

**DECLARATION OF THE STATE OF TABASCO AS AN AREA
FREE FROM AUJESZKY'S DISEASE**

Communication from Mexico

The following communication, received on 21 September 2012, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Mexico.

1. Pursuant to Article 7 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and paragraph 3(b) of Annex B thereto, Mexico hereby advises WTO Members that the **Decision declaring the State of Tabasco to be an area free from Aujeszky's disease** was published in the *Diario Oficial de la Federación* (Mexican Official Journal) on 10 September 2012.

2. The notified Decision declares the State of Tabasco to be free from Aujeszky's disease, following the introduction of sanitary measures to ensure the diagnosis, control, eradication and epidemiological surveillance, both active and passive, of the disease. Epidemiological sampling carried out in all industrial pig farms and in a statistically representative sample of backyard pig farms did not detect the presence of the etiological agent of Aujeszky's disease. The results of this sampling exercise are included in the technical report that was prepared jointly by the Directorate-General of Animal Health and the bodies and organizations concerned, in accordance with the objectives and procedures established in Mexican Official Standard NOM-007-ZOO-1994 on the national campaign against Aujeszky's disease, as published and amended in the Mexican Official Journal on 19 September 1994 and 15 August 1996, respectively.

3. This Decision is being published in order to ensure that the State of Tabasco remains free from Aujeszky's disease, and that the sanitary measures pertaining to diagnosis, prevention, control, epidemiological surveillance, movement control, transport, transit, marketing and swine traceability, found in Mexican Official Standard NOM-007-ZOO-1994 on the national campaign against Aujeszky's disease and in the relevant regulations currently in force, are applied. This will benefit the marketing of swine and swine products and byproducts from this area in terms of competitiveness and profitability.

4. The Decision is available in Spanish at <http://www.dof.gob.mx> and http://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5267406&fecha=10/09/2012 or from the National Enquiry Point (normasomc@economia.gob.mx).

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