



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever in Europe under the GF-TADs umbrella

Sixteenth meeting (SGE ASF16) – 23 November 2020

Following the discussions, after reviewing the reports on the current epidemiological situation from the SGE Members¹, and on the basis of the experience of Belgium:

The SGE ASF 16 recommends that:

General issues

1. The Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever (ASF) acknowledges the initiative for the Global Control of ASF launched in July 2020 by OIE and FAO. All countries should strengthen cooperation and implement harmonised preventive, control and eradication measures to minimise the negative impact of ASF.
2. The SGE ASF should remain the platform of choice to discuss regional activities, to share experiences and join forces to fight ASF in Europe.
3. The SGE ASF should continue contributing to global discussions on ASF in particular through the close collaboration and sharing of best practises with the SGE ASF of other Regions (Americas and Asia).
4. Cross-border cooperation between neighbouring countries should be enhanced to prevent, control and eradicate ASF. Countries should share with full transparency the relevant information and coordinate an implementation of ASF related measures at the borders.
5. All Countries should implement the ASF World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) international standards in the view of avoiding unjustified and disproportionate trade bans while allowing safe trade.
6. Germany 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.
7. Belgium should be withdrawn from the list of members of the SGE ASF, once its self-declaration of free status has been published on the OIE website. However, Belgium is welcome to become observer and share experience.

1. ¹ Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine

8. A SGE ASF field mission should be sent to Germany, to understand in depth field aspects and collate best practises in the prevention and control of ASF. Furthermore, the mission to Slovakia, which was scheduled for May 2020, should be carried out once the COVID-19 pandemic allows it.
9. All countries should implement previous SGE ASF recommendations to prevent, control and eradicate ASF.
10. The seventeenth meeting (SGE ASF17) of the Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever in Europe under the GF-TADs umbrella should be held **in Hungary, in April 2021**. It will focus on 'the contingency planning and training systems for ASF, including simulation exercises'. The date and the modalities of the meeting will be decided depending on the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Early reaction and emergency control measures in case of ASF detection in wild boar

11. Preparedness, passive surveillance, early detection and prompt reaction are essential when ASF is detected for the first time in wild boar or in the domestic pig population. All countries should develop and implement their preventive, control and eradication measures based on scientific advice and make use of best available expertise.
12. Belgium's approach demonstrates that enhanced coordination and cooperation between all relevant stakeholders in the agricultural and environmental field (including veterinary services, commercial and backyard farmers, forestry management bodies and hunters) is essential to control and eradicate ASF. All Countries should take advantage of the experience gained by Belgium.
13. In case of first detection of ASF in a wild boar population a 'core zone' should be delineated and immediate actions should be taken to avoid further spread such as ban on hunting and feeding, fencing, high level of passive surveillance and carcass removal, reduction of any human activities in that zone. Active search of carcasses and effective reduction of the wild boar population in geographical areas called 'white zones' delineated around the 'core zone' could bring positive results in containing ASF.