



**Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever
in the Baltic and Eastern Europe region**
under the GF-TADs umbrella

**Ninth meeting (SGE ASF9)
Kiev, Ukraine, 22-23 March 2018**

Final recommendations

Following the discussions and after reviewing the reports from the field visits in the Czech Republic and Romania showing an encouraging progress in the epidemiology of ASF in wild boar in the Czech Republic, the topic on cross-border cooperation, and reviewing the progress of the GF-TADs Handbook on ASF,

The SGE ASF9 recommends that:

1. Efforts in implementing previous GF-TADs SGE ASF recommendations should continue, notably in relation to diagnostic aspects and wild boar management.
2. Tailor made information campaigns* should be organised targeting:
 - a. Travellers moving in back and forth (such as tourists, workers and truck drivers) at border checkpoints. These should be designed also for addressing travellers before the beginning of the journey (using channels such as consulates, official websites, media and international transporters, travel agencies). The content of campaigns should highlight the prohibitions in force, the possible consequences of any breach to the rules and the penalties in the event of any infringement, voluntary or involuntary.
 - b. Border Inspection posts, or relevant services, and customs officials in order to promote understanding of the risks related to African swine fever and the tools available to enforce the legislation in place.
3. Coordinated border management among border Inspection posts and customs officials should be encouraged in order to tighten the cooperation among these two bodies across the border and within the country.
4. Specific visible tools and procedures should be in place at border checkpoints in order to screen the required number of travellers and consignments to fight/control illegal movements. In addition to awareness campaigns, amnesty bins should be displayed at borders as incentive measures to get rid of at risk products. A system for recovering costs or setting deterrent fines should be in place.
5. In order to optimise the use of available resources, risk analysis and risk profiling for borders control personal luggage and vehicles should be carried out.

6. Within ASF infected countries, measures should be taken to ensure that the movement of pigs and pig products complies with the ASF prevention requirements. Awareness campaigns suited to this end should be undertaken by using different communication channels targeted to reach the intended audiences (e.g. travellers, farmers, hunters, traders).
7. Empty animal trucks should be disinfected according to a well-defined procedures, using disinfectants recommended by OIE and the competent authorities should be informed in order to enhance cross border coordination on these procedures. The disinfection procedure can take place in a different location other than the border check point or the edge of the restricted area.
8. Further transparency is encouraged by data sharing using the wide range of dedicated information systems (including WAHIS) and by promoting use of standardised datasets.
9. In order to carry out these recommendations and eradicate ASF, the Veterinary Authorities need support to engage the required technical competencies, human and financial resources.
10. GF-TADs Handbook on ASF be finalised as soon as possible and shared with Member Countries in both paper and electronic manner (GF-TADs website). The updates of the Handbook should continue in order to match the changes in the epidemiological situation.
11. The next SGE ASF meeting (SGE ASF10) should be held in the margins of the OIE 86th General Session (May 2018, Paris) followed by a SGE ASF technical meeting (SGE ASF11) in Poland in October 2018 (date to be confirmed). The topic will be ASF epidemiology in wild boar population and in the environment.

*GF-TADs website, containing material about awareness campaigns on ASF