



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Outcome of the high-level international conference "The future of global pork production under the threat of African swine fever" (Berlin, 17 January 2020) <i>- Information from the Commission</i>

Delegations will find in Annex an information note from the Commission on the above mentioned subject to be presented under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 27-28 January 2020.

**High-level international conference:
‘The Future of global pork production under the threat of African swine fever’
organised by the Commission in the margin of the International Green Week
in Berlin, 17 January 2020**

1. This Council last discussed African swine fever (ASF) in October 2019. Today, ASF is still present in ten Member States in infected and regionalised areas of the European Union, as well as in an uncontrolled manner in Asia.
2. Europe has a state of the art animal disease risk management system, but it is clear, that we will never be able to eradicate this disease without a global strategy and cooperation.
3. In the framework of this unprecedented spread of ASF worldwide, a global action and effective collaboration and communication between all relevant stakeholders is urgently needed. ASF has serious economic implications for the pig meat and related sectors, including indirect costs related to trade restrictions. The future of global pork production, and therefore food security, is under threat from this devastating disease. For these reasons, the Commission organised an international conference aimed at fostering coordinated global actions to reduce the impact of ASF to the pig sector and adverse consequences to environment, agriculture, international trade and food security.
4. This high-level conference titled ‘The Future of global pork production under the threat of African swine fever’ took place in the margin of the International Green Week in Berlin on 17 January 2020¹. The conference received broad political attention and was attended by 20 EU and non-EU Ministers and vice-Ministers, 50 country delegations, 20 international organisations including the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). More than 220 participants registered to the event.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/high-level-international-conference-2020-jan-17_en

5. From the Chair's conclusions (see link in footnote), it emerged that without a vaccine, the global eradication of ASF is unlikely. Therefore, prevention and control of the disease is critical.
 6. Only with a long-term global strategy including significant resource allocations – both human and financial – as well as scientific and technical collaboration on research, ASF can be tackled. Transparent communication, cooperation, sharing of experiences and best practices on preparedness, prevention and control can reduce the risks that come with international travel and illegal cross-border activities. Targeted awareness campaigns and risk communication strategies are also essential. The management of wild boar population is a pre-requisite. A transparent and robust recognition and application of the fundamental principles of regionalisation in line with the OIE international standards will contribute to the sustainability of the farming and trade system limiting the global consequences of ASF.
 7. The Chair's conclusions of the conference confirm that ASF is not a challenge that is going to disappear overnight – or indeed, any time soon. It is a challenge that requires ongoing cooperation and commitment – and ongoing investment of time, resources and expertise by all parties.
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