



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 12 February 2014
(OR. en)**

6382/14

**AGRI 94
VETER 13**

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: African Swine Fever - Recent situation in Lithuania

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Lithuanian delegation to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 17 February 2014.

RECENT SITUATION WITH THE AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN LITHUANIA

In order to draw attention of the European Commission and Member States to the situation concerning the risk of evolution of African swine fever (ASF) in Lithuania and the consequences of the subsequent ban imposed by the Russian Federation on imports of live pigs and pig meat from the entire European Union (EU), Lithuanian delegation is hereby informing of the measures taken to eradicate and prevent the disease and is requesting for further joint actions and steps to be taken.

As far back as 2013, when the outbreak of ASF was reported in Belarus, the competent authorities of Lithuania immediately took all the necessary measures to prevent the spread of the disease to Lithuania and the entire EU.

Despite that, during the increased surveillance in the wild fauna in the southeast Lithuania, near border with Belarus on 24 January 2014 two wild boars were found with ASF. Lithuanian authorities introduced all the necessary measures straightaway to prevent the disease from spreading among wild boars and entering pig holdings. Lithuania immediately informed the European Commission, World Organization for Animal Health and neighbouring countries about the detected presence of ASF.

Lithuanian authorities have already addressed the Commission's services over assistance to implement the surveillance and control measures for ASF. Assistance and support are sought for the following measures: sampling and laboratory tests, information campaign, reimbursement for intensified hunting of wild boars, storage of samples, installation of traps for wild boars, purchase of incineration equipment for animal by-products, construction of disinfection facility at the border area, additional laboratory equipment to accelerate the testing of samples, purchase of disinfectants. Discussions are also held on the necessity of building a fence at the border with Belarus or in separate segments of the border region.

The preventive measures taken by Lithuanian competent institutions against ASF were also presented to the Standing Committee for the Food Chain and Animal Health of the European Commission on 6 February 2014.

Lithuania emphasises that in the joint statement approved by the Standing Committee the European Commission and Member States acknowledged that all the measures introduced in Lithuania were appropriate, effective and timely. Lithuania reassures that no live pig, reproductive material from pigs, pig meat, untreated pig products, unprocessed animal by-products from pigs and other products coming from the high risk areas in Lithuania, as well as no meat nor animal by-products from wild boar from the entire Lithuania enter territories of Member States and third countries.

Lithuanian delegation would also like to draw attention of the European Commission and Member States to possible unjustified trade restrictions set by some EU business operators on imports of live pigs and pig meat from Lithuania.

The ASF has already caused considerable economic damage to the Lithuanian pig farming sector and losses continue to increase every day. Currently, we are conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the situation and calculating estimates. Lithuania will shortly notify the European Commission about the economic damage suffered and appeal to consider compensation plan.

Taking into account the above, Lithuania calls on the European Commission for further urgent action to take all the available diplomatic, legal, financial and economic, exceptional market management measures and safety net mechanisms to:

- **eradicate and prevent the spread of ASF,**
- **abolish international trade restrictions and limitations,**
- **compensate economic losses,**
- **rebuild consumer confidence;**

particularly in the Member States where the presence of the disease has already been or will be detected.