

1st GF-TADs Regional Conference of Standing Groups of Experts on priority transboundary animal diseases in the European region

22-25 September 2025, Belgrade, Serbia

Venue: Hotel Falkensteiner, Bulevar Mihaila Pupina 10K, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

<https://www.falkensteiner.com/en/hotel-belgrade>

For online participants:

<https://oie.zoom.us/j/92701848305>

Final draft Agenda

22 September		
	Side Events by invitation	
	Official Dinner	

Day 1, Tuesday, 23 September		
Opening Session		
Time, CET	Title	Speaker
8:30	Welcome remarks	Dr Budimir Plavsic
8:30-8:50	Opening remarks	Dr Budimir Plavsic (WOAH RR, Regional GF-TADs Secretariat) Dr Viorel Gutu (FAO RR/RD, Assistant of DG of FAO) Dr Bernard Van Goethem (DG SANTE, President of GF-TADs for Europe) Prof Dragan Glamocic , H.E. Minister of Agriculture of Serbia
	Group photo	
Session 1: Plenary 1		Chair - Dr Bernard Van Goethem
8:50-9:00	Report of activities under GF-TADs in Europe: 2024-2025	Dr Bernard Van Goethem
9:00-9:15	Update from 12 th RSC of GF-TADs for Europe	Dr Budimir Plavsic
9:15-9:25	Update from GF-TADs Management Committee	Dr Madhur Dhingra (FAO) and Dr Baba Soumare (DDG WOAHA)
9:25-9:40	Update from WOAHA - WAHIS: epidemiological situation of priority diseases, transparency in notification	Dr Peter Melens (WAHIS Department, WOAHA)
9:40-9:55	Update from FAO – Activities in Europe and Central Asia	Dr Mark Hovari (FAO)
9:55-10:10	Update from WOAHA	Dr Alexandre Fediaevsky Interim Head of Preparedness and Resilience Department (WOAH)



10:10-10:30	Overview of EC activities in animal health	Dr Barbara Logar , Deputy Head of Unit, Animal Health Unit, DG SANTE, European Commission
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break	
Session 2: SGE LSD-15		
11:00-11:05	Opening	Chair - Dr Bernard Van Goethem
11:05-11:15	Report from SGE-LSD 2016-2025	Dr Mereke Taitubayev (WOAH SRR in Astana, Secretariat for SGE-LSD)
11:15-11:30	Member's experience: Kazakhstan	Dr Azamat Umirkul (Chief Expert, Republic of Kazakhstan)
11:30-11:45	Member's experience: Italy	Dr Giovanni Filippini Director General of Animal Health
11:45-12:00	Member's experience: France	Dr Marie-Christine Le Gal (Delegate of France)
12:00-12:15	Lumpy Skin Disease: Measures taken in Switzerland	Dr Martin Reist (Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office, Switzerland)
12:15-12:30	Report from EU/WOAH Reference Laboratory	Dr Nick De Regge (EU/WOAH Reference Laboratory, Belgium)
12:30-12:50	Interactive discussion	
12:50-13:00	Conclusions and Recommendations	
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
Session 3: PPR		
14:00-14:05	Opening	Chair - Dr Bernard Van Goethem
14:05-14:25	RAG presentation, Roadmap activities in Western Eurasia	Drs Abrar Akbarov , Delegate of Uzbekistan and Mereke Taitubayev
14:25-14:40	Members experience: Update from Romania	Dr. Cristian Siposean , Rep of Romania
14:40-14:55	Members experience: Update from Albania	Dr Ketil Margariti , Delegate of Albania
14:55-15:10	Members experience: Update from Türkiye	Dr. Sabri HACIOĞLU (virologist, Türkiye)
15:10-15:25	Kosovo* update	Dr Bafti Murati , Head of Animal Health Sector, Kosovo* (online)
15:25-15:40	Members experience: Georgia	Dr Tengiz Chaligava (Rep. of Georgia)
15:40-15:55	Members experience: PPR free status of Azerbaijan	Dr Galib Abdulaliyev (WOAH Delegate of Azerbaijan)
15:55-16:25	Coffee Break	
16:25-16:40	FAO presentation on PPR	Dr Mark Hovari
16:40-16:55	Overview of the phylogenetics of the PPR strains found in Europe in 2024-2025 and their relationship with other circulating strains in the neighbouring countries	Dr Arnaud Bataille (CIRAD -WOAH RL, FAO Reference Centre, EURL for PPR)
16:55-17:25	Interactive discussion	



17:25-17:40	Conclusions and Recommendations	
19:30	Official Dinner hosted by WOA	

** 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*

Day 2, Wednesday, 24 September		
Session 4: SGE HPAI -3		
Time, CET	Title	Speaker
8:30-8:35	Opening	Chair - Dr Bernard Van Goethem
8:35-8:50	Country experience: surveillance and monitoring in Serbia	Dr Miso Kolarević (Veterinary Specialized Institute Kraljevo, Serbia)
8:50-9:05	Country experience: vaccination (France, including cost-benefit-effectiveness)	Dr Guillaume Gerbier (Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty, France)
9:05-9:20	Experience with the avian influenza vaccination in the Netherlands	Dr Annemarie Bouma (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature, The Netherlands), (online)
9:20-9:35	Update on Monitoring and Preventing Zoonotic Threats in the WHO European Region	Dr Marc-Alain Widdowson (WHO-EURO), (online)
9:35-9:50	Genetic Evolution of HPAI Viruses in Europe: Insights from the 2024–2025	Dr Isabella Monne (IZSVe Italy, FAO Reference Centre & WOA/EU Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza)
9:50-10:05	Updates about EFSA risk assessments on avian influenza, including cattle infections in US and possible pathways of HPAI introduction into EU, contribution to preparedness, prevention, and control related to zoonotic avian influenza and wild bird surveillance for early detection.	Dr Alessandro Broglia (EFSA, Biological Hazards & Animal Health and Welfare)
10:05-10:20	OFFLU updates and Global HPAI strategy	Dr Gounalan Pavade (WOAH, HQ)
10:20-10:40	Interactive discussion	
10:40-11:00	Conclusions and Recommendations	
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break	
Session 5: SGE RAB-7		
11:30-11:35	Opening	Chair - Dr Bernard Van Goethem
11:35-11:55	Standing Group of Experts on Rabies for Europe: Members' vaccination and rabies control progress, 2017–2024	Dr Anne Meyer (Episystemic, epidemiologist expert) & SRR Brussels)
11:55-12:05	2025–2026 Plans of SGE RAB Members	Dr Denise Dubois (SGE-RAB Secretariat)



