



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

Nineteenth meeting (SGE ASF19)
23rd of February 2022 - Teleconference

REPORT

List of participants present:

Country	Name and surname of person attending
SGE member countries	
Bulgaria	Anna ZDRAVKOVA Daniel PAVLOV
Estonia	Helen PROMMIK
Germany	Gunda LUBEK
Greece	Chrysoula DILE
Hungary	Lajos BOGNAR
Italy	Davide LECCHINI Francesco FELIZIANI Antonio DE ANGELIS Benedetta CAPPELLETTI Francesca CALVETTI
Latvia	Martins SERZANTS
Lithuania	Marius MASIULIS Deividas KLIUCINSKAS
Moldova	Vitalie CARAUS Maxim SIRBU
North Macedonia	Vania KONDRATENKO Vancho NOVOSELSKI
Poland	Krzysztof JAZDZEWSKI Joanna SZWAST
Portugal	Susana POMBO
Romania	Adrian ARDELEAN Mihaela SPIRIDON
Russia	Nikita LEBEDEV Alexey IGOLKIN Anton KARAULOV

Serbia	Emina MILAKA Boban DURIC Tatjana LABUS Sasa OSTOJIC Jelica UZELAC
Slovakia	Jozef BIRES Martin CHUDY
Ukraine	Vlada SYCHKOVA
Non SGE member countries	
Austria	Ulrich HERZOG Christine REINSTALLER-SEEBER Friedrich SCHMOLL
Czech Republic	Petr SATRAN
Finland	Leena OIVANEN Rautianinen EERO Jonna KYIRO
France	Guillaume GERBIER Corettie MEDJO BYABOT
Georgia	Otar PARKADZE
Ireland	Audrey JENKINSON
Israel	Michel BELLAICHE
Kazakhstan	Samat TYULEGENOV Dr. AZIMKHAN
Malta	Paul Joseph PORTELLI
Montenegro	Marko NIKOLIC Milan ROGOSIC Vesna DAKOVIC
Luxembourg	Félix WILDSCHEUTZ
San Marino	Antonio PUTTI
Spain	Sergio BONILLA
Sweden	Erika CHENAIS Linda ERNHOLM Kristina MIEZIEWSKA Maria CEDERSMYG
Switzerland	Dominique SUTER
United Kingdom	Sonny BACIGALUPO Chloe WINSTONE Caroline WILSON
Other participants	
President of GFTAD for Europe	Bernard VAN GOETHEM
European Commission	Simona FORCELLA Moritz KLEMM
OIE Brussels	Roberto BALBO Tomasz GRUDNIK Estelle HAMELIN
OIE Moscow	Budimir PLAVSIC Jean PERCHET
OIE Nur Sultan	Aigerim ZHORGABAYEVA
OIE Tokyo	Caitlin HOLLEY

OIE Buenos Aires	Luis BARCOS
OIE Panama	Catya ITSEL MARTINEZ RIVAS Rocio CAMPUZANO HERNANDEZ
OIE Paris	Alexandre FEDIAEVSKY Charmaine CHANG
FAO Bangkok	Yooni OH
FAO Europe	Daniel BELTRAN ALCRUDO Mark HOVARI
FAO ROME	Andriy ROZSTALNYY
EFSA	Lina MUR

Summary

Due to the sanitary situation of the COVID-19, the nineteenth meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever (SGE ASF19), took place as a teleconference on the 23rd of February 2022. 15 SGE Member Countries from the European Region participated, along with two new members to the group, as well as representatives of the Americas and Asia for a total of 77 participants.

The 19th meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever was held earlier than planned to consider the outbreaks newly detected in January 2022 in Italy and North Macedonia, in place of the meeting usually held on the margins of the General Session. North Macedonia was previously untouched by the disease and Italy was affected by cases on the island of Sardinia, but the mainland had been unaffected up to then.

