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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB item for the meeting of the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council of 28 and 29 September 2026: African swine fever in Finland <i>- Information from Finland</i>

The first cases of African swine fever (ASF) in Finland were diagnosed in wild boars on 30 July 2026. The disease was diagnosed in three wild boars found in southeast Finland in the vicinity of the Russian border. On the same day, the Finnish Food Authority established an infected zone of about 1,500 km² around the location of the outbreak.

The local disease control centre has trained hunters in the area on searching for wild boar carcasses in a coordinated manner and bringing them from the terrain in a biosecure manner for testing and disposal. So far, dozens of carcasses have been found in the core area of the infected zone established on 30 July, some of them highly degraded.

On 28 August, ASF was confirmed in a degraded wild boar carcass about 40 km west of the infected zone, which led to a significant expansion of the infected zone.

38 cadavers have been tested positive up to 18 September 2026, all but one close to the border with Russia. It is expected that more cases will be found in the area.

Most of Finland's pig husbandry is concentrated in southwestern and western parts of the country, while there is no significant commercial pig production in the current infected zone in the southeast. Finland's pork exports have suffered from the ASF situation as several Asian countries have suspended their imports due to the absence of regionalisation agreements with Finland.

For years, Finland has successfully prevented the entry of ASF through cooperation between the authorities, the pig industry and hunters. There have been determined efforts to keep the wild boar population small (estimated at 2,500-3,000 individuals). Biosecurity is at a very high level in all commercial pig farms, and it is being continuously monitored by the agrifood industry.

The Finnish Food Authority continues to monitor and investigate the spread of the disease and coordinates all the control activities. The Finnish Government and authorities together with the pig industry are committed to limiting and eventually eradicating the disease from the wild boars and, together with the hunters, to decreasing the wild boar population.

Finland will make use of the best experiences of other Member States. Finland is also grateful for the cooperation with the European Commission services and highly appreciates the visit by the expert mission on 15-17 September and their valuable advice.