



Cross-border cooperation addressing illegal and irregular movements of pigs and their products

Regional experience (EC)

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Fact-finding missions on import controls to prevent ASF entry in 8 Member States (2017)

<i>Estonia</i>		<i>20-23 August</i>
<i>Finland</i>		<i>28-31 August</i>
<i>Hungary</i>		<i>14-16 August</i>
<i>Lithuania</i>		<i>01-04 August</i>
<i>Latvia</i>		<i>28-30 August</i>
<i>Poland</i>		<i>21-24 August</i>
<i>Romania</i>		<i>07-10 August</i>
<i>Slovakia</i>		<i>09-11 August</i>



• *3 weeks notice!*

Objectives and scope

- **Awareness raising!**
- Controls on the presence of **products of animal origin in travellers' personal luggage** (required by Commission Regulation (EC) No 206/2009)
- Controls on **empty livestock vehicles** returning to the Union from the Russian Federation, Belarus and/or Ukraine (required by Commission Implementing Decision 2013/426/EU)
- Border crossing points that were not visited in 2016 were preferentially selected – **road and rail only**
- Reports not published – no formal recommendations

Objectives and scope

Country	No road/rail crossing points visited	Total no of road/rail crossing points
EE	4	7
HU	4	7
LT	4	23
LV	6	12
PL	4	32
RO	4	38
SK	3	5
FI	5	16
	34	140

Cooperation between authorities

- In all countries there was **good cooperation** between sanitary authorities, Customs (& Border Guards)
- The responsibilities of the authorities were stipulated in legislation or in cooperation **agreements**



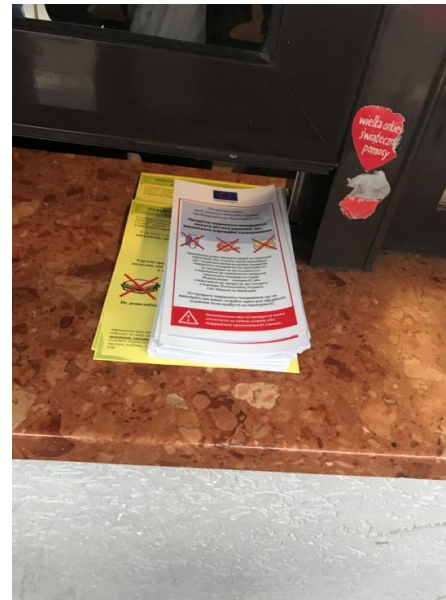
Authorities

- There was evidence of regular training of Customs staff on sanitary matters though in one country Customs staff had not been trained on controls of livestock vehicles
- In general instructions on *how* to carry out checks were available
- Sanitary authorities supervised the implementation of checks (by Customs) in 5/8 countries

Provision of information to travellers

Vital! Available at most border crossing points:

- Posters & Leaflets in relevant languages
- Electronic billboards



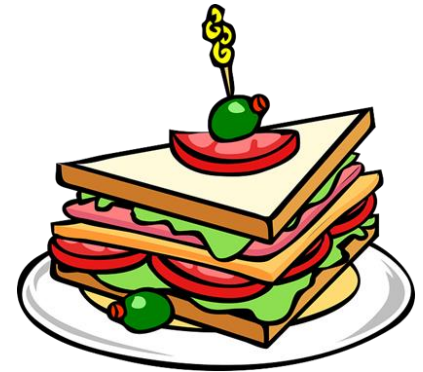
Controls on travellers' luggage: who

Customs and Borders guards (where relevant) carry out checks on travellers' luggage based on **risk assessment**



Controls on travellers' luggage: how

- Comprised interviews, visual checks, imaging scans, and physical checks
- Variation in the % of luggage *physically* checked – depending on the **number** of passengers (bus/train), the **size** and type of the border crossing point and the **time** available



Voluntary surrender of food

- Three countries provided **amnesty bins** for travellers to **voluntarily** surrender food of animal origin
- In some countries travellers are allowed to consume foodstuffs on-the-spot rather than have them seized



Seizure and destruction

- In most cases Customs are responsible for detention, seizure, collection and storage of voluntarily surrendered and seized products
- Relevant records were available
- Stored, handled and disposed of as either Category 1 or Category 2 animal by-products
- Volumes seized varied considerably between border crossing points and countries



Seizure and destruction

Penalties

- With one exception, rarely or never applied to travellers
- Cumbersome and time consuming, lots of paperwork and right of appeal
- Sometimes involvement of veterinary service needed
- Costs of destruction mainly borne by Customs



Seizure and destruction: why?

