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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: African swine fever: state of play
- Information from the Commission

Delegations will find in Annex an information note from the Commission services on the above mentioned subject to be raised under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 15 July 2019.

African swine fever: state of play

Following the last discussion on African swine fever in the AGRIFISH Council of January 2019, the disease continued to spread to vast regions of China and other Asian countries (Mongolia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea) raising serious concerns in other countries such as the United States and Canada.

In the EU, nine Member States are currently affected by the disease: Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania (wild boar and farmed pigs), Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Belgium (wild boar only), and Italy (Sardinia only – unrelated epidemic situation).

Shortly after the appearance of African swine fever at EU borders, the Commission acted in close coordination with the Member States to prevent the entry of the disease into the EU and, subsequently, to contain and eradicate it. It has to be noted that African swine fever was formally eradicated in Czechia in February 2019, thanks to the effective measures applied by the Czech authorities and the support of the Commission.

At international level, the most recent discussions on African swine fever took place at the 87th General Session of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and at a G7 Chief Veterinary Officers' meeting in Paris in May 2019, with the active participation of the Commission.

Two meetings of the Standing group of experts on African swine fever in Europe were organised under the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (a joint OIE and Food and Agriculture Organization initiative). The first one took place in Prague in March 2019, followed by a meeting in Paris in May 2019. Both meetings were attended by international partners such as Canada and China. Furthermore, a specific Better Training for Safer Food event on African swine fever was organised by the Commission in China in April 2019, together with other high-level meetings. African swine fever was also recently discussed, on 10 June 2019 in Bucharest, at the high-level Conference on Transboundary Animal Diseases organised by the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU.

Farmers (both commercial and non-commercial) and hunters should continue to step up their efforts and ensure a high level of biosecurity at all times. Travellers and the general public in all Member States should be informed about the risks of African swine fever and about the measures to prevent the occurrence of this disease. A multi-sectorial cooperation remains crucial to control African swine fever.

The Commission invites all Member States to remain vigilant and well-prepared, in particular due to the peak of the disease during the summer season.

