

Special Meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

Paris, France, 26 July 2007

Recommendation on African swine fever

CONSIDERING THAT

1. African swine fever (ASF) has occurred in Georgia in Europe for the first time and is likely to spread in the region if appropriate steps are not taken,
2. As it is a problem of regional dimension, there is a need for neighbouring countries to develop and implement appropriate surveillance and early warning programmes for early detection and rapid response against the disease. This can only be accomplished through sound Veterinary Services and governance,
3. ASF will have a dramatic impact on national pig production of infected countries and on the regional trade of animals and animal products,
4. There is currently an urgent need for the countries at risk to mobilise necessary resources to counteract the diseases using veterinary inspection in borders (ports, airports, roads);

The Special Meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe Recommends that:

1. The OIE with the support of the European Commission (EC), OIE Member Countries wishing to show solidarity and FAO provide continuous assistance to infected and at risk countries (including the territories with unclear political status) to improve the control of ASF, to identify the route of entry of the virus, and to review the causes of the current crisis in order to prevent similar situations.
2. The OIE request its Reference Laboratories for ASF and other relevant candidates to provide appropriate guidelines for the surveillance of ASF to countries at risk, including diagnostic methods.
3. The OIE continue its efforts in European countries to promote good governance of VS, through the application of the PVS tool to pave the way for the strengthening of their Veterinary Services in order to enable these countries to effectively develop early detection and rapid response mechanisms.
4. Governments of European countries at highest Political level be made deeply aware of the necessity and importance of reinforcement of the Veterinary Services and be urged to provide appropriate resources to their Veterinary Services particularly to

implement efficient veterinary border controls and also to build mechanisms to provide assistance farmers including appropriate compensations for stamping out and farm rehabilitation in case of epizootics.

5. Cooperation and good coordination and communication should be established under the auspices of the OIE and any other way between infected and at risk countries, regardless the political/diplomatic situation.
6. OIE Member Countries ensure compliance with their obligations on animal disease reporting by promptly reporting all outbreaks of ASF to the OIE for continuous incorporation into the OIE World Animal Health Information Database (WAHID).
7. European countries implement appropriate communication procedures to inform on the situation, characteristics and serious impact of ASF in order to create awareness among relevant sectors.
8. A specific emergency fund be established in order to support control of ASF in affected eastern European countries, with a coordinating unit under the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee, and that the EC as well as other potential donors in the region consider funding short term and long term actions to support control of ASF in infected and at risk countries.
9. Georgia be assisted to develop a long term Control Strategy for presentation to international donors, including EC.
10. The Director General of the OIE addresses a letter to inform the governments of all OIE Member Countries in Europe on the necessity for their support to quickly and effectively prevent the spread of ASFV into Europe.