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E-004750/2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.3.2026)

1. The EU has established rules to prevent the spread of African swine fever within an affected Member State, focusing on regionalisation as outlined in both the African swine fever EU guidelines¹ and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594². These guidelines are rooted in scientific principles and aligned with international standards set by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). The Commission has actively pursued various actions in both bilateral and multilateral fora, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO). Its aim is to address potential unjustified refusals by any third countries and to ensure that third countries acknowledge the EU's approach based on a regionalisation of measures addressing outbreaks of African swine fever. The goal is to ensure adherence to international standards and protect the interests of affected Member States. The Commission remains committed to ongoing diplomatic and technical dialogue with countries enforcing any bans in this respect, advocating for the recognition of the regionalisation approach and showcasing the effectiveness of the control measures implemented.

2. The Commission is closely monitoring developments in the pigmeat sector and will act in a responsible and proportionate manner, within the limits of the legal framework and available budgetary resources, should circumstances so require.

¹ Commission Notice on the guidelines on the prevention, control and eradication of African swine fever in the Union (ASF guidelines), C/2023/7855, OJ C, C/2023/1504, 18.12.2023 ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2023/1504/oj>.

² Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 of 16 March 2023 laying down special disease control measures for African swine fever and repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605 (OJ L 79, 17.3.2023, p. 65, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2023/594/oj).