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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Efforts to reduce the spread of African Swine fever in Sweden - <i>Information from Sweden</i>

Delegations will find in the Annex a note from Sweden on the above mentioned subject which will be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council meeting ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 23 September 2024.

Efforts to reduce the spread of African Swine fever in Sweden

African swine fever virus was detected for the first time in Sweden on September 6, 2023, in a sample from a dead wild boar found 145 km northwest of Stockholm.

The Swedish ambition from the start was to contain and eradicate the disease. The outbreak has been handled successfully thanks to several factors, such as favourable local conditions, the extensive preparations and quick action during the initial stages of the outbreak led by the Swedish authorities, the assistance from local hunters with the difficult task to scan the affected area for dead or dying wild boar, as well as cooperation between regional and national authorities. Sweden also acknowledges the advice from the European Commission, the EUVET ASF experts as well as from Member States with experience from similar situations. The success of the handling of the outbreak meant that restrictions put in place could be lifted earlier than predicted, to the enjoyment of the local public, and especially, resulted in a record low time span between outbreak and the application to lift the disease status.

Based on epidemiological evaluation, Swedish authorities can conclude that Sweden is (currently) free from African swine fever and therefore fulfils the requirements for the delisting of Sweden in Annex I of Regulation 2023/594 from the end of September 2024. Sweden has hence proposed that the current restricted zones should be revoked and that no parts of Sweden should be listed in Annex I of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 as from 1st of October 2024.

With the knowledge and experience from this journey, Sweden is looking forward to, at its capacity, supporting other interested Member States regarding the handling of ASF outbreaks in the future.