

## Self-declaration from Romania on the recovery of its disease-free status from classical swine fever

submitted to the OIE on 7 February 2013, by Dr Lazar Niculae, Delegate of Romania to the OIE, Acting Director General, National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority, Bucharest, Romania

### Background information

Classical swine fever (CSF) was an endemic disease in Romania for a relatively long period. Data on the evolution of this disease in Romania were regularly and transparently reported to the OIE. With the accession of Romania to the European Union (EU) in 2006, the country began to successfully implement annual programmes for the surveillance, control and eradication of CSF.

Improvements in the Romanian Veterinary Services, supported by the EU Commission and experts from the EU Member States, have resulted in no new cases of CSF being diagnosed since 2007. This has been confirmed through laboratory test results. Furthermore, the data obtained by the annual surveillance programmes in 2011 and 2012 demonstrate that, to this date, there is no evidence of CSF virus circulation in domestic pigs and wild boar.

### Surveillance programmes and epidemiological data

Between 2006 and 2012, Romania launched CSF control and eradication programmes, approved and co-financed by the EU Commission. These administrative and financial efforts have produced excellent results, since Romania may now issue documented proof of the absence of CSF virus circulation within its national territory. The efficacy of these programmes was annually evaluated by the Evaluation Mission of the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO), which concluded that the

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implementation of these programmes has produced favourable results in Romania.

At present, the epidemiological situation in Romania is as follows. In the beginning of 2004, the circulation of live pigs from Romania was banned on the EU market. In 2006, by means of Commission Decision 802/2006/CE, the first monitoring, control and eradication plan for CSF in domestic and wild pigs in Romania was approved. This plan was implemented each year, and:

- the last outbreak of CSF was diagnosed on 9 October 2007 and resolved in January 2008
- no new case of infection has been registered since 2007
- vaccination against CSF in domestic pigs was stopped on 30 November 2009
- vaccination against CSF in wild boar was stopped on 31 December 2011
- the results of serological and virological tests obtained in recent years from domestic pigs and wild boar are favourable and demonstrate the absence of CSF virus circulation.

### Official controls and traceability issues

In Romania, CSF is a disease which must immediately be notified. Legislative provisions are in force that provide for the compulsory notification of the first signs or suspicion of disease by any person who owns or cares for pigs. This is in accordance with the provisions of Article 15.2.2. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, as well as the enforced EU legislation on CSF control written into Romanian legislation.

In Romania, domestic pigs are adequately identified and traceability is assured from farm to fork. The hunting grounds are inventoried to determine the numbers of wild boar and the evolution of the population in each hunting ground. Annual hunting programmes take place during legally approved seasons.