



24 March 2021

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**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary
Measures**

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**UNOFFICIAL ROOM DOCUMENT¹
SPS COMMITTEE THEMATIC SESSION ON AFRICAN SWINE FEVER
TUESDAY, 23 MARCH 2021**

BELGIUM: EXAMPLE OF SUCCESSFUL ERADICATION OF ASF

Dr Jean-Francois Heymans

Comité des mesures sanitaires et phytosanitaires

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* In Original language only/En langue originale seulement/En el idioma original solamente.

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Federale Agentie voor de Veiligheid van de Voedselketen
Agence Nationale pour la Sécurité de la Chaîne alimentaire
Bundesagentur für die Sicherheit der Lebensmittelkette
Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain



Belgium : example of successful eradication of African Swine Fever



WTO SPS Committee - Thematic Session on African Swine Fever - 23 March 2021

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Overview

1. Belgian context & preparedness
2. Outbreak ASF in wild boar & European regionalisation
3. Measures ASF in wild boar
4. Measures ASF in domestic pigs
5. Last ASF cases in wild boar
6. Eradication of ASF in Belgium : free status EU + OIE
7. Post-crisis measures in wild boar and domestic pigs



SWP - AFSA - FASFC - FASFC



1. Belgian context & preparedness

Competences & Stakeholders in Belgium

Federal level : Food chain safety (incl. An & PI Health) => **Domestic animal health**



Exports (sanitary aspects - SPS) - EU and third country relations
CVO & OIE delegate



Regional level : Hunting, Nature and Forests => **Wild animal health**



Agriculture other than sanitary (Economy etc.) - Animal welfare
Tourism



Other Partners : Labs (Ref. Labs & First line Labs)



Professional agricultural organisations, veterinarians, hunters, etc ...

Before the outbreak : strong preparedness & network between ASF (potential) partners
-> national taskforce ASF, working group Wildlife etc.

=> **RAPID DETECTION => RAPID – ADEQUATE – EFFICIENT RESPONSE**



SAFETY - SECURITY - SUSTAINABILITY

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2. Outbreak ASF in wild boar & Regionalisation (EU Rules & OIE Principles)



First outbreak ASF in wild boar in Belgium (*Walloon Region*) on 13 September 2018

=> **Rapid detection** (mandatory notification of cadavers) => **rapid response**



First (days) a provisional "infected zone"
(63.000 ha – 630 km²)

Immediate actions/measures in the zone

Later (November) replaced by Zone I (Buffer) and
II (Infected) (as Part I and II of Annex of the Commission
Implementing Decision 2010/709/EU) - 4 times adapted during the
2 years (+ 100.000 ha – 1000 km²)



SAFETY - SECURITY - SUSTAINABILITY

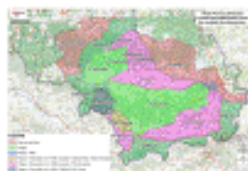
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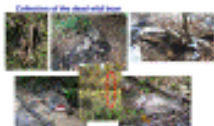
3. Measures ASF in wild boar

Principles

- ✓ **Standstill** of all activities in the infected Zone (hunting, forestry work and tourism)
=> avoid the spread of the disease
- ✓ **Intensive search for dead wild boar and the removal** out of the forest
- ✓ **All dead and hunted wild boar in ASF zones are sampled, analyzed** by the national reference lab and **destroyed**
- ✓ **Quick and complete depopulation in the area surrounding the infected zone** + containment of the virus by a **network of wild boar-proof fences** (more than 300km!)
- ✓ **After few months : Progressive and controlled reauthorization of certain activities & Full Depopulation in the area** (By Authorities, Traps,...)



Operational zones for measures in wild boar established by the Walloon authorities



Goal and only political & operational priority :
Eradication

4. Measures ASF in domestic pigs

1. **Preventive & Surveillance measures already in place by legislation before the crisis**
Such as biosecurity measures on the farm (prevent contact with wild boar, ...)
+ "passive" surveillance + enhanced awareness
2. **Outbreak => 2 weeks => Preventive culling of all the pigs in the provisional infected zone + ban on repopulation** -> after this : risk of introduction of ASF in pig farms very low
Compensation for culled animals
+ compensation for absence of activity
=> Acceptance by farmers
NB : region with very few, and only small pig farms
3. **New general measures since outbreak** : assembly forbidden, restrictions on movements + when any clinical symptom -> sampling for ASF + Restrictions in the zone (EU Regul.)
4. **BIOSECURITY enforcement** : yearly mandatory evaluation



No cases in domestic pigs !

OIE Self-declaration "free status of ASF for domestic and wild pigs kept in captivity" approved & published
<http://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/self-declared-disease-status/>

5. Last ASF cases in wild boar

Stabilization of the situation since beginning of August 2019



Since beginning of August 2019 (last fresh carcass positive) only 6 other positive cases (old bones)
 -> last "case" (old bones) on 4th of March 2020 dates back from a dead wild boar 6 months ago
 -> **since end of September 2019 no virus circulation anymore in wild boar population in Belgium**

**⇒ GOAL REACHED : ERADICATION of ASF in WILD BOARS + NEVER INFECTION IN DOMESTIC PIGS
 + No "export" of the disease by applying regionalization principles/rules**

*Costs authorities (Without counting already existing FTE used) : > 20 Million Euros (> 24 Million US Dollars)
 "Costs" pig Sector : > 160 Million euros*



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6. Eradication of ASF in Belgium : free status EU + OIE

In short period of time, 1 year, Belgium successfully eradicated this disease from its territory

⇒ 1 year after eradication, 2 years after the 1st case : Free Status



HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

European Commission lifted the restricted ASF zones in Belgium on the 20th of November 2020, decision published on the 23th of November 2020

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32020D1741&from=EN>



WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH

Protecting animals, preserving our future

Free status OIE in all *suidae* recovered on the 1st of October 2020, approved by the OIE on the 22nd of December 2020

<https://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/self-declared-disease-status/>

https://www.fasfc.be/sites/default/files/content/explorer/Animals/ASF/OIE/2020_12_Belgium ASF self-declaration_ENG.pdf



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7. Post-crisis measures in wild boar and domestic pigs

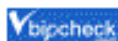
In wild boar measures will be maintained (at least until March 2022):

- fence network
- reduction of wild boar population
- (enhanced) passive + active surveillance
- awareness campaigns for hunters, forestry workers etc.



In domestic pigs:

- **restocking of pig farms is possible again** since Ministerial Decree of 25th of January 2021 -> only under strict application of biosecurity measures!
- assembly of pigs still forbidden but restrictions on movements are lifted
- **enhanced passive surveillance in pig farms is maintained !**
- in addition : active surveillance
- awareness campaigns for pig farmers, veterinarians etc.
- enforced biosecurity measures in place



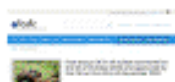
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Information – Links to websites

- **AFSCA/FASFC FR – ENG**
<http://www.afsca.be/ppa/>
<http://www.afsca.be/businesssectors/animalproduction/animalhealth/africanswinefever/>
- **Walloon Region**
<http://www.wallonie.be/fr/actualites/mesures-de-lutte-contre-la-peste-porcine-africaine>
- **EU Commission**
https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/control-measures/asf_en
 Educational film : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eyQ4t1wHl2M&feature=youtu.be>
- **OIE**
<http://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/animal-diseases/african-swine-fever/>
- **Scientific Committee's opinions (Belgium)**
<http://www.favv-afsca.fgov.be/ppa/publications/avis/>



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Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain
(FASFC)

Thank you for your attention !



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