



**“Threat of African Swine Fever spread in Eastern Europe:
urgent need for international collaboration”**

Regional consultation

4-5 December 2012, Budapest, Hungary

Recommendations (Draft 2)

Considering:

- The progressive spread of African Swine Fever (ASF) in the Russian Federation, in Georgia, Armenia and in some other south Caucasian countries, and the threat of further spreading to Europe and Asia;
- The socioeconomic impact of the disease affecting the pig production sector particularly poor rural families, the financial losses due to high mortality and trade restrictions, the high cost of controlling outbreaks, and the negative impact on the development of the pig sector;
- The low efficiency of national Veterinary Services of some countries in the region in terms of human, physical and financial resources, and also lack of good governance;
- The sustainable control of ASF (and other Transboundary Animal Diseases) requires good governance of animal health systems, supported by appropriate public-private partnerships and continuously updated supporting legislation;
- The lack of updated knowledge on certain aspects of the disease ecology and epidemiology;
- The lack of sub-regional surveillance, prevention and control strategies despite presence of successful experiences in the control of ASF in many parts of the world;
- That the absence of vaccine and treatment for the control of ASF emphasizes the crucial importance of sanitary measures;
- The availability of good validated methods and tools for ASF laboratory diagnostics;
- The globalization of trade with rapid and long distance movements of swine and pork products increasing the risk of ASF spreading from one country/region to another;
(particularly with regard to trade and movement that are not under the control of VS)
- The rising importance of the pig production to respond to the growing demand in proteins of animal origin;
- The Recommendations of the 24th (Astana / Kazakhstan, September 2010) and 25th (Fleesensee / Germany, September 2012) Conferences of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, of the ASF Global Alliance workshop (Rome / Italy, September 2011), of the 4th Steering Committee meeting of the Global Framework for Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) for Europe (Brussels /Belgium, January 2012);

- The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (notably Chapter 15.1) and OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (notably Chapter 2.8.1) and the following recent publications: ‘Preparation of African swine fever contingency plans’ (FAO, FAO Animal Production and Health Manual No. 8), ‘Good practices for biosecurity in the pig sector’ (FAO and OIE, FAO Animal Production and Health Paper No. 169).

The participants of the meeting recommend:

- 1) That ASF has to be considered as a top priority animal health problem by all affected countries and a threat for the whole Europe;
- 2) That ASF prevention and control shall be considered as an international public good, eligible to international solidarity and donor support, to initiate or intensify ASF prevention and control programmes in countries in need of funding;
- 3) To conduct epidemiological studies to better understand the ecology of ASF virus including the role of ticks and wild boar in the persistence and spread of the disease;
- 4) To conduct socio-economic analysis (including the direct and indirect losses due to ASF, livelihood, livestock sector strategies and value chain analysis), that can guide ASF control programs to be more successful as well as to provide evidence to policy makers on the need to invest in ASF prevention and control measures;
- 5) To consider the progressive modernization of the pig production sector, while at the same time safeguarding backyard and traditional production systems by appropriate support policies;
- 6) To develop sub-regional strategies for the prevention and control of ASF in Europe and other endemic or at risk regions under the GF-TADs, based on specific agro-ecological systems; these strategies should in particular consider options for combining ASF and other TADs control activities whenever feasible, so as to optimize scarce resources;
- 7) Countries to review their ASF prevention, surveillance and contingency measures based on the most recent developments and knowledge, and in line with the sub-regional strategies (when available);
- 8) In particular, these measures should have as priority objective the immediate containment and eradication of ASF in new areas and countries, and:
 - include protocols for robust epidemiological investigations;
 - be adapted to different production systems;
 - include specific provisions for the control of wild boars population, in compliance with OIE standards on animal welfare and wildlife;
 - strategies to control and eradicate ASF in wild boar population by means of depopulation measures should consider the possible negative effects of those measures;
 - contain strong incentives for the involvement of farmers;
 - include an awareness program directed at all stakeholders involved in the pig production and market chain;

- consider a multidisciplinary approach involving, for example, collaboration among different ministries and organisations/associations;
 - contain robust biosecurity measures (such as the disinfection of trucks coming back from infected areas, the ban of feeding pigs with food waste presenting a risk for ASF transmission and spread , etc.) in line with the documents referred in the ‘Considering’;
 - include appropriate and timely compensation mechanism – in case of stamping out control measures -;
- 9) Countries to reinforce their Veterinary Services capacity in line with the OIE international standards on quality of Veterinary Services; to this end, countries should consider requesting relevant missions under the OIE Performance Vision Strategy (PVS) Pathway. In particular, countries should;
- a. review and update their national legislation to ensure effective prevention and control of ASF;
 - b. ensure that an effective chain of command for the prevention and control of ASF is in place;
 - c. report on their ASF situation – both in domestic and wildlife populations - using the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS/WAHID), as part of their obligations as OIE Member countries;
- 10) To reinforce national and regional laboratory diagnostic capacities, train experts and promote the use of harmonized and validated methods, through the already existing EU network of reference laboratories, the OIE Laboratory Twinning Programme, and FAO reference centers;
- 11) To strengthen the exchange of information and best practices and improve ASF knowledge and coordination (including cross-border simulation exercises and trainings, including for laboratory expertise) between ASF-affected and at-risk countries in Europe – but also in Asia -, using the GF-TADs mechanism;
- 12) Countries to conduct public awareness campaigns, for the application of biosecurity measures for ASF prevention and control and avoidance of behaviours that could lead to the persistence and spread of ASF;
- 13) Countries to consider requesting the assistance of Crisis Management Centre for Animal Health (CMC-AH) and EU vet emergency team in case of ASF outbreaks and immediate risk;
- 14) That the Global ASF alliance shall be further developed to provide a platform for a wide range of stakeholders from the public and private sector to share information on state-of-the art research techniques and advances, and act as a think tank for strategy development.