

African Swine Fever The EU perspective

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African Swine Fever (ASF) in the European Union: a long history

- - Portugal
- - Spain
- - mainland Italy
- - France
- - Malta
- - Italy/Sardinia
- - Belgium
- - Netherlands



- Today - still occurring in the inner areas of Sardinia



African Swine Fever:

- Devastating haemorrhagic disease of pigs with mortality rates which may approach 100%
- Severe socio-economic impact: both, in areas where it is newly introduced and where it is endemic. Threatens food security and limits pig production in affected countries
- At present there is no vaccine against ASFV, this limits the option for disease control



Disease control must be based on stamping-out

The EU experience: the challenge posed by the complex epidemiology of ASF

- High level, long lasting viraemia (up to 60 days)
- Carrier animals
- ASFV is quite resistant in the environment
- ASFV can remain infectious for 3–6 months in uncooked pork products:
 - Chilled meat: at least 15 weeks
 - 3 to 6 months in hams and sausages
- Wild and domestic pigs species are susceptible
- Soft ticks (genus *Ornithodoros*) act as biological vector within the vector: trans-stadial, trans-ovarial, and sexual transmission occur (real problem in Russia?)

Key elements for controlling the spread of an epidemic disease:

- Early detection
- Accurate Diagnosis
- Rapid control measures



In order to reduce the High Risk Period

How to enhance Early Detection

- Awareness programmes
- Training
- Collection and transport of diagnostic sample
- Surveillance (active, passive, risk based)
- Early disease reporting system
- Enhancement of lab diagnostic capabilities
- Enhancement of epidemiological capabilities
- Functional and communication links among the involved entities

Underlying essential elements to apply a solid ASF control policy

- Strong veterinary services
- Clear chain of command of veterinary services needed to implement the contingency plans
- laboratory capacity

The EU main measures to prevent and control ASF

- Farm bio-security
- Swill feeding ban
- Identification and registration of pigs
- **Animal movement control**
- Surveillance
- **Stamping out policy**
- Zoning and regionalization
- Cleansing and disinfection

The EU experience: challenges for ASF control and eradication

Many critical elements could interfere with ASF eradication:

- Suboptimal farm registration animal identification
- Free ranging pigs
- Poor bio-security (fencing, swill feeding..)
- Home slaughtering
- Deficient pig movements control
- Poor epidemiological investigations (tracing)
- Poorly coordinated veterinary services
- Wild boars

EU tools for AFS control

■ EU legislation

■ Other tools:

- Contingency plans
- The EU Reference Laboratory for ASF
- The EU co-financed eradication programme
- The missions of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team - CVET
- Better training for safer food – BTSF
- Scientific advice - EFSA
- EU research projects - RTD

EU ASF Legislation

- ✓ **Council Directive 2002/60/EC**: which lays down specific provisions for the control of ASF
- ✓ **Commission Decision 2003/422/EC**: diagnostic manual for ASF
- ✓ **Commission Decision 2005/363/EC**: concerning animal health protection measures against ASF in Sardinia, Italy
- ✓ **Commission Decision 2011/78/UE**: on certain measures to prevent the transmission of African swine fever



Main piece of legislation: Council Directive

2002/60/EC: main provisions

- Disease notification
- Measures to be established when :
 - the presence of ASF on a holding is suspected
 - The presence of ASF is confirmed
- Epidemiological Investigation
- Measures in contact holdings
- Establishment of protection and surveillance zones (3 – 10 Km), measures to be applied
- Cleansing, disinfection and treatment with insecticides
- Repopulation of pig holdings following disease outbreaks
- Measures in cases where African swine fever is suspected or confirmed in a slaughterhouse or means of transport
- Measures in cases where African swine fever is suspected or confirmed in feral pigs and plans for eradication

Other EU tools for AFS control

- The EU Reference Laboratory for ASF – EURLASF [CISA-INIA, Valdeolmos, Madrid, Spain](#)
- The missions of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team - CVET
- The EU co-financed eradication programme ASF-EP
- Better training for safer food – BTSF
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The EURLASF

■ Main tasks

- to coordinate the diagnostic methods employed in the Member States
- to make the necessary arrangements for training or re-training of experts in laboratory diagnosis;
- to have trained personnel available for emergency situations;
- to perform research activities and whenever possible coordinate research activities directed towards an improved control of ASF;
- to draw up technical protocols relating to procedures to verify the efficacy of disinfectants against ASF virus.
- to arrange technical and scientific workshops

Further ongoing activities EURLASF

- POKROV (Central Laboratory of the Russian Federation): lab assistance
- Federal Centre for Animal Health”, Vladimir, lab assistance
- KRASNODAR REGION: Workshop on "*African Swine Fever and other especially dangerous viral disease of pigs: diagnosis and control measures*":

The CVET work on ASF

■ Missions ASF

- Georgia - June 2007
- Armenia - September 2007
- Ukraine - August 2010

2011 Training Initiatives on ASF:

- "Better Training for Safer Food", training on ASF for Russian competent veterinary authorities within SANCO initiatives;
- *"Multi country workshop on Future challenges for veterinarians in the European Union and Neighbouring countries"*. Taix workshop will be provided for Russian competent veterinary authorities, *Budapest – Hungary*.
- Taix workshop on Modern diagnostic method for ASF and BT (Pokrov, October 2011)

Scientific advise - EFSA

■ Two recent scientific Opinions

- Scientific Opinion on role of tick vectors in epidemiology of ASF (10/08/10)
- Scientific Opinion on ASF: significance and risk of endemicity in the countries neighbouring the EU, in the EU, role of wildboar, role of vectors (19/04/10)

EU Research Projects:

■ QLK2 – 2001 – 02216 (FP5)

ASF Control: African Swine Fever (ASF): Improved Diagnostic Methods and understanding of virus epidemiology and virus host interaction.

■ GA 211691 (FP7)

ASFRISK: Evaluating and controlling the risk of African swine fever in the EU

Summary

- EU is well aware of threat posed by ASF
- EU is well prepared: diagnosis, expertise, tools (CP) ...
- EU is ready to help Member States and third countries
- EU is already cooperating with RF on many fronts

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