

**DECLARATION AS A COUNTRY FREE OF CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER**

Statement by Chile at the Meeting of 10-11 June 1998

On 6 April 1998, Chile declared itself a country free from classical swine fever, having met the requirements for international recognition as such.

For 18 years, the Ministry of Agriculture of Chile, through the Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG), has been implementing, in conjunction with the private pig producing sector, a project for the control and eradication of classical swine fever through massive vaccination campaigns with a controlled immunogen, epidemiological monitoring, control of outbreaks, laboratory diagnosis, health education, dissemination, and training among other actions.

The actions undertaken in the framework of the project have made it possible to bring the disease under control and ultimately to eradicate it.

On 6 April 1998, Resolution No. 987 was published in the Official Journal of the SAG declaring Chile a country free of classical swine fever and placing that disease under the system for the prevention of exotic diseases.

The resolution outlines the principal factors leading to the decision as follows:

- Over the past 18 years, the SAG has developed a programme for the control and eradication of classical swine fever.
- Within the framework of its activities, the project provided for specific actions in the areas of epidemiological monitoring, detection of the disease and control of outbreaks throughout the country's swine population.
- The last outbreak took place in August 1996, and was eliminated through sanitary slaughter.
- Epidemiological studies conducted by the SAG have revealed no sign of the virus in the swine population.
- SAG Resolution No. 2.928 of 1 October 1997 prohibits the use of vaccines against classical swine fever throughout the national territory.
- The provisions of Article 2.1.13.2 of the International Animal Health Code of the International Office of Epizootics (OIE) concerning declaration as a country free of classical swine fever have been complied with.

On 29 April, the declaration as a country free of the disease was notified to the OIE and the communication was ratified at the annual OIE meeting in May 1998.

With the eradication of classical swine fever, Chile has acquired the status of *country free of the diseases appearing in List A* of the OIE, a status of considerable importance and influence in international trade.

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