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African Swine Fever – Armenia

Note: Defra Food and Farming Group - International Trade Core Function (FFG-ITCF) monitors outbreaks of high impact diseases around the world. African swine fever (ASF) is among those diseases of major concern.

Disease Report

Armenia reported outbreaks of African swine fever (ASF) from six locations (see map) in the north of the country (OIE, 2007a). According to the report the outbreaks started in early to late August and affected free range village pigs as well as pigs on farms. Control measures include stamping out and movement controls.

Situation Assessment

The apparent case fatality rate was reported as 100%. Some of the earlier reports of outbreaks in neighbouring Georgia also reported a nearly 100% case fatality rate (OIE, 2007b).



Armenia is not on the EU list of Third countries allowed to export live pigs or pig meat products to the EU (and UK).

The spread of ASF into Armenia from Georgia gives rise to concern about the possibility of a more general spread into adjacent countries and its introduction into wild boar populations in the mountainous Caucasus region.

Conclusion

The likelihood of introduction by legal trade in susceptible livestock is considered negligible because EU (and UK) rules prohibit imports of susceptible animals and their products from Armenia. The likelihood of the introduction of the virus by illegal imports is difficult to estimate. However, ensuring the appropriate disposal of international catering waste, having vigilant enforcement agencies and prohibiting swill feeding in the UK should provide effective protection.

FFG-ITCF does not intend to carry out and publish a full risk assessment but will continue to monitor the situation.

References

- OIE. (2007a). ARM 29-08-07 OIE Alert Message. African swine fever, Armenia. Received by e-mail 29/08/2007.
- OIE. (2007b). GEO 06-06-07 OIE Alert Message. African swine fever, Georgia. Received by e-mail 06/06/2007. (and follow-up reports No.1 (19/06/2007), No. 2 (21/06/2007) and No. 3 (13/08/2007) http://www.oie.int/wahid-prod/public.php?page=weekly_report_index&admin=0 (accessed 30/08/2007).