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#### NOTE

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Common measures to eradicate African Swine Fever in the EU - <i>Information from the Danish delegation</i>

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Delegations will find in Annex an information note from the Danish delegation on the above mentioned subject to be raised under "Any other business" at the session of the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 16 April 2018.

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**Common measures to eradicate African Swine Fever in the EU**

Many efforts have been made to eradicate African Swine Fever in the EU. However, the spread of African Swine Fever in the wild boar population in Europe is propagating. This is clearly a cross border problem and the affected Member States must be assisted as much as possible by the EU and neighboring countries. A long distance spread into new areas has occurred on several occasions, making the disease an imminent threat for all Member States. Therefore, eradication must be a common EU undertaking.

Denmark acknowledges the efforts made by the Commission and the affected Member States for controlling the disease. Nevertheless, there is a need to deepen the African Swine Fever control and eradication strategy as well as the strategy for management of the wild boar populations by developing and applying new tools and insights. In our opinion, international experts should be gathered to draft an extended control and eradication plan for the EU. This plan should focus on inter alia:

- Control, containment and eradication of African Swine Fever in wild boar populations. E.g. by more active use of fencing for containment of infected wild boar populations.
- Measures related to prevent further spreading via means of transport
- Information activities on biosecurity in affected areas
- Founding of research pilot projects related to African Swine Fever.

Through the Horizon 2020 research program, support for development of a vaccine has been secured. However, there is a need for a much broader research program to uncover the characteristics of this virus, the nature of the spread in the affected areas, prevention and other control methods. There is a need to reserve funds for ad hoc initiation of applied research projects in order to bring new observations about the spread of the disease or possible ways of preventing disease spread.

Furthermore, the Common Market Organisation should become more suited to deal with outbreaks of animal and plant diseases. The crisis instruments could provide support for surveillance, prevention, biosafety and control in relation to animal and plant diseases. Such activities could be eradication of wild boars, cleaning vehicles used for transportation and aid to information campaigns. We would also suggest that the funding for expenditure relating to the food chain and animal health returns to the EU's agricultural budget to ensure coherence between the agricultural policy and animal and plant health measures. Furthermore, funding under the Common Market Organisation should also include support for the costs of eradicating cross-border animal and plant diseases.

The measures in the future Common Agricultural Policy should give priority to animal and plant health. The Presidency conclusions from 19 March 2018 stresses the Common Agricultural Policy's role in meeting citizens' expectations and its contribution to the objectives of other relevant EU policies, in particular jobs and growth, environment, climate change, biodiversity, health and nutrition, animal and plant diseases, and animal welfare (document 7324/18).

In conclusion, the common efforts in several areas should be intensified to ensure an effective containment and eradication of African Swine Fever in the EU.