



Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever in Europe

under the GF-TADs umbrella

Fifteenth meeting (SGE ASF15) - 6 May 2020

After the circulation by email of the report on the field visit in Serbia, on the basis of the update on the countries' situation and African swine fever (ASF) management in the framework of the Covid-19 crisis, and considering the unprecedented practical and technical difficulties that are arising from the current situation caused by the Covid-19.

The SGE ASF 15 recommends that:

General issues

1. Greece should become a full member of the SGE ASF, and as such participate in future SGE ASF meetings to share their experience and receive relevant guidance.
2. SGE ASF field mission should be sent to Greece, to understand in depth field aspects and collate best practises in the prevention and control of ASF.
3. All countries should implement previous SGE on ASF recommendations to prevent, control and eradicate ASF.
4. The sixteenth meeting (SGE ASF16) of the Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever in Europe under the GF-TADs umbrella should be held in Hungary, in November 2020. It will focus on 'the contingency planning and training systems for ASF, including simulation exercises'. The date and the modalities of the meeting to be decided on the bases of the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic

ASF management in the framework of the Covid-19 crisis

5. Global COVID-19 pandemic poses additional challenges in maintaining an efficient prevention, control or eradication of ASF in certain areas, countries or regions.
6. It is essential that, even in a current situation, all affected countries maintain an efficient control on ASF, preventing any further spreading of diseases.
7. All countries, even not affected by ASF, should not stop or, where possible, delay activities, in particular passive surveillance, for the prevention and control of ASF.
8. All countries should actively share best practices, guidelines and other relevant tools on the management of ASF in the framework of the Covid-19 crisis. A specific section of the e-depository will be created on the GF-TADs page of the OIE Europe website, to make them available to other countries.