



Standing Group of Experts on Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) for south-east Europe, under the GF-TADs for Europe umbrella

Modus Operandi

Following the concerning evolving LSD situation in the Balkans since 2015;
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 in place since 2014;

Objective

Strengthening mid-term regional cooperation and regional dialogue on Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) control through:

- Regular exchange of information on LSD situation and control measures applied;
- Regular review of national control strategies by experts based on scientific risk assessments, experience and best practice in the region, with a view to harmonising control policies and building a science based regional control strategy;
- Collaboration on laboratory diagnostics (exchange of best practice on methodology; support and training / capacity building as needed);
- Collaboration on awareness raising campaigns in the affected countries (exchange of best practice and communication tools);
- Communicate outcomes of the group's work to other countries in the Region of Europe and the public.

Mechanism

Working Group of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (Standing Committee), with regional scope and regular meetings in the region (organised and financed by the European Commission (COM), in cooperation with host countries, OIE and FAO; chaired by the President of GF-TADs Europe, Bernard Van Goethem); meetings labelled under GF-TADs Europe [*label agreed by GF-TADs management Committee*].

Participants

- **Chair:** President of the GF-TADs for Europe [Dr B. Van Goethem];
- **Vice-chairs:** President of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe [Dr M. Balodis]; Vice-President of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Vice-President of the GF-TADs for Europe [Dr U. Herzog];
Additional countries may join as the LSD situation evolves in the region
- **Secretariat:** GF-TADs Europe Secretariat [Dr N. Leboucq] with logistical support of COM;
- **Countries** (2 representatives per country): **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Kosovo^{*1},**

¹ * : This designation is without prejudice to position on status, and is in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99 and the International Court of Justice Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Montenegro, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey) concerned by LSD at expert level (incl. CVOs/OIE Delegates)

- **OIE, FAO and COM representatives:**
OIE [1 or 2 (from HQ and the Europe region)]
FAO [1 or 2 (from HQ and the Europe region)]
EC [1 or 2 from DG SANTE]
- **LSD Experts** [as and when needed - Dr E. Tuppurainen; Dr K.de Clercq]
- **Observer country:** EU Presidency (currently Slovakia)

= Total ca. 45-50 participants

Meetings

- To be held at least twice a year in the region, preferably in a hosting country on a rotating basis (order and exact dates to be confirmed with relevant CVOs);
- Duration: 1,5 day [meeting to start afternoon of day 1 and finish noon of day 2, allowing for dinner on evening of d 1, and travel on morning of d 1 / afternoon of d 2]
- In EN (no interpretation);
Host country to provide meeting room preferably at Competent Authority premises and possibly dinner, as well as airport / hotel transfers, plus identify appropriate hotel;
- COM to finance travel only or travel, hotel and per diem of participants in accordance with COM rules (*cave: financing is typically via reimbursement only, i.e. participants to arrange travel and hotel booking themselves in advance; COM colleagues to collect copies of flight tickets etc. on the spot for reimbursement of participants*);
- Invitations to be sent by GF-TADs Secretariat and COM (Standing Committee format);
- Summary minutes of meetings to be prepared by GF-TADs Secretariat in EN, circulated to participants by email and published on dedicated OIE Regional Commission Europe / GF-TADs webpage;
- Reports on the group's activities and work to be given on a regular basis at the Standing Committee in Brussels; at the OIE Regional Commission meetings and Conferences; and at the GF-TADs Europe Steering Committee meetings.

Specific SGE LSD activities

To be decided on an ad hoc basis.

May include: country missions to assess national situation and provide tailored recommendations by LSD experts; specific capacity building activities at national and regional level to address the identified gaps, such as Workshops, Sustained Training Mission, etc.

Kick-off meeting (LSD1 meeting)

LSD1 meeting in Brussels on 4-5 July 2016.

Objective: to set up the Standing Group of Experts on LSD, provide a first update of the situation in each country (*tour de table*), provide general recommendations for the Region and agree on agenda (specific topic), date and venue of the next meeting to be held before the end of 2016.