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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**SPS COMMITTEE THEMATIC SESSION ON AFRICAN SWINE FEVER
TUESDAY, 23 MARCH 2021
WTO, CENTRE WILLIAM RAPPARD, GENEVA**

PROGRAMME

The SPS Committee agreed, at its November 2020 meeting, to hold a thematic session on African swine fever (ASF) immediately preceding its March 2021 meeting, based on a proposal submitted by the European Union.¹

According to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)², ASF is a severe viral disease affecting domestic and wild pigs. ASF is not a risk to human health. There is no approved vaccine against the disease. This transboundary animal disease can be spread by direct contact with infected live or dead pigs; indirect contact, through ingestion of contaminated material (e.g. food waste, feed, or garbage); and contaminated fomites or biological vectors, where present.

Historically, outbreaks have been reported in Africa and parts of Europe, South America, and the Caribbean. More recently, the disease has been reported in multiple countries across Africa, Asia and Europe. It is responsible for serious production and economic losses.

The thematic session will provide an opportunity for WTO Members to increase their awareness of regionalization principles, and learn from each other by sharing experiences about the challenges, as well as the benefits, of defining safe trade conditions for pigs, pork and pork products. This, in turn, should contribute to building confidence among trading partners when recognizing or seeking recognition of their regionalization measures.

The session will focus on trade-related questions and can be seen as a follow-up to the Thematic Session on Regionalization that was held in July 2017.³ It would offer a snapshot of the epidemiological situation and a review of available risk management options based on the OIE standards that aim to mitigate the negative economic impact of ASF by facilitating safe trade worldwide.

The thematic session will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on Tuesday, 23 March 2021, beginning at 10 a.m., and continuing in the afternoon at 15:00, as necessary. The thematic session can be attended virtually through the Interprefy platform.

Chairperson: Mr Gregory MacDonald

¹ [G/SPS/W/322](#).

² Key facts on African swine fever, OIE: <https://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/animal-diseases/african-swine-fever/>.

³ The information on the Thematic Session on Regionalization can be found in the following link: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/wkshop11july17_e.htm.

1 RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE SPS AGREEMENT AND WORK OF THE SPS COMMITTEE

Speaker:

- **WTO Secretariat**

2 OVERVIEW: INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS, WORLDWIDE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

Speakers:

- **OIE secretariat:**
 - Terrestrial Animal Health Code
 - Epidemiological Situation Worldwide
- **TBC:**
 - Economic impact worldwide, future of global pig production

Followed by Q&A session and discussion.

3 SHARING OF NATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Speakers:

- **European Commission:** Tools to ensure safe trade in the EU Single Market
- **TBC:** Examples of successful eradication of ASF
- **TBC:** Trade in pork – The perspective of a Member where ASF is endemic in wildlife
- **TBC:** Management of international and domestic trade of a major pork producer
- **TBC:** Assessment and managements of import risks related to ASF

Followed by Q&A session and discussion.

4 INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Speakers:

- **TBC:** Regional/cross border cooperation and global partnerships (global action)
- **TBC:** Scientific collaboration

Followed by Q&A session and discussion.

5 CLOSING REMARKS
