Competent Authority updated response to report recommendations received 15 October 2019

ANNEX
Response of the competent authorities of Hungary to the recommendations of report ref. DG(SANTE)/2019-6608-MR of the audit carried out from 25 March 2019 to 29 March 2019 in order to evaluate the implementation of animal health controls in relation to African swine fever

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| 1  | To ensure that there is an up-to-date list of all the holdings which keep pigs, as required by Article 3, 1 (a) of Directive 2008/71/EC. | **CA update of October 2019**  
We have reviewed the census of the ASP affected counties, and concluded that from 1 May 2019 of 13064 pig holdings in the infected and high risk areas, 500 were closed due to inactivity or non-compliance, and 284 were newly registered in the database.  
As the next step, we are issuing a circular letter to the counties with infected and high risk areas with the task of reviewing their latest census.  
**DEADLINE: 2019. Oct.30.**  
Please find enclosed the census plans as an example (Hajdu-Bihar county and Pest county), which was not attached earlier. Please also find attached a table on the last census of Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok county (received 25.09.2019.) (row E on the second sheet shows farms which ceased operations, they have been deleted from the database). |
|    | Recommendation based on conclusion No. 35  
Associated findings No. 5 and No. 6 |                                                                                                           |

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**CA update of 22 August 2019**

2018 Oct. 30: The National Disease Control Centre requested a Census Plan from counties with intermediate and high risk areas and infected areas (letter No. 02.3/2083-3/2018)

The census plans had been prepared by Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Hajdú-Bihar Nógrád, Békés, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Bács-Kiskun and Pest counties. (Heves county did not prepare a Census Plan since it was the first county to be declared infected and census had been carried earlier.) Please find attached the letter and the census plans.

Census plans contain the person responsible for the census, human resources and methods, communication, etc. At the time being census plans have been required only in high-risk (including infected area) and medium risk areas to be prepared. For human resources management reasons census had been carried out completely in infected areas and widely in high risk areas.)

Future measures planned:
Extending the census to all counties  
The NDCC will work out a proposal to extend census to all counties linked with state financed compensation for the active search for registered and extra compensation for non-registered pig holdings as a motivation. (2020.03.01).  
Including in the relevant Hungarian legislation (governing the registration of pig holdings) that after 3 years of inactivity the holding can be closed without the consent of the holder. (2020.12.31.)
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<td>1</td>
<td>Developing/generating the possibility in the database to directly search for inactive pig holdings, and making it accessible for regional food chain safety departments of government offices (2020.12.31.)</td>
<td>NFCSO periodically providing the list of inactive pig holdings to LVUs for an update to facilitate the process to keep the database up-to-date. (continuous)</td>
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<td>Regularly informing veterinarians through the Hungarian Veterinary Chamber about the need to keep registering every pig holding. (Deadline: continuous).</td>
<td>CA response of 3 July 2019</td>
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<td>According to the Order 3/2018 of the CVO, census and categorisation of the pig holdings have to be carried out every year by the 31st of March. These data are continuously uploaded to the new database which will be fully operational by the 30th of November, 2020. It will also contain all movement documentation between holdings.</td>
<td>Deadline: 30/11/2020</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>To ensure the correct and consistent classification of small commercial and backyard pig holdings and that the necessary biosecurity standards are applied at such holdings, especially relevant being the banning of outdoor access in such pig holdings as provided for in the strategic approach to the management of the ASF for the EU, working document SANTE/7113/2015 Rev. 10. Recommendation based on conclusion No. 35 Associated findings No. 4 and No. 12</td>
<td>CA update of October 2019</td>
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<td>Pig farmers in infected and high risk areas were informed in a documented way by post about the higher and stricter biosecurity requirements applicable. Please find attached the circular letter (no. ÉFÁT/39/2018) and the guidance known as “Good Pig Keeping Practice” (“Jó Sertéstartási Gyakorlat”).</td>
<td>The possibility of ceasing pig holdings in the ASF infected areas without state compensation if the farmers do not comply with the biosecurity requirements is included in the Hungarian ASF Eradication Plan (updated version was issued by Decision 2/2019 of the Chief Veterinary Officer, but had already been laid down in the previous Decisions (2/2018, 3/2018)). Please find attached the decision of Nógrád county (Ref.no: NO-01/EBAO/00026-19/2018) as an example.</td>
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<td>Hungary has modified the definition of non-commercial small scale farms as fallows. Please see the circular No. ÉFÁT/377/2019) on consistent classification of small commercial and backyard pig holdings. Non-commercial farms (NCF): farms where pigs are not kept for breeding (no sows or boars) - pigs kept only for fattening for own consumption and neither pigs nor any of their products leave</td>
<td>CA update of 22 August 2019</td>
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| 3  | To ensure that a special national health-mark is applied for fresh meat, meat preparations and meat products that are to be restricted to the national market, as required by Article 16 of Commission Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU Recommendation based on conclusion No. 39 Associated findings No. 28 and No. 51 | **CA update of 22 August 2019**
Please see the circular ÉFÁT/342/2019 on implementing the Commission Decision 2014/709/EU. In case Hungary changes its decision only applying derogation in article 11 (3) and allows slaughtering in appointed slaughterhouses by article 12, the health mark will be used according to Council Directive 2002/99: fresh meat must bear a diagonal cross consisting of two straight lines intersecting at the centre of the stamp and enabling the information thereon to remain legible. Meat gained from wild boar originating from part I will bear health mark according to Council Directive 2002/99 and additionally according to 709/2014/EU Art 16; the form of the health mark is rectangular. |

