



**PHIL HOGAN**

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*Dear Mr Rebeqa,*

*Thank you for your letters dated 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018 in which you express concerns related to the spread of African Swine fever (ASF) in Romania and you ask for technical assistance and financial support for farmers directly affected by recent outbreaks.*

*While understanding the difficult situation for the pig farmers located in areas directly affected by the disease, it is of the utmost importance that, first of all, Romania takes all the measures necessary to control the disease, in particular by making use of the instruments provided under animal health legislation, especially under Council Directive 2002/60/EC<sup>1</sup>. In addition, the Romanian response to the epidemiological situation with regard to ASF should be in line with the principles of the ASF Strategy for the EU<sup>2</sup>. The measures implemented by Romania for the surveillance and the eradication of ASF are already financially supported by the EU since 2015, through an approved multiannual veterinary programme complemented by emergency funding, based on the provisions of Regulation 652/2014<sup>3</sup>.*

*While it is of paramount importance that the surveillance and biosecurity requirements are well respected and that the disease is contained, the Romanian authorities should also reflect on the funding possibilities within the frame of the rural development programme to develop long term, sustainable measures to improve biosecurity in pig holdings in Romania. At the same time, I would like to recall the possibility for your country's authorities to explore the framework of state aids focusing on prevention, control and eradication of ASF.*

*Mr Laurențiu Rebeqa  
Member of the European Parliament  
Rue Wiertz  
Altiero Spinelli 06G358  
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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 192, 20.7.2002, p. 27

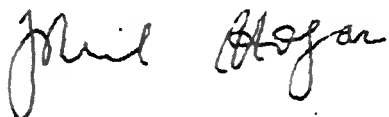
<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/ad\\_control-measures\\_asf\\_wrk-doc-sante-2015-7113.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/ad_control-measures_asf_wrk-doc-sante-2015-7113.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> OJ C 67, 6.3.2014, p. 166

*I am fully aware that veterinary restrictions have economic effects on pig producers in the areas concerned. Article 220 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1308/2013 establishing a common organization of the markets in agricultural products provides for the possibility to adopt market support measures that are of exceptional and temporary nature. This type of market support measure can only be granted for a short period of time to accompany targeted veterinary measures. Under no circumstances, such measures are deemed to provide continuous income support in restricted areas. Lastly, let me also draw your attention to the threat linked to the economic stimulation of pig production in zones where ASF risks becoming endemic.*

*Finally, in your letter of 17<sup>th</sup> July you mention that you expect Romanian farmers concerned by ASF to be able to use the crisis reserve. I would like to remind you that this reserve is sourced from direct payments. Member States decide on its activation at Council level as a last resort, in specific circumstances, when certain market support measures affecting the agricultural sector cannot be financed from existing budget availabilities. This is not the case in the situation at stake as raised in your letters.*

*Yours sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Hogan', written in a cursive style.

*Phil HOGAN*