



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: The situation of African swine fever (ASF) in Romania
- Information from the Romanian delegation

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

The situation of African swine fever (ASF) in Romania

Romania shares 649 km of border (274 km terrestrial and 32 km on water) with third countries where ASF is present in domestic pigs and wild boars. Despite the strong and sustained actions taken by the Romanian authorities the spread of ASF could not be stopped.

African swine fever virus has already crossed the northern and eastern border of Romania and thus the border of the European Union, representing a major problem, which requires an urgent discussion in the Council. Romania needs the full support of the Commission and Member States so as to prevent the further spreading of ASF in the EU.

In less than two months, Romania confirmed 9 cases of ASF in wild boar and nearly 300 of ASF outbreaks in backyard holdings of the affected counties, most of them in the Danube Delta region, in Tulcea County. During the control measures of these outbreaks 2.140 animals were culled.

Shortly after the first outbreak in Tulcea County, the ASF virus was confirmed for the first time in a commercial holding with 45.000 pigs for which the culling procedure was immediately initiated.

The total pig livestock in the main affected county (Tulcea), on 31 May 2018, was 92.602 heads, out of which 61.446 heads in commercial holdings and 31.156 heads in backyard holdings.

Romania undertakes all the measures in accordance with the provisions of *Council Directive 2002/60/EC of 27 June 2002 laying down specific provisions for the control of African swine fever and amending Directive 92/119 / EEC in relation to Teschen disease and African swine fever.*

The estimated damage value for Tulcea County alone is 11 million Euros.

The pig livestock in the counties neighboring those infected is of approx. 667.000 animals and all the efforts are concentrated to put in place the necessary measures to ensure that the infection does not spread.

Romania counts on the EU financial support, according to *Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 laying down provisions for the management of expenditure relating to the food chain, animal health and animal welfare, and relating to plant health and plant reproductive material and to Regulation (EU) No. 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common organization of the markets in agricultural products.*

In this context, we call for the support of Member States for establishing exceptional measures to help, as soon as possible, the farmers from the affected areas, who rely heavily or even entirely on swine production.