The participating member countries of the SGE-ASF for Europe briefly presented their national epidemiological situation regarding ASF, focusing on the changes since the last online meeting in November 2021.

The SGE ASF19 were shown a set of recommendations. Amongst these, it was highlighted that:

- Italy and North Macedonia should become full members of the SGE ASF, and as such participate in future SGE ASF meetings to share their experience and receive relevant guidance.
- Through veterinary service capacity building, all countries should improve their preparedness and capabilities for early detection, control, and eradication of African swine fever,
- All countries should further **increase cross border cooperation**, in particular on the measures to manage transboundary wild boar populations in the framework of ASF prevention, control and eradication.
- Awareness campaigns should be organized frequently to inform, educate and motivate all stakeholders in order to increase surveillance and improve reporting, enhance prevention practices and prevent further spread and introduction of ASF in new areas.
- All countries should promote coherent management and appropriate reduction, where relevant, of wild boar populations at national level, in order to better prevent, control and eradicate ASF. Even in absence of ASF, long term planning is required to control wild boar populations and ensure optimal coordination of national resources involved.

Next meeting

- The twentieth meeting (SGE ASF20) of the Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever in Europe under the GF-TADs umbrella should be held **in a hybrid form in Belgium, in June 2022**. It will focus on 'development of ASF vaccines and vaccination strategies'. The date and the modalities of the meeting will be decided depending on the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Minutes

Introduction and objectives of the meeting

A large number of participants (77) attended this 19th meeting of the SGE ASF for Europe. The President of the Regional Steering Committee of the GF TADs for Europe, Dr Van Goethem, congratulated participants for the quality of the work of this group; and

thanked them for taking part in the meeting at shorter notice than usual, this meeting being called earlier than usual following outbreaks in two new countries of the European region in January 2022.

15 members of the SGE ASF for Europe attended the meeting, as well as Italy and North Macedonia as new members, along with 16 observer countries, and representatives from the European Commission, the FAO, the OIE and EFSA. The invitation has been extended to representatives of the OIE for America and FAO for Asia. OIE Staff from both regions took part in the meeting.

The topics and format of the meeting have been adapted to the situation. The President invited the speakers to focus their presentation on updating the participants with progress of the ASF situation in their country, on the ASF control and eradication.

Updates from the member countries of the SGE ASF

All the detailed figures are available in the country presentations. Dr Van Goethem asked countries to proceed from north to south and east to west.

Russian Federation (Nikita Lebedev and Alexey Igolkin, head of the ASF reference laboratory)

- WB surveillance:
 - In free zones: 407 samples and no positives.
 - In non-free zones, 13895 samples, and 0.3% were PCR positive.
 - Population of WB is reduced in the affected regions until the density reaches a low level.
 - Zones with new outbreaks: both far east, Caucasus, near Vladimir and near Pskov.
- Domestic pigs:
 - In free zones: no confirmed outbreaks.
 - In non-free zones: 700 farms tested, and 1800 backyards tested.
 - 9 cases confirmed in backyards.
- The risk of ASF spread in 2022 in the Russian Federation is assessed as high. Outbreaks of infections can occur in any of the regions of the country.

Belarus (presented by Roberto Balbo)

- Still no diseases reported by the country
- WB surveillance: 18 WB found dead, no confirmed positives.
- Domestic pigs:
 - Surveillance done on testing material (PCR and Elisa), with 11573 samples from public farms and 1700 backyards.
 - No suspicions and no positives.

Estonia (Helen Prommik)

- WB surveillance:
 - In free zones: no positives.
 - In non-free zones: 55% of Wbfd were tested positive by PCR.
 - Clusters are now in three zones: southeast, northeast and north.
- Domestic pigs: no suspicions.

- They believe that the situation is under some level of control.

