

- "From the President's desk" -

Ellerbek, 9th April 2025

Ref: PM 359

Subjects:

- 1. Sanitary Barriers to Trade – Call for inputs**
- 2. Foot-and-mouth disease - Update**

Dear members,

I am honoured to address this message to you to inform you on relevant topics.

1. SPS barriers to Trade – Call for inputs

As you may know, following the epidemiological situation of certain animal diseases in the European Union, some third countries are imposing a number of **Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS)** barriers to animal products originating in the member states or regions of member states, such as meat, dairy products, animal-by-products, etc.

Some third countries have also banned the import of natural casings from countries affected by diseases such as **African swine fever (ASF)** or **foot-and-mouth disease (FMD)**. Furthermore, there are examples of restrictions to trade for products originating in member states not affected by FMD, but due to the set-up of cross border restriction or protection zones, have also been indirectly concerned.

However, these SPS measures are unjustified under the point of view of risk and under the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) terrestrial code, since the scientific well accepted risk mitigation treatments (30 days in salt studies promoted by the INSCA ISWG) are not recognised by those third countries.

In particular:

[Article 8.8.41.](#)

Procedures for the inactivation of FMDV in casings of ruminants and pigs

For the inactivation of FMDV present in casings of ruminants and pigs, the following procedures should be used: treating for at least 30 days either with dry salt (NaCl) or with saturated brine (NaCl, $a_w < 0.80$), or with phosphate supplemented salt containing 86.5% NaCl, 10.7% Na_2HPO_4 and 2.8% Na_3PO_4 (weight/weight/weight), either dry or as a saturated brine ($a_w < 0.80$), and kept at a temperature of greater than 12°C during this entire period.

[Article 15.1.24.](#)

Procedures for the inactivation of ASFV in casings of pigs

For the inactivation of ASFV in [casings](#) of pigs, the following procedures should be used: treating for at least 30 days either with dry salt (NaCl) or with saturated brine ($a_w < 0.80$), or with phosphate supplemented dry salt containing 86.5% NaCl, 10.7% Na_2HPO_4 and 2.8% Na_3PO_4 (weight/weight/weight) at a temperature of 12°C or above.

The European body in charge of the identification of the SPS requirements that go beyond the recommendations of WOH, or situations where the principle of equivalence (article 5 of WTO [SPS agreement](#)) is not put in practice is **DG TRADE** (EU Commission).

For this reason, we are exploring to contact DG TRADE in order to inform them on this situation and to ask for support, such as opening **bilateral dialogue with the concerned third countries**.

In this context, we kindly ask you to provide us with the **specific list of third countries** where the natural casings of your country are facing unjustified barriers due to animal diseases, and the sanitary reason they argue for the relevant restrictions.

We recommend you coordinate with your **national associations** in order to forward us with aggregated replies.

In case your national authorities have already intended to negotiate bilaterally with the third country for lifting these restrictions, or in case you have already contacted them to express your concerns, the outcomes of these conversations will also be welcome (if available). Coordination among member states' representatives would also be of help when raising the issue to DG TRADE.

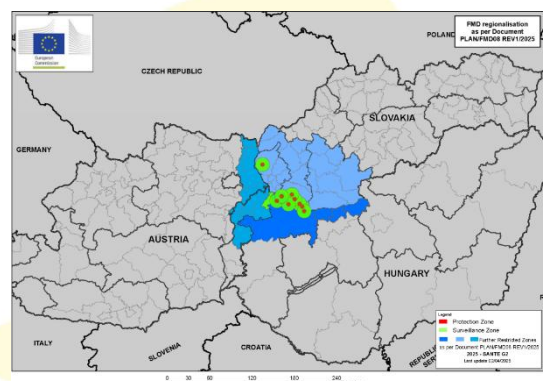
2. Foot-and-mouth disease update

During the Animal Health Advisory Committee meeting held in Brussels on Monday 7th April 2025, where the ENSCA Secretary was present, the Commission reported on the updated situation of FMD in the centre of Europe.

As for today, **six outbreaks** have been reported in **Slovakia** and **four in Hungary**. The main reason for the rapid spreading of the virus along the border between these countries is the strong wind that affected the region from south to north during the stamping out operations of the first outbreak in Hungary. The Commission and participants highlighted the good work done by the authorities of both countries and the transparency during all the process.

One of the elements that drew the attention of participants is the fact that the virus lineage that affected Germany is O/ME-SA/SA-2018, while the lineage affecting HU and SK is O/ME-SA/Pan-Asia2/ANT-10. Thus, there is no link between the two clusters. The Commission did not make any statement on the occurrence of 2 different strains in a very short period in the EU.

The restriction zones have been updated as you can see on the map (the last outbreak reported on Friday evening in SK is not yet represented here).



Warm regards,

Heike Molkenthin.