



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

STANDING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN EUROPE
UNDER THE GF-TADS UMBRELLA

Mr Bernard Van Goethem

Comité des mesures sanitaires et phytosanitaires

DOCUMENT DE SÉANCE NON OFFICIEL¹
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* In Original language only/En langue originale seulement/En el idioma original solamente.

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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

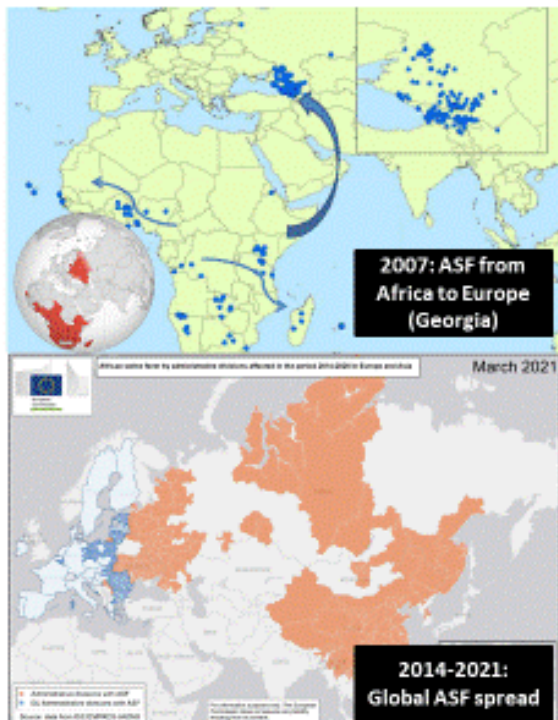


ASF in Europe



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)*



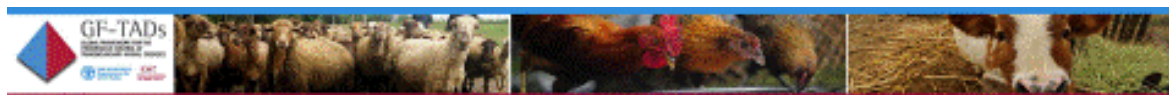
2007: ASF from Africa to Europe (Georgia)

2014-2021: Global ASF spread

March 2021

ASF is a disease that can be transmitted between pigs and wild boars. It is caused by a virus. ASF is not a zoonotic disease, meaning it cannot be transmitted from pigs to humans. ASF is a disease that can be transmitted between pigs and wild boars. It is caused by a virus. ASF is not a zoonotic disease, meaning it cannot be transmitted from pigs to humans.

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animal/health/saf_control_measures_asf_annc_asf_enclm-agreed-since-2014.pdf



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



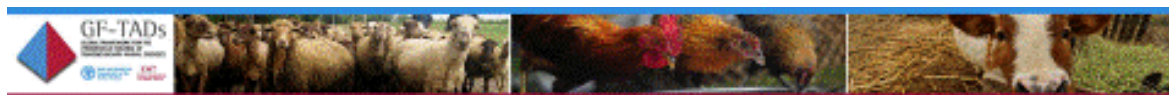
Standing Group of Experts on *ASF in Europe*

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:

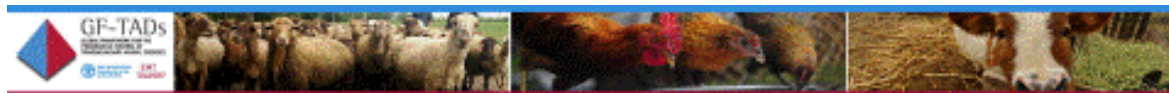
- **Regular exchange of information** on the ASF situation and control measures applied, both as regards the domestic pig sector and wild boar;
- **Regular review of national control strategies** by experts based on scientific risk assessments, experience and best practice in the region, with a view 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



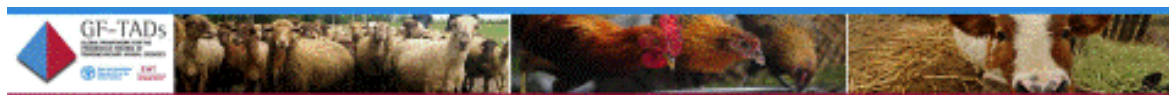
Standing Group of Experts on *ASF in Europe*

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

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 Jajdzewski (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!

GF-TADs - Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever in Europe

More information (dedicated webpage)

Presentation / objectives of the SGE ASF

The Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever in Europe (hereafter referred to as "SGE ASF") was set up in 2014 under the GF-TADs umbrella. It aims at building up a closer cooperation among countries affected by African Swine Fever (ASF) and thereby addressing the disease via more collaborative and harmonised measures across Europe.

The SGE ASF is a unique opportunity to engage affected countries into a fruitful regional dialogue and increased transparency. The GF-TADs offers the ideal framework for discussing current / harmonised mitigation measures based on scientific and technical grounds only.

On top of the formal members of the SGE ASF (the countries in Europe affected by ASF), representatives from any other country in Europe and beyond are warmly welcomed to attend its discussions.

<https://rr-europe.oie.int/en/projects/gf-tads-europe/standing-groups-of-experts-on-african-swine-fever-in-europe/>