



URGENT CALL FOR QUICK AND DECISIVE ACTION: AFRICAN SWINE FEVER DETECTED IN WILD BOAR IN BELGIUM

Brussels, 14 September 2018 – Europe’s hunters are deeply concerned following yesterday’s reports of African swine fever (ASF) in wild boar in Belgium. The infected animals were found in the Walloon municipality of Étalle in the province of Luxembourg. This is the first reported case of this problematic disease in western Europe, which is now present in 10 European Union (EU) countries. Urgent action from the regional, national and European authorities is needed.

At the moment it is unclear how the disease spread to Belgium or what the immediate response from authorities will be. However, monitoring and biosecurity must now be intensified by all stakeholders, and hunters have a key role to play in reporting any abnormal activity to the competent authorities. They are also asked to remain vigilant in their own areas and exercise stringent biosecurity measures to prevent the disease from spreading further. Everyone who is travelling in affected regions, for example transporters and seasonal laborers, should take measures to stop the disease from spreading.

The European Federation for Hunting and Conservation (FACE) and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) as well as hunters’ associations in Belgium and neighbouring countries are now working with a range of partners to ensure that hunters play a key role in combatting the spread of this disease.

FACE and the CIC are calling for the following actions:

- The necessary wild boar management measures must be established and executed in consultation with key stakeholders.
- Hunters should receive support from the regional, national and European authorities. This should contain the necessary equipment for hunters (e.g. sound moderators), biosecurity measures and other management measures (e.g. for the detection of carcasses).
- Swift action is needed, taking into account lessons learnt from other EU countries and from the international training organised by FACE, the CIC and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) on hunters’ role in the surveillance of wildlife diseases, of which the recommendations can be found [here](#).

Currently, there is no known treatment or vaccination for ASF despite a substantial amount of research. Although the disease does not affect humans, it can impact all aspects of hunting and wildlife management where ASF is present. This is evident from eastern Europe and the Baltic states where it is causing a wide range of problems for farmers, hunters, wildlife managers and the multi-billion-euro pork industry.

Speaking at last week’s FACE General Assembly in Brussels, the EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Mr. Vytenis Andriukaitis correctly stated that ASF is one of Europe’s largest animal health challenges where hunters have an important role.



EUROPEAN FEDERATION FOR HUNTING AND CONSERVATION

The European Commission recently published information for hunters and their role in monitoring and combatting, which can be found [here](#)

- [The response of the Hubertus Vereniging Vlaanderen \(Belgium\)](#)
- [The response of the Jagersvereniging \(Netherlands\)](#)
- [The response of the Royal Saint-Hubert Club de Belgique \(Belgium\)](#)
- [The response of the Deutscher Jagdverband \(Germany\)](#)
- [The response of the Fédération Nationale des Chasseurs \(France\)](#)



NOTE TO EDITORS: FACE is the European Federation for Hunting and Conservation. Established in 1977, FACE represents the interests of Europe's 7 million hunters as an international non-profit-making nongovernmental organisation. FACE is made up of national hunters' associations from 36 European countries including the EU-28. FACE is supported by 7 associate members and is based in Brussels. FACE upholds the principle of sustainable use and has been a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 1987. Visit www.face.eu

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