

ANNEX

Action Plan submitted by the Competent Authorities of Italy on 11 November in response to Mission Report ref. DG(SANCO)/2008-7801- MR carried out from 17 June to 26 June 2008 in order to Evaluate the situation concerning African Swine Fever and Swine Vesicular Disease.

No.	Recommendation	Action proposed by Competent Authority
1	To further complete the information necessary in the national data base as required by Commission Decision 2000/678/EC to make it an efficient tool for disease control.	During the mission, it was pointed out at the outset that the national pig database had not yet been completed. In this connection, on 12 April 2008 the Minister for Health issued the Order entitled "Rules concerning the identification and registration of pigs and pig holdings and the related movements", which was published in Official Gazette of the Italian Republic No 139 of 16 June 2008. The main aims of this are to complete the national pig database and update the regulations concerning pig movements. This Order was made necessary by the fact that implementing the system for identifying and registering pigs, including registration in the national database of information concerning animal movements, is instrumental to achieving and maintaining accredited status for individual pig holdings and for the entire regional territory. For further information, a copy of the aforementioned Order is enclosed (Annex 1).
2	To ensure that the measures to eradicate and monitor SVD are correctly applied in all areas as foreseen in the eradication and monitoring plan approved by Commission Decision 2000/774/EC.	The Decision referred to in this recommendation approved the monitoring plan for swine vesicular disease for 2001, which was made operational by the Ministerial Order of 26 July 2001. This Order was repealed and replaced by the Ministerial Order of 12 April 2008 entitled "Health measures for eradicating swine vesicular disease and monitoring classical swine fever", which was published in Official Gazette of the Italian Republic No 148 of 26 June 2008. The latter Order made operational the programme which Italy submitted to the European Commission and which was approved, from a technical and financial viewpoint, by Decision 2007/782/EC of 30 November 2007. The main objectives of the plan are to:- maintain the accreditation status of the regions which are accredited for swine vesicular disease;- achieve accreditation status for the non-accredited regions;- carry out each year the activities envisaged in the plan itself. Again, a copy of the relevant Order is enclosed for further information (Annex 2). With regard to ensuring that the measures laid down by the legislation are correctly applied in relation to monitoring and eradication of the disease, audits/inspections will be carried out, as reported under Recommendation 4.

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3	<p>To continue and strengthen the new approaches for the eradication of ASF while continuing with the established control measures of the eradication plan approved by Commission Decisions 2005/362/EC and 2005/363/EC to overcome the last obstacles that prevent Sardinia from becoming free of ASF.</p>	<p>With regard to African swine fever, the eradication plan for this disease in Sardinia for 2008 was made operational by Sardinia Autonomous Region through Decree No 24 of the Regional Hygiene, Health and Social Welfare Department entitled "Implementing decree for the eradication plan for swine fevers in Sardinia Region" 2008. This Decree lays down the health measures to be implemented on pig holdings and, in any case, in relation to all animals of the porcine species, whether domesticated or wild, and in all food businesses handling pig meat and pig meat products. The aims of the fight against African swine fever are to eradicate the disease in the regional territory so as to safeguard the swine herd, including wild swine, within and outside the region and to safeguard and promote trade in pig meat and pig meat products. Another primary aim is to guarantee the safety of meat placed on the market, so as to protect the rest of Italy and the EU from the risk of the virus spreading from Sardinia. This Decree is enclosed as Annex 3. With regard to ensuring that the measures laid down by the legislation are correctly applied in relation to the monitoring and eradication of the disease, audits/inspections will be carried out, as reported under Recommendation 4.</p>
4	<p>To establish the audits and controls required by Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 to ensure the correct application of the control systems for SVD and ASF.</p>	<p>The "National Centre for Combating Animal Diseases and Central Crisis Unit" was recently established within the Department of Veterinary Public Health, Nutrition and Food Safety by means of the Ministerial Decree of 7 March 2008. Among other things, it is drawing up a specific audit programme, to be carried out throughout the country, aimed at checking on correct application of the national and EU measures, or to be carried out in emergencies. The National Centre also has targeted inspection tasks for every individual problem identified during the course of normal activities and those identified by the Central Crisis Unit set up in the event of emergencies. At present, with regard to swine vesicular disease, ten regional audits/inspections are planned, while two audits/inspections are planned for African swine fever. These are to be carried out by June 2009 (within 12 months following the mission in question). Moreover, Sicily Regional Authority, which was covered by the mission, has already planned two audits on swine vesicular disease in two separate provinces by June 2009 (within 12 months following the mission in</p>

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		question).With regard to the general planning framework for training activities, Sicily Regional Authority will avail of the technical/scientific expertise of Sicily Experimental Animal Health Institute. A copy of the Decree of 7 March 2008 entitled "Organisation and tasks of the National Centre for Combating Animal Diseases and for Animal Disease Emergencies and the Central Crisis Unit" is enclosed (Annex 4).
5	To ensure complete and regular information to the Commission as required by Commission Decision 2005/363/EC.	In compliance with Article 7(b) of Decision 2005/363/EC, a list is provided herewith of the establishments which are approved for the dispatch of fresh pig meat and products of porcine origin from Sardinia Region (Annex 5).This list is updated twice a year and sent to the European Commission. With regard to supplying the list of consignments of pig meat and pig meat products that have been certified as provided for in Articles 5(4) and 6(4) of that Decision, we would highlight the considerable difficulty, reported by Sardinia Region's health authorities, in compiling information on the huge number of certified consignments. In any event, we would point out that all the certifications are available in loco.