



3 August 2018

(18-4936)

Page: 1/1

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

**DECLARATION CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF
COSTA RICA'S STATUS AS A COUNTRY FREE
FROM CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER**

COMMUNICATION FROM COSTA RICA

The following communication, dated 1 August 2018, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Costa Rica.

-
1. Official recognition of the health status of Members is of great importance for international trade and constitutes one of the essential legal links between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), within the framework of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement). In 1998, the official agreement between the WTO and the OIE confirmed the OIE's mandate to recognize pest- and disease-free areas, in accordance with the SPS Agreement.
 2. To facilitate safe international trade in animals and animal products, and at the request of members, the OIE may take official decisions regarding risk and animal health status with respect to classical swine fever.
 3. During its 81st General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 29, which amended the chapter of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code) on classical swine fever. These standards provide a pathway for member countries or zones thereof to be recognized by the OIE as free of classical swine fever.
 4. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specifies and updates the procedure for member countries to follow in order to achieve official recognition and maintenance of their status for certain animal diseases, including classical swine fever.
 5. Over a period of 21 years, Costa Rica has implemented, through the National Animal Health Service (SENASA), a series of measures for the surveillance, control, prevention and eradication of the disease, which were communicated to WTO Members through document G/SPS/GEN/966, in October 2009, declaring the country as free of classical swine fever.
 6. In 2017, Costa Rica submitted to the OIE the questionnaire contained in Chapter 1.6 of the Terrestrial Code for official recognition of the classical swine fever status of member countries, together with the respective evidence, with a view to being included in the list of members recognized as free of the disease.
 7. During the 86th General Session, held in May 2018, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 29, "Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Members", in which Costa Rica was included on the list of members recognized as being free of classical swine fever, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 15.2 of the Terrestrial Code.
 8. In the interests of transparency and in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, we invite Members to take note of this recognition, which reflects intensive efforts by both the public and private sectors to promote animal and public health both in Costa Rica and at the global level.
-