



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

Second meeting (SGE2)
Tallinn, Estonia, 11 – 12 February 2015

Conclusions and recommendations

The Standing Group concludes:

- It is essential to ensure transparency and full compliance with reporting to OIE. The Standing Group reiterates that trust and cooperation can only be built when full access to the relevant information is provided;
- Biosecurity is of crucial importance to prevent the entry and spread of ASF in pig holdings, both in the commercial and so called backyard pig sectors. There are minimum biosecurity measures that need to be and can easily be implemented even by smallholder pig owners, such as restricting access to visitors, preventing contact between domestic pigs and wild boar, using separate shoes and clothes when entering the pig house, and having disinfectants ready on site. Precondition to achieve this is for the Veterinary Services to provide basic information to pig holders by way of appropriate communication campaigns;
- Backyard holdings with low bio-security in place are currently playing an important role in the spread of ASF. Given the economic relevance of these holdings in certain areas, the control and biosecurity measures to be applied in such production systems need to be carefully evaluated (annex);
- There are different ways/strategies to strengthen and promote biosecurity measures, including positive stimulus for compliant holdings, that should be applied taking into account the different levels of risks of each type of holding, area/zone and in peace/emergency/endemic situation. Failure to comply may entail enforcement measures including administrative sanctions or other actions.

The Standing Group recommends:

- Setting an expert team composed primarily of experts that have participated in previous meetings in Minsk and Tallinn and other well renowned experts with experience in ASF in the region (Dr Bellini, Depner, Gruzdev, Guberti, Khomenko);
- With the purpose of carrying out a series of field visits to all seven participating countries;
- Aiming at gathering information and identifying best practices focusing on wild boar and backyard management, biosecurity, etc.;
- With the following order of visits LT, BY, PL, RF, LV, UA, EE;
- Starting in March and due to end by end of May;
- The expert group will exclusively report to the next meetings of this GF-TADs Standing Group that should take place in April in Russia (SGE3) and in June in Poland (SGE4).

Annex

Measures to minimize the risk of ASF introduction into a pig holding

- No swill feeding;
- Pigs should be introduced from trusted and certified sources;
- Visitors should be discouraged to enter the pig holdings, specially the commercial ones;
- Personnel should be well trained/informed and contacts with other pigs or wildboar forbidden,
- Perimeter fencing preventing contact with feral pigs (double fences) should be install on a pig holding in outdoor farms;
- Carcasses, discarded parts from slaughtered pigs and food waste should be disposed off in an appropriate manner;
- No part of any feral pig, whether shot or found dead should be brought into a pig holding;
- Sharing of equipment and tools between the holdings should be avoided;
- Appropriate means for cleaning and disinfection have to be placed at the entrance of the holdings. Effective disinfectants shall be available in the holding;
- Vehicles and equipment should be properly cleaned and disinfected before entering into contact with pigs and leaving the holdings; however in general they should not enter the holding;
- Appropriate hygiene measures have to be applied by all persons entering into contact with pigs (domestic and/or feral).