

DECLARATION OF MEXICO AS AN AREA FREE FROM CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER

Communication from Mexico

The following communication, dated 17 August 2012, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Mexico.

1. Pursuant to Article 7 of the Agreement on the Application on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and paragraph 3(b) of Annex B thereto, Mexico hereby advises WTO Members that the **Decision declaring the United Mexican States free from classical swine fever** (CSF) was published in the *Diario Oficial de la Federación* (Mexican Official Journal) on 14 August 2012.

2. The notified Decision declares the territory of the United Mexican States to be free from classical swine fever, given that the etiological agent of classical swine fever has not been detected since 2005 and sanitary measures have been developed and implemented to ensure the diagnosis, control, eradication and epidemiological surveillance, both active and passive, of the disease. The technical data obtained through these sanitary measures confirm that effective epidemiological surveillance and prevention and control activities were conducted, with nationwide collection of serum and organ samples from industrial and backyard farms. These samples were processed in official laboratories as well as in a number of laboratories approved for the diagnosis of classical swine fever, and no virological evidence of the disease was found. This confirms the absence from the territory of Mexico of the etiological agent of classical swine fever.

3. The eradication of classical swine fever in Mexico has been a gradual process which began with the launching of the National Campaign in 1980 and enabled the disease to be eradicated state by state and region by region until 2009, when the last three states (Chiapas, Oaxaca and Tabasco) were declared CSF-free, and the entire national territory was thus free of the disease. In February 2009, WTO Members were therefore notified, through communication **G/SPS/GEN/908**, that Mexico had declared itself free from CSF.

4. This Decision is being published in order to provide certainty and to strengthen free trade and access to domestic and international markets for both live swine and swine products and byproducts from our country. To ensure that the territory of Mexico remains free from classical swine fever, we shall continue with our prevention, diagnosis and surveillance activities in accordance with the national guidelines for epidemiological surveillance of the disease.

5. The Decision is available in Spanish at <http://www.dof.gob.mx>, <http://www.dof.gob.mx/index.php?year=2012&month=08&day=14> or from the National Enquiry Point (normasomc@economia.gob.mx).

6. Lastly, Mexico wishes to state that this communication is being made for purposes of transparency, without prejudice to the country's rights and obligations under the SPS Agreement.
