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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: AOB item for the meeting of the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council of
24 March 2025:
Outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in Hungary
- Information from Hungary

Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is a serious, highly contagious viral disease that mainly affects biungulates. Due to its high contagiousness and fast spread, its appearance in animal stocks causes high economic loss.

Hungary has been free from the disease since 1973, but on 6th March 2025 it has been confirmed in a dairy cattle holding in Győr-Moson-Sopron county.

The virus is transmitted by direct contact between infected animals, fomites, humans and also airborne. **The extensive epidemiological investigation is still ongoing, but the source of infection is currently unknown.** Based on the laboratory examination of the virus, **the disease has not spread to Hungary from Germany**, as the virus isolated from the Hungarian outbreak is not closely related to the one isolated in January in Germany.

The relevant legislation of the European Union prescribes stringent measures, including depopulation of the affected holdings and establishing restricted zones around the outbreak. Interim measures adopted by the European Commission have to be implemented in these restricted zones. Hungary has also introduced measures surplus to those prescribed by EU legislation, and does every provision to prevent the spread of the disease.

Several third countries have **introduced restrictions** based on the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the World Organisation for Animal Health, **especially for pigs and ruminants**, which will result in the severe decrease of export of live animals and their products and consequently will cause unpredictable economic loss. We ask for the support of the European Commission in order to minimise the losses of producers and to help restore the trade relations with third countries on an EU level.

This outbreak also highlights the importance of animal keepers adhering to animal health and biosecurity measures prescribed by relevant EU legislation, that also makes it possible that trade within the EU can continue from the free areas of the country after implementing the restrictions stipulated by harmonised legislation.
