African Swine Fever
What is the EU doing?

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African Swine Fever (ASF) in the European Union: a long history

- Portugal
- Spain
- Mainland Italy
- France
- Malta
- Italy/Sardinia
- Belgium
- Netherlands

- Today - still occurring in the inner areas of Sardinia
Classical swine fever

1984 - 2001

2002 - 2008

2009 - 2010

2011 - 2012
The challenge posed by the complex epidemiology of ASF virus

- High level and long lasting viraemia (60 days)
- Carrier animals
- ASFV is quite resistant in the environment
- ASFV can remain infectious for 3–6 months in uncooked pork products:
  - Chilled meat: at least 15 weeks
  - 3 to 6 months in hams and sausages
- Wild and domestic pigs species are susceptible
- Soft ticks Ornithodorus (real problem in central and eastern Europe?)
The main singularity of ASF

- The absence of an effective VACCINE against ASF limits the options for disease control which has to be mainly based on direct prophylaxis measures
The EU main strategies for ASF control and eradication

Identification and registration
Surveillance
Animal movement control
Zoning and regionalization
**Stamping out policy**
Cleansing and disinfection
Farm bio-security
Swill feeding (kitchen waste)
EU tools for AFS control

- Legislation
- Contingency plans
- The EU Reference Laboratory for ASF
- The EU co-financed eradication programme
- The missions of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team - CVET
- Better training for safer food – BTSF
- Scientific advise - EFSA
- EU research projects - RTD
ASF Legislation

- Council Directive 2002/60/EC: which lays down specific provisions for the control of ASF (including those on contingency plans)
- Commission Decision 2011/78/UE: on certain measures to prevent the transmission of African swine fever
- Commission Decision 2005/363/EC: concerning animal health protection measures against ASF in Sardinia, Italy
African Swine Fever Sardinia

From the second half of 2011 and during the first nine months of 2012, there has been a serious recrudescence of the disease

- More than 100 outbreaks in domestic pigs in 18 months
- Around 40 wild boars positives
- Situation improved in the last three months

Review of trade measures from Sardinia
Whole of Sardinia as a high risk area for ASF

Actions are being taken and the 2012 and 2013 programmes amended in light of the new epidemiological situation
ASF in Sardinia – Critical elements

- Suboptimal farm registration/animal identification
- Free ranging pigs + wild boar
- Poor bio-security (fencing, swill feeding..)
- Home slaughtering
- Deficient pig movements control
- Lack of motivation of farmers
The EU Reference Laboratory for ASF
CISA-INIA, Valdeolmos, Madrid

• to coordinate the diagnostic methods employed in the Member States
• to make the necessary arrangements for training or re-training of experts in laboratory diagnosis;
• to have trained personnel available for emergency situations;
• to perform research activities and whenever possible coordinate research activities directed towards an improved control of ASF;
• to draw up technical protocols relating to procedures to verify the efficacy of disinfectants against ASF virus.
The CVET work on ASF

• Missions ASF
  • Georgia - June 2007
  • Armenia - September 2007
  • Ukraine - August 2010
Scientific advise - EFSA

• Two recent scientific Opinions

• Scientific Opinion on role of tick vectors in epidemiology of ASF (10/08/10)

• Scientific Opinion on ASF: significance and risk of endemicity in the countries neighbouring the EU, in the EU, role of wildboar, role of vectors (19/04/10)
EU Research Projects:

• **QLK2 – 2001 – 02216 (FP5)**
  ASF Control: African Swine Fever (ASF): Improved Diagnostic Methods and understanding of virus epidemiology and virus host interaction.

• **GA 211691 (FP7)**
  ASFRISK: Evaluating and controlling the risk of African swine fever in the EU
ONGOING INITIATIVES ON ASF

• 2011 Training Initiatives:
  • "Better Training for Safer Food“, training on ASF for Russian competent veterinary authorities within SANCO initiatives;
  • “Multi country workshop on Future challenges for veterinarians in the European Union and Neighbouring countries”. Taiex workshop, Budapest – Hungary.
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Summary

• In the EU there is high awareness on the threat posed by ASF

• A lot of expertise is available: diagnosis, epidemiology, legislation, CP ...

• EU is ready to help neighbouring countries
Thank you for your attention