Latvia (Martins Serzants)

- WB surveillance:
 - 129 WBFD, with 62.7% are PCR positives.
 - Population of WB increased.
 - Two problematic areas:
 - Eastern side: near the border with Russia and Belarus there are new cases in WB, moving slowly west again.
 - Western side: The cases are from the previous wave.
- Domestic pigs:
 - The last outbreak was in the summer of last year, with no outbreaks in between.
 - Enhanced passive surveillance: between 200-300 animals are tested for ASF every month.

Lithuania (Marius Masiulis)

- WB surveillance:
 - In free zones: no positives.
 - In non-free zones: 219 WBFD, with 46% are PCR positives.
 - Most of the new WB cases are in the western part of the country.
- Domestic pigs: no new outbreaks for 18 months, the last outbreak was reported in august 2020.

Poland (Krzysztof Jazdzewski)

- WB surveillance:
 - In free zones:
 - For 643 WBFD no PCR positives were identified. It is not possible to practice serological tests on these subjects.
 - For 29 WB hunted, some showed symptoms but no positives for PCR or ELISA.
 - In non-free zones: 36,9% PCR positives in WBFD.
 - Three zones with outbreaks, in the west, southeast, and northeast
- Domestic pigs:
 - In free zones: 3 confirmed outbreaks in commercial farms.
 - In non-free zones: 2 outbreaks in commercial farms.
 - Four of the outbreaks are located in the southeast and one is in the north of the country.

Germany (Gunda Lubek)

- WB surveillance:
 - In free zones: 567 WBFD and 38000 animals hunted were tested, no positives.
 - No extension since the 15th November of the Pomeranian case, and the remaining cases are in Brandenburg and Saxony.
 - They have started setting up an electric fence and a permanent fence around the affected area in Brandenburg Saxony.
- Domestic pigs: there were no new cases in domestic pigs for all the federal regions.

Ukraine (Vlada Sychkova)

- Situation overall is stable, and there seems to be a decrease in cases.
- WB Surveillance:
 - In free zones:
 - 10 Wbfd, with 2 PCR positives (in the north of the country).
 - 1334 WB hunted, with 1 PCR positive.
 - In non-free zones: no positives
 - Cases are near the Belarusian border.
- Domestic pigs:
 - In free zones: 2 confirmed outbreaks in commercial farms and 1 confirmed case in a backyard.
 - In non-free zones: 1 case confirmed in a backyard.
 - These are all situated in the center south of the country.

Slovakia (Jozef Bires and Martin Chudy)

- WB surveillance:
 - In free zones: no positives.
 - In non-free zones: for 277 Wbfd, 72% of PCR positives and 1,1% of PCR positives in hunted WB.
 - The disease is slowly moving west, but the disease is mostly in the eastern part of the country for the moment.
- Domestic pigs:
 - In free zones: 1 positive case confirmed in commercial farm in the west of the country following illegal movement, with a secondary outbreak.
 - In non-free zones: 2 outbreaks in commercial farms.
 - Overall, the wave of the virus is spreading in areas where WB are testing positive.

Hungary (Lajos Bogнар)

- WB surveillance:
 - In free zones: stable with no cases detected.
 - In non-free zones: 11% PCR positives in Wbfd and 0.65% PCR positives in WB hunted.
 - The new cases are mostly in the north part of the country, and in the western part of the newly affected area (disease front).
- Domestic pigs: no cases detected. The surveillance and monitoring are maintained, 32868 animals were tested with PCR.

Bulgaria (Anna Zdravkova)

- WB surveillance:
 - 154 Wbfd were tested with 88% PCR positive.
 - 11364 WBH were tested with 2.31% PCR positive.
 - Map shows a few zones without positives WB in the country.
- Domestic pigs:
 - 15000 pigs were tested, and 4 affected farms and 4 backyards affected were identified.

- Since the beginning of 2022 to new outbreaks were detected in backyards.
- Cases are rather located in the southwestern parts of the country.
- The dynamics of outbreaks is currently not extremely high, when compared to 2019 for instance.