The Hungarian ASF Eradication Plan approved by the Commission doesn’t ban literally the outdoor pig keeping, but sets criteria to prevent direct or indirect contact with wild boars by double fencing. The large scale farms have to have facilities also for indoor keeping, the small scale farms in turn keep pigs in sties that can have outdoor access, but the pigs not kept outdoor.

**CA response of 3 July 2019**

When classifying into large and small population categories, the definitions on small-scale and large-scale holdings of Annex 1 of Decree No 41/1997 (V.28.) on issuing the Animal Health Code must be used.

Paragraph 2.12 of the Order 3/2018. of the CVO sets the criteria of classifying commercial or non-commercial categories: each large-scale holdings shall be considered as commercial holding and small-scale holdings where pigs are not only kept for own consumption shall be classified as commercial holdings.

Paragraph 3.22 of the same Decision sets double fencing criteria for outdoor pig keeping and it doesn’t ban outdoor keeping. Our national eradication plan – approved by the Commission – also allows outdoor keeping if the area is double fenced. Outdoor keeping is mainly used for mangalica bred, which requires the outdoor access. However, all pigs kept at outdoor farms which cannot properly fulfil the requirement of preventing the direct or indirect contact with wild boars are eliminated without compensation.

Deadline: continuous
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<td>3</td>
<td>Requirement on the trade of live animals and their products from the different risk zones were ordered in circular letters ÉFÁT/422/2018 and ÉFÁT/275/2018. Based on the findings of the audit a modifying circular (ÉFÁT/151/2019) was sent to the county government offices on 7th of April 2019 to clarify that the special health mark for wild boar meat cannot be confused with: the identification mark for meat preparations and meat products consisting of, or containing pig meat, as set out in Section I of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004. Deadline: completed</td>
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| 4  | To ensure that harmonized and effective biosecurity inspections take place at pig holdings and hunting grounds, with a minimum frequency of once per year, which should be further extended based on a risk assessment, as provided for in the strategic approach to the management of the ASF for the EU, working document SANTE/7113/2015 Rev.10. Recommendation based on conclusions No.56 and No. 57 Associated findings No. 48 and No. 55 | **CA update of October 2019**
New ASP-specific checklists have been completed for the inspection of small- and large scale pig holdings, and game management units.
Please find attached the two checklists.
| 5  | To verify the effectiveness of official controls delivered by authorised veterinarians as provided for in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 Recommendation based on conclusion No. 58 | **CA update of 22 August 2019**
**n/a**

**CA response of  3 July 2019**
The ASP related inspections of establishments with a minimum frequency of once per year are ordered by the Order 3/2018 of the Chief Veterinary Officer of Hungary.
The national annual food-chain control plan sets around 2000 extra checks on pig holdings (so called “compensation checks” above the base numbers set in the plan). In the affected counties, 80% of the extra checks on animal holdings should be pig holdings.
Beside the currently used comprehensive check-list ASF specific check-lists are to be developed and issued by the central competent authority for the inspections of small-scale pig farms, large-scale pig farms and game management units. Planning of inspections will be based on a 3 months period. The new check lists will be introduced in the 3rd quarter of 2019. **Deadline: 30/09/2019**
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<td>Associated finding No. 53 and No. 54</td>
<td>The approved veterinarian has to complete the state public servant basic examination to have sufficient knowledge on public administration. Approved veterinarians are also obliged to take part on all professional and administrative trainings that are organized for them by the contractor. These trainings are reflecting the actualities. The work of the approved veterinarians are organized and supervised by the district veterinarian office. A control system will be developed to verify the ASP related activities of the approved veterinarians. <strong>Deadline: 15/12/2019</strong></td>
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