12:05-12:20	Sylvatic Rabies re-emergences in Central Europe	Dr Emmanuelle Robardet (ANSES Nancy Laboratory for Rabies and Wildlife, WOAHEU Reference Laboratory for rabies)
12:20-12:35	Measures to prevent rabies resurgence in the European Union	Dr Florence Cliquet (ANSES Nancy Laboratory for Rabies and Wildlife, WOAHEU Reference Laboratory for rabies)
12:35-13:00	Interactive discussion	SGE- RAB Secretariat + WOAHE Experts (Dr. Florence Cliquet & Dr. Emmanuelle Robardet)
13:00-13:15	Conclusions & Recommendations	Bernard Van Goethem, chair
13:15- 14:15	Lunch	
14:15-14:30	Rabies elimination in Ukraine: One Health approach, communication, and lessons learned.	Dr Olena Kuriata (WHO - Ukraine) (Online)
14:30-15:00	Coffee Break	
15:00	Side event 2: World Rabies Day	
19:30	Official Dinner hosted by Serbia	
Day 3, Thursday, 25 September		
Session 6: SGE ASF-25		
Time, CET	Title	Speaker
8:30-8:35	Opening	Chair - Dr Bernard Van Goethem
8:35-8:50	Report of SGE on ASF: A Decade of Collaborative Control (2014-2025)	Dr Budimir Plavsic
8:50-9:00	Usage of IT tools to support prevention and control measures	Dr Boban Djuric (Delegate of Serbia)
9:00-9:10	Moldova's experience in ASF control	Dr Nicolae Malancae (Rep. of Moldova)
9:10-9:20	ASF Contingency Plan in Poland	Dr Joanna Szewast (head of Unit for Animal Infectious Diseases at Animal Health and Welfare Office, Poland)
9:20-9:30	Simulation Exercise: Austria	Dr Beate Lihl , (Austria)
9:30-9:40	Results of Community African Swine Fever (ASF) Biosecurity Interventions (CABI) in the Western Balkans	Dr Mark Hovari (FAO)
9:40-10:00	The search for the ASF vaccine – an endless story?	Dr Sandra Blome (Laborleiterin Institut für Virusdiagnostik, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut)
10:00-10:30	Interactive discussion	
10:30- 10:45	Conclusions and Recommendations	
10:45- 11:15	Coffee break	
Session 7: FMD		



11:15- 11:20	Opening	Chair - Dr Bernard Van Goethem
11:20-11:30	RAG presentation, Roadmap activities in Western Eurasia	Drs Galib Abdulaliyev and Mereke Taitubayev
11:30-11:40	Members experience: Update from Hungary	Dr Szabolcs Pasztor , CVO of Hungary
11:40-11:50	Members experience: Update from Slovakia	Dr Martin Chudý , Delegate of Slovakia
11:50-12:00	Members experience: Update from Türkiye	Dr Sabri Hacıoglu , virologist, Türkiye
12:00-12:15	FMD full genome sequencing and comparing strains: Overview for the region	Guillaume Girault (Project Leader, Deputy head of Biology of Picornaviruses Team, Head of EURL for FMD)
12:15-12:25	WOAH procedures for recovery of FMD free status without vaccination	Dr Min-Kyung Park (WOAH, Head of Status Department)
12:25-12:40	Interactive discussion	ALL
12:40-12:55	Conclusions and Recommendations	
12:55- 13:25	Lunch	
Session 8: Plenary 2		
13:25-13:30	Opening	Chair - Dr Bernard Van Goethem
13:30-13:45	The FAO Virtual Learning Centre (VLC)	Dr Daniel Beltran Alcrudo (FAO, Europe and Central Asia)
13:45-14:00	EuFMD Training – developing capacity, ensuring preparedness, and reducing risk	Dr Dónal Sammin Executive secretary, EuFMD
14:00-14:15	REMESA: the Animal Health Network for the Mediterranean - Strengthening the prevention and control of major TADs and zoonoses in the Mediterranean	Drs Rachid Bouguedour (SRR NA) and Francesco Valentini (SRR NA) - online
14:15-14:30	Update on ADEWB II support to WB countries; Platform for data reporting and analysis for the priority TADs	Dr Toni Kirandjiski (Team Leader, ADEWB II)
14:30-14:40	Activities of the Animal Production and Health Sub-Programme (APH) of the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre, Vienna, Austria on ASF, HPAI, rabies, FMD and PPR	Dr Ivancho Naletoski , Technical Officer (Animal Health, IAEA)
14:40-15:00	Discussion	All
15:00-15:30	Coffee Break	
15:30-15:45	Conclusions (general and specific for each SGE/RAG)	Chair - Dr Bernard Van Goethem ALL
15:45	closing ceremony	Chair - Dr Bernard Van Goethem



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GF-TADs

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF
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