Moldova (Maxim Sirbu)

- WB surveillance:
 - In free zones: no positives.
 - In non-free zones:
 - For 4 WBFD 1 was reported PCR positive.
 - Regarding WB hunted there was little testing because hunting is forbidden. 6 WB hunted illegally were tested but no positives.
 - In affected zones, 1 WBFD was found next to the border with the Ukraine.
- Domestic pigs:
 - In free zones: 2 suspicions in commercial farms, 1 confirmed, but the meat was all used on site.
 - In non-free zones: 1 backyard positive, in the north part of Moldova considered infected. One farmer collected animals from another farm and did not declare his backyard. Four WB were found dead next to his farm.
- Change of situation: before November suspicions were found in the southern part of Moldova, and they are now in the northern part.

Romania (Adrian Ardealan)

- All the territory of Romania is considered infected.
- WB surveillance:
 - 169 WBFD tested with 70% PCR positives.
 - 11004 WB hunted tested with 2.82% PCR positives.
 - Virus is circulating through the country, as explained by the map
- Domestic pig: 12 farms and 174 backyards were confirmed positives.

Serbia (Boban Duric)

- WB surveillance:
 - In free zones: 1 positive.
 - In non-free zones:
 - 57 WBFD and 82% PCR positives, and 1 case was seropositive
 - From WBH, 1.75% of animals were PCR positives.
 - Cases are still focused mostly in the eastern part of the country.
- Domestic pigs:
 - In free zones: no positives.
 - In non-free zones: 1 small commercial farm was reported positive, and 36 backyards were reported positives.
- WB and domestics outbreaks are spreading in the same zone; they seem linked.

Greece (Chrysoula Dile)

Dr Van Goethem commented that Greece did not have much to report.

- Details of passive and active surveillance in WB revealed no cases.
- In domestic pigs, there were no outbreaks either.

Discussion

Dr Van Goethem thanked participants for their input. He suggested that Greece remain in the groupe, but as an observer from now on, and that Italy and North Macedonia be welcomed to this group meant for cooperation and exchanges of information. Dr Van Goethem opened the floor for comments from participants.

Dr Perchet noted that some countries had managed to keep free in domestic pigs despite continued presence in WB.

Dr Van Goethel agreed that at a later date, EFSA could be invited to present on biosecurity and the conclusions of EFSA.

Presentations from Italy

Dr Lecchini presented the following points on the situation faced by Italy:

- Incoming outbreaks of ASF from the 7th of January in Piedmont and Liguria
- WB surveillance:
 - Piedmont and Liguria (near French boarder):
 - 143 Wbfd tested with 38% PCR positives.
 - 3401 WB hunted tested with only 1% PCR positive.
 - Sardinia:
 - Stable situation.
 - Only a very small proportion of seropositive, only in WB.
 - No detection outside of the central part of the island.
- Domestic pigs in Sardinia:
 - In free zones: 35 suspicions but no confirmation was made.
 - In non-free zones: 11 suspicions and 3 farms were confirmed positives.

In the course of a second presentation, Dr Lecchini explained what control measures had been taken:

- It is the first time that ASF has been described in a Mediterranean mountainous area.
- Italy has been using the strategy designed taking into account the modelling and best practices developed over the last 9 years.
- In the areas, there is low population density and long winters, favouring the survival of the virus.
- He gave a timeline of the initial steps, from the detection from the sampling of the carcass in Ovada (Piedmont) on 29/12 to the confirmation of the 7th of January by the reference laboratory.
- After notification to the EU and OIE, A local crisis unit meeting was convened.
- On the 7th of January: 2 other WB were suspected.

