Standing group of Experts on African swine fever in Europe under the GF-TADs umbrella – Lessons and Experience

WTO SPS Committee, Thematic session on African swine fever
Tuesday March 23, 2021

Bernard Van Goethem
President GF-TADs-Europe
ASF in Europe

European countries where ASF occurred in 2013 -2021:

- Belarus
- **Belgium** * (ASF freedom declared)
- Bulgaria
- **Czechia** * (ASF freedom declared)
- Estonia
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Moldova
- Poland
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Ukraine
- **Italy** (unrelated epidemiological situation)

Standing Group of Experts on **ASF in Europe**

**Set up in 2014** (under the GF-TADs umbrella)

**Members of the SGE ASF:**

- **Countries:** Belarus, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine
- **Organisations:** European Commission – OIE – FAO
- **Secretariat:** OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels
- **Observers:**
  - Any country in the region or other regions
  - Selected stakeholders
Standing Group of Experts on **ASF in Europe**

**Objectives:**
— to build up a closer cooperation among countries affected by ASF and thereby, address the disease in a more collaborative and harmonised manner across the *Baltic and Eastern Europe sub-region* [the Europe Region].

**Actions:**
— Regular exchange of information on the ASF situation and control measures applied, both as regards the domestic pig sector and wild boar;
— Regular review of national control strategies by experts based on scientific risk assessments, experience and best practice in the region, with a view to harmonising control policies and building a science based regional control strategy;
— Collaboration on laboratory diagnostics (exchange of best practice on methodology; support and training / capacity building as needed);
— Collaboration on awareness raising campaigns in the affected countries (exchange of best practice and communication tools).
Standing Group of Experts on *ASF in Europe*

**16 meetings since 2014**

- Kick-off meeting (Bern, September 2014) Launching
- SGE ASF1 (Minsk, Belarus, December 2014) ASF management in wild boar
- SGE ASF2 (Tallinn, Estonia, February 2015) Biosecurity in pig production systems (including backyard)
- SGE ASF3 (Moscow, Russia, March 2016) present and discuss findings of the SGE ASF missions conducted by experts
- SGE ASF4 (Paris, France, May 2016) discuss any new development with regards to ASF epidemiology in the region
- SGE ASF5 (Lisbon, Portugal, September 2016) revise evolution of epidemiological situation and control measures in place.
- SGE ASF6 (Vilnius, Lithuania, November 2016) depopulation/stamping out procedures; practical aspects carcass disposal, disinfection
- SGE ASF7 (Paris, France, May 2017) updates on epidemiological ASF situation; and preventive and control measures
- SGE ASF8 (Chisinau, Moldova, September 2017) ASF risk communication', and 'laboratory diagnostics and capability
- SGE ASF9 (Kiev, Ukraine, March 2018) cross border cooperation addressing (legal and) irregular movements of pigs and products
- SGE ASF10 (Paris, France, May 2018) update on epidemiological situation and control measures
- SGE ASF11 (Warsaw, Poland, September 2018) in depth review of the current knowledge on wild boar
- SGE ASF12 (Prague, Czech Rep., March 2019) eradication ASF: focus on the Czech Republic experience
- SGE ASF13 (Paris, France, May 2019) update on epidemiological situation and control measures
- SGE ASF14 (Sofia, Bulgaria, September 2019) epidemiological investigations (+ side ministerial high event)
- SGE ASF15 ([remote meeting](#), May 2020) update on the countries’ situation and ASF management in the framework of the Covid-19 crisis
- SGE ASF16 ([remote meeting](#), November 2020) update on countries’ situation and early reaction and emergency control measures in case of ASF detection in wild boar and domestic pigs)
- SGE ASF17 ([remote meeting](#), June 2021) tbc
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\textbf{13 GF-TADs experts missions on ASF in the countries since 2015:}

- March 2015 - Lithuania
- April 2015 - Belarus
- May 2015 - Latvia
- July 2015 - Russia
- September 2015 - Ukraine
- September 2015 - Estonia
- October 2015 - Poland
- October 2016 - Moldova
- October 2017 - Czech Republic
- December 2017 - Romania
- January 2019 – Bulgaria
- August 2019 – Belgium
- December 2019 – Serbia

\textbf{GF-TADs experts:}

- Silvia Bellini (IT)
- Vittorio Guberti (IT)
- Klaus Depner (DE)
- Konstantin Gruzdev (RF)
- Aleksey Igolkin (RF)
- Sergei Khomenko (UA)
- Marius Masiulis (LT)
- Ago Pärtel (EE)
- Petr Šatrán (CZ)
- Krzysztof Jażdżewski (PL)
Conclusions

• Regional cooperation helps building trust and increases transparency

• Technical guidance based on science leads to improved preparedness and control capacity of countries

• Sharing of best practices (e.g. success stories of CZ, BE) and knowledge remains crucial

• Exchanges and cooperation with other regions (e.g. SGEs on ASF in Asia and Americas) ensure a global response on ASF
Thank you!

More information (dedicated webpage)