General aspects of EU legislation with *African swine Fever* as an example of animal diseases that impact animal transport

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G3 - Eradication of animal diseases and official controls  
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Outline

• ASF situation globally and in the EU
  • History and transmission
  • Current situation and EU initiatives

• EU legislation on ASF impacting animal transport
  • Transport of live pigs
  • Transport of animal by products
  • Livestock vehicles incoming to the EU
  • Information obligations and awareness campaigns

• Gateways to the Future of Animal Transport - ASF example
African Swine Fever Virus

- Contagious viral disease of swine
- Highly resistant
- Affects domestic and feral pigs
- All age categories
- There is no treatment or vaccine

*It does not affect humans or other animal species*
Environmental persistence

ASF virus is very stable:

- in blood on wooden boards for 70 days
- in faeces at 20°C for 11 days
- in pig blood at 4°C for 18 months
- in carcases (dead animals) which decompose
Tracing the origin

Georgia
June 2007

WAHID OIE © 2007-2009
- 6 affected countries in Eastern Europe (Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus)
- Ongoing spread of ASFV towards west affecting eastern European countries, such as Ukraine (2012) and Belarus (2013)
1. China (3 Aug 2018)
2. Mongolia (15 Jan 2019)
3. Viet Nam (19 Feb 2019)
4. Cambodia (2 Apr 2019)
5. Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (23 May 2019)
8. Myanmar (1 Aug 2019)
9. Indonesia (4 Sep 2019)
10. Republic of Korea (17 Sep 2019)
11. Timor-Leste (27 Sep 2019)

• Lithuania (1/2014)
• Poland (1/2014)
• Latvia (6/2014)
• Estonia (7/2015)
• Romania (7/2017)
• Hungary (4/2018)
• Bulgaria (6/2018)
• Belgium (9/2018)
• Slovakia (7/2019)
• Greece (2/2020)
• Sardinia (IT, from 1978)
Main initiatives of the EU on ASF

- Preparedness
- Scientific advice
- Research
- Legislation
- Regionalization
- Border controls
- Audits
- Financial support
- Guidance to MSs
- Public awareness
- Urgent intervention
  - EUVET
- International cooperation
  - GFTADS
The example of the Czech Republic

06.2017-04.2018

04.2018-02.2019
ASF in Belgium since September 2018

09.2018-08.2019

15.11.2019-12.02.2020*

* Last cases notified in ADNS – remainings (e.g. bones) of wild boar that were dead for more than 3-6 months
EU Harmonized Veterinary Control System

Prevention
- Biosecurity
- Animal identification
- **Veterinary certification and movement control for intra-EU trade of livestock**
- **Veterinary certification and border controls for animals and products imported.**

Detection
- Surveillance
- Reference laboratories
- Health monitoring in high risk areas
- Animal Disease Notification System.

Control
- Contingency planning
- Animal Disease Notification System
- Isolation of infected holdings
- Eradication
- EU support: Emergency team, vaccine banks, compensation, training.

Transparency
- EU audits of Member State veterinary services
- Public information systems (RASFF, ADNS)
- Scientific consultations
- Notification.
Specific EU legislation on ASF

- Animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States:
- Commission Implementing Decision of 9 October 2014 (2014/709/EU)

EU regionalisation
Specific EU legislation on ASF

EU regionalisation based on risk assessment:

• **Part I:** ASF not present. High risk, buffer zone.

• **Part II:** ASF only in wild boar.

• **Part III:** ASF in domestic pigs and wild boar.

• **Part IV:** specific endemic situation in Sardinia.
Specific EU legislation on ASF

EU risk mitigation measures:

- **general prohibitions** on the dispatch of live domestic and feral pigs, porcine semen, ova and embryo, domestic of feral pig meat, pig meat preparations, pig meat products and any other products containing pig meat as well as consignments of animal by-products from porcine animals or dead wild boar from certain areas

- **Certain derogations** may be applied under strict conditions
Strict conditions = safe transport of pigs

Examples

- emergency plan
- a channelling procedure
- the transport of the pigs must be carried out along predefined transport routes
- the vehicles used for transporting the pigs must be cleaned, if necessary disinsectised and disinfected as soon as possible after unloading
Strict conditions = safe transport of pigs

Examples

• the consignment of pigs is transported for immediate slaughter directly, without stopping or unloading

• each truck and any other vehicles that are used for the transport of the consignment of live pigs has been individually registered with the competent authority for that purpose;
Strict conditions = safe transport of animal by products

Examples

• each truck and any other vehicles - individually registered with the competent authority for that purpose;

• covered leak-proof compartment for the transport of those animal by-products

• construction permitting effective cleaning and disinfection and the construction of floors facilitates the draining and collection of liquids
Strict conditions = safe transport of animal by products

