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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Pig meat exports to the Russian Federation

Delegations will find in Annex a note from the Austrian delegation on the above subject to be presented under "Any other business" at the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 11 April 2016.

Pig meat exports to the Russian Federation

Since 2014 the African Swine Fever (ASF) has spread, originating from the Russian Federation and Belarus, to the Baltic States and Poland.

On the basis of this development the Russian Federation has banned the import of pork from the European Union since the end of January 2014. This ban comprises pork and pork products including edible offal and bacon. Thus important pork products were affected by an export ban to Russia even before the measures of 6 August 2014.

This problem was already raised by Austria and other Delegations several times at the AGRIFISH Council meetings. In the case of an epidemic the international veterinary provisions are to be used as a basis, bans must be limited to the zones under restriction or those under surveillance.

The publication of the final panel report on the WTO dispute settlement procedure of the EU against the Russian Federation („Measures on the Importation of Live Pigs, Pork and Other Pig Products from the EU (DS475)“) is planned for May/June 2016.

It is up to the European Commission to emphasise the principle of regionalisation in discussions with the Russian Federation.

The Commission is requested to provide information about the status of the ongoing WTO procedure as well as about planned next steps towards a partial opening of the Russian market for pork exports.