- Letters to the regional authorities suspending certification for slaughter for export were sent.
- On the 10th of January: the 1st central crisis meeting was held in Rome, and confirmation of cases 2 and 3 were made.
- From 11 to 13th of January: mission by the Ministry of health with the assistance of the national reference laboratory.
- From the 15 to 16th of January: beginning of the active searching of WBFD in the zone considered infected and in neighbouring regions.
- Looking at a map, it is clear that the area is spread between 2 highways, that provide a barrier of sorts. Two large “buffer zones” have been designated around those two highways.
- The national reference laboratory worked systematically; the research proved that the strain was highly virulent. Genotype II was confirmed.
- The first ministerial provision established a large, infected area.
- Hunting and other activities were forbidden in the affected area.
- Activities were also restricted in the neighbouring areas.
- On the 18th of January, a restricted zone was defined with the infected zone and a 10 km buffer zone.
- On 16th of February, urgent measures were adopted into a decree-law. An extraordinary commissioner was named to control and limit the spread in a coordinated manner.
- In the concerned areas, activities were forbidden:
 - o Hunting, trekking, biking to avoid the spread of the virus.
 - o Active search of carcasses starting from the border of the infected zone.
 - o Management and disposal of carcasses.
 - o Farm census.
 - o Depopulation and control of farms in the zone.
 - o Passive and active surveillance with virological testing.
 - o Any carcass found is classified as suspected.
- In the buffer zone, most of the same restrictions are applied:
 - o A specific plan has been made for WB surveillance, including the definition of geographical cells for surveillance. This active surveillance was mostly carried out just outside of the infected zone.
- In other regions, major preventive measures:
 - o Census of pig farms and update of the national database.
 - o Enhanced surveillance.
- An EUVET mission took place from 7-11th of January:
 - o They advised that the strategy of control through lowering population density was not feasible. The terrain is simply not adapted to finding WB carcasses easily.
 - o They recommended better information of the population to improve control of the outbreak.
 - o They studied the possible pathway for fences. The highway fences must be reinforced, and a buffer fence built.
 - o Bait traps can be set up in the affected areas.
 - o passive surveillance can be set up targeting specific spots.
 - o Depopulation: recommendations:
 - inside the infected zone: hunting is prohibited.
 - any animal killed must be tested and disposed of safely no matter what the test results.

- Pet pigs are an issue: check and reinforce register and regular visits to verify presence and health status.
- Work had been done on communication material as well for effective engagement with the public.

Presentations from North Macedonia

Dr Kondratenko presented the following points on the current situation in North Macedonia:

- The first case in North Macedonia was detected on the 6th of January 2021 in a small backyard pig farm.
- 2 other cases were reported in backyards since.
- The cases are located in the northeast region (near Bulgarian border).

In the course of a second presentation, Dr Kondratenko explained what control measures had been taken:

- The first clinical signs were observed on the 29th of December 2021 for the confirmation of the case on the 6th of January 2022.
- On the 7th of January a Decision on control and eradication measures was issued and a 3 km infected zone and a 10 km buffer zone were defined.
- Measures in infected holding: all animals on the farms were culled, samples from animals were collected, carcasses were disposed of, cleaning and disinfection of the premises was carried out, and epidemiological enquiries were conducted.
- Measures in the 3 km radius: control of animals, susceptible or not; collection of samples (PCR); movement restriction of animals and people, along with recording of movement; restriction of artificial insemination; cleaning and disinfection of all premises; ban of pigs in open holdings; ban of open markets.
- Measures in the 10 km radius: the only difference is that the animals are slaughtered and not culled and will be consumed after heat treatment.
- Ban of WB hunting in 20 km radius around primary outbreak.
- 268 animals were killed in the 3 km zone in three days, in 45 farms – all the animals in the zone were destroyed.
- In the 10 km zone: animals are being slaughtered and the operation will be finished at the beginning of march, with about 1000 animals targeted.
- Surveillance of infection in WB is ongoing.
- Challenges and next steps: better cooperation with hunters, awareness campaign for farmers and general population, digitalization of hunting grounds, and improvements of biosecurity measures in hunting grounds.
- Dr Kondratenko thanked EUVET and FAO for the help that they had provided in this tile of crisis.

