

***Conclusions from the Ministerial Conference on
African swine fever
Riga, 2 June, 2017***

In the context of the current African swine fever (ASF) situation the delegations of Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, and Ukraine agreed on the following:

1. African swine fever (ASF) is a severe transboundary *Suidae* disease which affects several countries. International cooperation at the highest political level is needed in order to prioritize coordinated efforts based on sound scientific basis. International initiatives should take advantage of the umbrella provided by the Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) for refining and moving forward on technical aspects.
2. Recent scientific data has shown that ASF transmission by natural means can be quite slow in wild boar while the human factor can increase the speed of spread of the disease. Both pathways need to be addressed in order to successfully control ASF.
3. Movement of *Suidae* and *Suidae* products should be regulated in order to reduce the risk of transmission caused by the human factor.
4. Biosecurity in pig holdings should be reinforced. Special attention should be given to low biosecurity holdings (i.e. "backyard" holdings) by increasing awareness of farmers and enforcing rules for minimum biosecurity levels and movements in and out from these small holdings at risk. All professionals involved in pig production need to contribute to reach the biosecurity rules.
5. Considering the steady increase of wild boar population in Europe over the past decades and its consequences in case of ASF occurrence, there is a need for proper wild boar management as a medium to long term action. This needs to address the reduction of the ASF viral load in the environment by the appropriate carcass disposal, wild boar population management and minimise the spread of the disease.
6. Capacity building activities and awareness campaigns should continue to be organised keeping in mind the multi sectorial approach, notably by involving farmers, feed providers, transport operators, veterinarians, zootechnicians, environmental services, hunting associations and forest management bodies.
7. Targeted information campaigns should be organised in order to further increase awareness of travellers, notably pig

owners/workers and hunters, on the risk of spread of ASF by pig products.

8. Further scientific research is needed in order to better understand the interaction between the ASF virus and the ecosystem present in this part of Europe. Efforts are needed in terms of improving tools for disease control purposes. EFSA together with national experts should continue its work to collect and analyse ASF epidemiological data from the countries involved.
9. In order to provide the basis for a sound response to the threat caused by African swine fever, adequate financial resources should be allocated by each country and by the EU. Efforts in transboundary cooperation and financial support should be further encouraged in order to provide for a coordinated approach to this disease.
10. Taking into account the newly updated international standards adopted by the OIE, notably the EU policies for addressing African swine fever should be reviewed in order to include these new elements. The OIE should pursue its work in continuing to keep its international standards in line with the latest scientific knowledge.