**Analysis of costs caused by African swine fever in domestic pigs and wild boar in Latvia**

*Dr. Edvīns Oļševskis. Food and Veterinary Service, Latvia*

The first African swine fever (ASF) cases in Latvia were confirmed in June 2014 on the border with Belarus. Afterwards, ASF was spreading mostly in wild boar population covering larger and larger territories of the country. In September 2018, almost 90% of the territory of Latvia was infected, presenting high risk of the virus introduction to pig farms both, commercial and non-commercial, located in the infected areas. Since June 2014, more than 4 000 wild boar cases and 63 outbreaks in pig farms (most of them non-commercial) have been detected In Latvia.

The costs of ASF are divided in two categories: direct costs that are mostly related to the implementation of ASF preventive, control and eradication measures in both pig farms and wild boar population; and indirect costs - related to trade restrictions within country, reduction of meat prices and lose of the export markets etc.

The total amount of direct costs caused by ASF in Latvia during last four years is close to 20 million EUR. Highest costs are usually related to ASF outbreak eradication in large commercial farms, including culling of pigs and disposal of carcasses, cleaning disinfection and compensations to animal owners.

As ASF virus is continuously present in wild boar population and effective tools to eliminate it from wildlife is limited, high proportion of finances are dedicated to hunters who are essential for ensuring ASF surveillance in wild boar and management of wild boar population.

It is quite difficult to calculate exact amount of indirect costs caused by ASF for the country like Latvia, which is not the large exporter of live pigs, pork and products containing pork. So far, the calculations of indirect costs related to ASF are not done in Latvia.