ASF: European Commission Activities

Dr Forcella, from DG Sante, presented the current activities of the European Commission, focusing on the reaction to the current new outbreaks:

- She presented the global and European spread of the disease in 2021.
- 10 countries are currently affected in the EU.
- Czech Republic, Belgium, are now free, Greece had one outbreak in domestic pigs, and it is considered eradicated.
- The importance of preparedness was already understood, and corresponding actions practiced, before the disease arrived in new areas, but the effort is; as other activities including legislative support, scientific advice, etc.
- Control measures include zoning, depending on the presence of ASF in wild boar, in domestic pigs, or the presence in adjacent zones (buffer zones).
- 4 EU VET missions were carried out since November, including to Italy, recommending strategic fencing, and management measures in and out of the infected zones, along with awareness campaign. In North Macedonia, another EU VET mission recommended the cooperation between hunters and government initiatives in wild boar surveillance for ASF, and other classical measures of control for both sectors.
- Regionalization is important in controlling the disease, and must be adapted to the situation, so transparency is important.
- The measures taken have permitted to slow down the spread of the disease.
- WB management is important, and countries should be really putting a lot of effort in the control of WB.
- For domestic pigs, biosecurity and control measures have been proven to work.

Discussion

Dr Van Goethem welcomed comments and questions from participants.

He asked Dr Lecchini for more details on the semi-wild farms and the fencing that is planned.

Dr Lecchini explained that a pathway had already been designed for the installation of physical barriers, although the funding was not completely secured, and the services to materially lay down the barriers were still being identified. He hoped that they will be able to start this within a few days.

On the other hand, he is aware that the window of opportunity for these actions is not very long, and that everything should be carried out before the beginning of the summer or be of little use.

Dr Van Goethem thanked the commission again for enabling the EUVET missions, pointing out that they also help in communication with hunters.

Dr Perchet asked Dr Lecchini and Kondratenko if they had been able to understand how and when the infection arrived.

Dr Lecchini replied that the investigation was ongoing. There is proof that the strain circulating is genotype 2, the same as the one circulating in Europe. After initially thinking that it came from the north of Italy, they are now investigating a second hypothesis, where the disease could have been spread by the movement of trucks along the two main highways between Genova and Milano. The infection could also have entered through the Genoa port, and no option has been confirmed yet. Unfortunately, Italian veterinary services have no opinion as to the period when the virus could have been introduced, and are still investigating the possible reasons for entering.

For North Macedonia, Dr Kondratenko replied that it seems that the disease entered the farm on the 12th of December, through wild boars, since the North Macedonian veterinary services has even obtained pictures of the hunters with wild boars on the farm, with matching periods.

Dr Balbo asked about the registration of pet pigs, how it was practiced in Italy, and if there were penalties for the non-declaration of this type of pig.

Dr Lecchini answered that there were fortunately limited numbers of these animals. They did a risk evaluation and put them under strict control. The situation has been monitored day by day. There is an obligation of declaration, and Italian veterinary services are thinking about potential penalties for undeclared animals. They are not considered to be presenting the highest risk, and the sensitivity is very high for the public, so penalties have yet to be identified.

Replying to Dr Ostojic on details of surveillance in both domestic pigs and WB in North Macedonia, Dr Kondratenko indicated that veterinary services are revising the surveillance plan due to ASF. Currently, they are testing all hunted wild boars and all slaughtered pigs in the 10km area. There is a problem with laboratory capacity.

Dr Van Goethem mentioned the existing list of 10 experts for EUVET field missions. Since the beginning of the current ASF outbreak, 13 field visits were carried out. 4 missions are still pending until the end of the covid restrictions.

Dr Van Goethem asked for candidate experts from countries, and to check that experts on the list are all still available. He asked Dr Balbo to circulate the list. He suggested that missions associate one expert for the western side and eastern side of Europe.

