



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

**Eighteenth meeting (SGE ASF18) – 23 November 2021**

Following the discussions, after reviewing the reports on the current epidemiological situation from the SGE Members<sup>1</sup>, and on the basis of the latest scientific conclusions on African swine fever and outdoor farming of pigs,

The SGE ASF 18 recommends that:

General issues

1. The Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever (SGE ASF) should remain as the platform to discuss regional activities, to share experiences and best practices related to ASF prevention, control and eradication in Europe.
2. 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, Asia and Africa).
3. It is essential to ensure transparency and full cooperation among countries and within the Standing Group. 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.
4. The SGE ASF acknowledges that, even in the absence of a vaccine, science based tools for the prevention, control and eradication of ASF exist and all countries should fully implement them to fight this deadly disease. In addition, the GF-TADs initiative for the Global control of ASF aims to strengthen the capability of countries to control (prevent, respond, eradicate) ASF using OIE standards and best practices that are

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<sup>1</sup> Belarus, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine

based on latest scientific evidence. All countries should contribute to reach the objectives of this initiative.

5. 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 in the specific section of the e-depository on the GF-TADs page of the OIE Europe website, to make them available to other countries.
6. SGE Missions should restart once travelling will be allowed, based on relevant national restrictions due to Covid-19.

#### On outdoor farming biosecurity:

7. Outdoor pig farms may carry a substantial risk of introducing and spreading ASF in domestic pigs in areas affected by ASF.
8. Biosecurity is key to prevent and control ASF spread and should be enhanced, because of specific ASF risks for outdoor farms.
9. Pig farmers should set up a system to regularly implement independent and objective on-farm biosecurity assessments using comprehensive standard protocols; competent authorities should then perform controls and register or approve outdoor pig farms on the basis of their biosecurity risk. The aim of such system should be to further reduce the risk of ASF introduction and spread related to outdoor pig farms.
10. Farmers should be incentivised, to implement single solid or double fences and adequate biosecurity practices to prevent contact between domestic pigs and wild boar on all outdoor pig farms, especially in areas where ASF is present, in order to reduce the risk of ASF introduction.

#### Next meeting

11. The nineteenth meeting (SGE ASF19) of the Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever in Europe under the GF-TADs umbrella should ideally be held physically, in the first semester 2022. If possible, it will be held in hybrid form to allow participants who are in a position to travel to attend the event and for those subject to restriction they will be following the meeting online. The place, to be confirmed, is Brussels.