this regard, experts should identify the scientific questions that are most likely to assist with control, eradication and safe trade if answered, and then seek to identify what needs to be done in terms of field data collection or research to answer those questions;
26. Scientific advice be reviewed and kept up to date based on experience in the region;
27. Further research and research funds are necessary to close existing knowledge gaps on LSD.