



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 26 April 2017
(OR. en)

8495/17

AGRI 218
VETER 34

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: African Swine Fever: international situation
- Information from the Commission, requested by the Polish delegation

Delegations will find in Annex a request from the Polish delegation on the above mentioned subject to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 11 May 2017.

African Swine Fever: international situation

The African Swine Fever (ASF) continues to be a serious concern for the EU agri-food sector and an epizootic threat for the entire European Union. The consequences of the disease affect primarily Poland and the other affected Member States. The experiences to date show that ASF eradication is a long-term action requiring multi-dimensional activities and significant financial resources.

Poland undertakes actions intended to halt spreading of the ASF virus into the part of its territory and into the territory of the European Union currently free of the disease. The activities that have been implemented since 2014 in order to control the disease are effective, yet the situation of Poland continues to be difficult due to the geopolitical and epizootic situation with respect to ASF in the neighbouring third countries, which must deal with the insufficient technical and financial resources to control the disease (Ukraine) or fail to provide information on the disease occurrence (Belarus), and thus continue to be a constant threat for further spreading of the disease into Poland and the European Union.

ASF is an international problem, which affects many countries and requires high level involvement both technical and political. In order to control ASF, it is necessary to implement close international cooperation, combined with transparency and regular information sharing amongst affected countries and with more integrated and cohesive cross-border activities.

Therefore, Poland would like to request the Commission for presenting an up-to-date information on the control of ASF in third countries, especially in Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova, the perspectives of further disease spread, and the activities undertaken by the Commission in cooperation with those countries in order to stop ASF virus spread into the territory of the European Union, in particular through a wild boar.