Examples

- each truck must be accompanied by a satellite navigation system to determine his real time location.
- control of the real time movement of the truck
- electronic records of the movement for at least 2 months;
- prohibited entry of the trucks or vehicles into pig holdings
Specific EU legislation on ASF

- Measures to prevent the introduction into the Union of the African swine fever virus from certain third countries

- Commission Implementing Decision (2013/426/EU)

*cleaning and disinfection of livestock vehicles from certain third countries*
Specific EU legislation on ASF

- Operator or driver of livestock vehicle on arrival from the third countries* must provide declaration on cleaning and disinfection after the last unloading of animals

*Belarus, Russia, Moldova, Ukraine, Serbia
Specific EU legislation on ASF

Competent authority may:

• subject the livestock vehicle to proper cleansing and disinfection at a designated place (as close as possible)

• perform a preliminary on-the-spot disinfection

• refuse the entry
Specific information obligations on **ASF in the EU**

- **Member States**
  - transport operators
  - travel agencies
  - postal services

- control measures
- main prohibitions
- risks of the transmission
- to travellers moving from the areas
- customers of postal services
Specific information obligations on ASF in the EU – how?

- **public awareness** campaigns
- on **major** land infrastructure route
- visible and prominent manner
- should be **easily understood** by travellers coming from, and going to, the areas at risk
- to specifically **identified target audiences** (e.g. truck drivers)
Other EU initiatives - example

HIGH-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL PORK PRODUCTION UNDER THE THREAT OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER
17 January 2020, Berlin (Germany)
International Green Week

https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/high-level-international-conference-2020-jan-17_en
A high-level international conference on ASF - 17/01/2020

**49 country delegations** from:
- **Asia**: China, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Philippines etc.
- **North America**: US, Canada etc.
- **South America**: Argentina, Brazil, Chile etc.
- **Europe**: EU28, West Balkan countries, Russia, Serbia, Ukraine etc.
- **Australia**

**20 organisations**:
- OIE
- FAO
- COPA-COGECA,
- UECBV, CLITRAVI, EMN, IMS
- FACE, FVE, GARA, GIRA
- Etc.
- More than **220** registered participants
- More than **20** Ministers, Vice-Ministers
Global initiatives - OIE

African swine fever (ASF) is a deadly pig disease that can be spread by carriers.

**ASF kills pigs**

**AFRICAN SWINE FEVER**
Don't be the carrier of a deadly pig disease

**COMMERCIAL PIG FARMS**
Prevent the spread of ASF by following biosecurity measures.

**Pig Farmers**
Take measures to prevent the spread of ASF by keeping pigs separate from wild pigs.

**Hunters**
Avoid hunting wild pigs in areas with known ASF outbreaks.

**Travellers**
Do not carry pigs or pork products.

**Transport Authorities and Check Point Staff**
Screen passengers at airports, railway stations, and border crossings.

**Respect general precautions**
- Declare any suspicious cases to veterinary services.
- Do not handle pigs or pork products.
- Do not visit pig farms in affected areas.

**Travellers Announcement script**

The OIE has created an announcement script to raise awareness among travellers on African swine fever (ASF).

This announcement message can be used:

At top of descent on international flights

This is a message from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE):

A disease called African swine fever is currently affecting pig populations and families whose income depends on the pork industry, worldwide.

This disease is not a danger to human health, but you could be spreading it without knowing it.

When travelling, avoid carrying pigs or pork products with you. If you do, declare them to the transport authorities upon arrival at your final destination.

You might be liable to economic penalties if you do not declare them.

Help us save pigs and protect farmers by not spreading African swine fever.

For more information, we invite you to visit www.oie.int/asf

For more information:
www.oie.int/asf
Gateways to the Future of Animal Transport - ASF example

- New (exotic) and emerging animal diseases might cause significant damage to global economies/local communities
  - ASF - *food security* issue/*unprecedented animal health* challenge.

- Vigilance and preparedness for animal diseases
  - *International transports can play an important role as pathway for animal diseases:* e.g. *ASF transmission* to Portugal, 1957 and Georgia, 2007.
Gateways to the Future of Animal Transport - ASF example

- **Targeted awareness campaigns** on animal diseases
  - Crucial for livestock transporters, traders, dealers and marketers - to avoid long distance spread. **Knowledge and understanding** (biosecurity) is the main thing!

- **Enhanced cooperation and communication**
  - between relevant stakeholders and competent authorities: **globally** and for a **long-time**
Gateways to the Future of Animal Transport - ASF example

- **Reputation** of international animal transporters is also at stake
  - sourcing animals from disease-free areas.
  - not buying or selling sick pigs, or pigs from groups where some have been sick.
  - following rules and keeping of records.
  - vehicles should not enter the farm, and pig loading and unloading in particular should take place outside the perimeter fences.
  - pig-carrying trucks should be cleaned and disinfected after unloading.
Thank you for attention!

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/control-measures/asf_en