Presentation, discussion and adoption of the SGE ASF19 recommendations

Following the discussions, after reviewing the reports on the current epidemiological situation from the SGE Members¹, Italy and North Macedonia, the draft recommendations of the SGE ASF19 were presented by the President and participants had one week to submit comments on these recommendations, before they were considered agreed by the SGE ASF19 participants.

1. **Italy and North Macedonia** should become **full members** of the SGE ASF, and as such participate in future SGE ASF meetings to share their experience and receive relevant guidance.
2. **Greece** should be **withdrawn** from the list of members of the SGE ASF, considering that has provided evidence that ASF was eradicated in domestic pigs. However, Greece is welcome to become observer and share experience.
3. Through veterinary service capacity building, all countries should improve their preparedness, and capabilities for early detection, control, and eradication of African swine fever.
4. All countries should further **increase cross border cooperation**, in particular on the measures to manage transboundary wild boar populations in the framework of ASF prevention, control and eradication.
5. **Awareness campaigns** should be organized frequently to inform, educate and motivate all stakeholders in order to increase surveillance and improve reporting,

enhance prevention practices and prevent further spread and introduction of ASF in new areas.

6. All countries should promote **coherent management** and appropriate reduction, where relevant, **of wild boar populations at regional and national level**, in order to better prevent, control and eradicate ASF. Even in absence of ASF, long term planning is required to control wild boar populations and ensure optimal coordination of national resources involved.
7. The possibility to **send SGE ASF field missions** to Slovakia, Germany, Italy and North Macedonia should be reconsidered once the COVID-19 pandemic allows it.
8. Considering that new knowledge and expertise on the management and eradication of ASF has increased in recent years, the **list of SGE ASF experts^[2] should be revised**, and new experts should be proposed, and added to this list after approval.
9. All countries should implement previous SGE ASF recommendations to prevent, control and eradicate ASF.
10. The twentieth meeting (SGE ASF20) of the Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever in Europe under the GF-TADs umbrella should be held **in an hybrid form in Belgium**, in **June 2022**. It will focus on 'development of ASF vaccines and vaccination strategies'. The date and the modalities of the meeting will be decided depending on the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic.

^[1] Belarus, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine

^[2] The current list of EU experts as last defined in the Recommendations agreed during the 12th Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever in 2019 (Czech Republic) is as follows:

Name	Approval
Silvia Bellini	SGE ASF2, Tallinn, Estonia - February 2015
Klaus Depner	SGE ASF2, Tallinn, Estonia - February 2015
Konstantine Gruzdev	SGE ASF2, Tallinn, Estonia - February 2015
Vittorio Guberti	SGE ASF2, Tallinn, Estonia - February 2015
Sergei Khomenko	SGE ASF2, Tallinn, Estonia - February 2015
Marius Masiulis	SGE ASF6, Vilnius, Lithuania - November 2016
Edvīns Oļševskis	SGE ASF6, Vilnius, Lithuania - November 2016
Ago Partel	SGE ASF6, Vilnius, Lithuania - November 2016
Alexey Igolkin	SGE ASF8, Chisinau, Moldova – September 2017
Krzysztof Jażdżewski	SGE ASF12, Prague, Czech Republic – March 2019
Petr Šatrán	SGE ASF12, Prague, Czech Republic – March 2019

Closing REMARKS –

Dr Van Goethem, President of the Steering Committee of the GF TADs for Europe, stressed the importance of following science in the creation of our strategies for the eradication of ASF. He extended special thanks to Dr Balbo for all of his active work in the last years in the OIE. Dr Balbo thanked participants for their positive collaboration and the privilege to work with them.



We would like to sincerely thank the European Union and the OIE for kindly supporting the organisation of the SGE ASF19 teleconference.

All presentations are available on the GF-TADs page of the OIE of the Europe website:

<https://rr-europe.oie.int/en/events/sge-asf19-19th-meeting-of-the-standing-group-of-experts-on-african-swine-fever-in-europe/>