MS	ARRIVAL DATE	Collection point	Type		UPL-real time PCR	VI-HAD (3 passages)	GENOTYPING	SWINE FEEDING
LT	10/02/2015	Confiscated at the border Belarus	PROCESSED FOOD	SAUSAGE	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	GII/CVR- 1/IGR _{I73R-1329L} -2	NEGATIVE
LT	10/02/2015	Confiscated at the border Belarus	PROCESSED FOOD	SAUSAGE	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	GII/CVR- 1/IGR _{I73R-1329L} -2	NEGATIVE
LT	10/02/2015	Confiscated at the border Belarus	PROCESSED FOOD	SAUSAGE	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	GII/CVR- 1/IGR _{I73R-1329L} -2	NEGATIVE
LV	24/03/2015	Dienvīdatgale, Silene border inspection post	PROCESSED FOOD	BOILED SAUSAGE	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	GII/CVR- 1/IGR _{I73R-1329L} -2	NOT DONE
LV	24/03/2015	Dienvīdatgale, Patarnieki border inspection post	PROCESSED FOOD	SAUSAGE	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	GII/CVR- 1/IGR _{I73R-1329L} -2	NOT DONE
LV	24/03/2015	Dienvīdatgale, Silene border inspection post	PROCESSED FOOD	SAUSAGE	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	GII/CVR- 1/IGR _{I73R-1329L} -2	NOT DONE
HU	19/1/2018	Confiscated meat product Hungarian/Ukrainian border; Chernovci, Ukraine.	MEAT PRODUCT	SWINE EAR	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	GII/CVR- 1/IGR _{I73R-1329L} -2	NOT DONE

VI-HAD Virus isolation and haemadsorption test

Controls on empty livestock vehicles



Controls on empty livestock vehicles

- Mainly by **official veterinarians**; in two countries by Customs
- Control - check on the **driver's declaration** and a **visual inspection** of the truck
- Several border crossing points also required a **certificate** of cleaning and disinfection
- Some countries used **disinfection mats** for vehicle wheels



Controls on empty livestock vehicles

- **Generally OK**
- In several countries *all* livestock vehicles had to be cleaned and disinfected at a border inspection point, regardless of the drivers' declaration and disinfection certificates (if available)
- Some countries also have **additional national requirements**
 - 48 hr restriction on entering another farm;
- One country had a **monitoring plan** to verify effectiveness of cleaning and disinfection
- With few exceptions relevant documentation was kept
- **Certificates** pursuant to Annex III to Decision 2013/426/EU were available and had been issued correctly by the competent authorities

Controls on empty livestock vehicles

- In one country a specific **database** had been developed and linked with the Customs database to flag the livestock vehicle's registration number on its return
- One country had an additional ban on the import of any kind of **non-heat-treated feed** for swine from Russia and a ban on feed of non-animal origin from Belarus and Ukraine unless officially attested that it has come from a region free from ASF for three years
- One country required additional cleaning and disinfection **before the next loading** of live animals



Disinfection of vehicles

- **Mistakes** in drivers' declarations (Annex II to Decision 2013/426/EU):
 - **no concentration** of disinfectant indicated or **required concentration level not used**
 - Only the commercial name of the product used without mentioning the **active ingredient**
 - No documented evidence on the spot that the disinfectant used was **effective** against the African Swine Fever virus.
- **Several countries had a list* of disinfectants to be used**



* List on OIE website
Has been discussed in a previous
GF-TADs technical meeting

Preventing entry of ASF: additional issues to consider

Awareness:

- Should all countries listed in Annex I to Decision 2013/426/EU provide **information to travellers** in the form of posters, leaflets and/or voice messages in *their* territory and at border crossing points?

Greater role for competent authority in non-EU countries:

- Would **official certificates of cleaning and disinfection** to accompany drivers' declarations provide additional assurances?



Preventing entry of ASF: additional issues to consider

Greater role for competent authority in non-EU countries:

- Should the veterinary authorities of the listed non-EU countries conduct **official controls** (including an **official attestation regarding cleaning and disinfection**) on livestock vehicles prior to their entry into the EU?
- Should a **maximum allowable time** period from disinfection of the livestock vehicle to its entry to the EU be specified?
- How to address possible contacts with infective material after disinfection?



Conclusions

- Countries are working hard to prevent the entry of the ASF virus into the EU territory
- Commitments given to improve where opportunities for improvement were identified
- Control staff – veterinary and Customs - are aware of what has to be done and their obligations
- Significant effort to ensure travellers know the risk
- **Ongoing awareness raising¹ and vigilance - vital**

¹ Decision 2018/263/EU

Postscript

- One Member State enhanced its (already strong) control system
- Campaign from 1/1/18 to 25/2/18

	2017 (Jan-Feb)	2018 (Jan-Feb)	2017 (whole year)
Fines	488	589	3397
Vehicles inspected	313	315	3312
Volume seized (kg)	38,667	36,477	211,691
No of samples		61 (no ASF found)	

Thank you for your attention!



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