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Circular Letter No.4445
31 August 2021

To: All IMO Member States and Associate Members
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: Information on African swine fever (ASF) and call for measures to prevent the spread of the disease

1 The purpose of this circular letter is to provide information on African swine fever (ASF) following a recent outbreak in the Dominican Republic and to raise awareness on the need for preventive measures against the further spread of the disease. The information has been provided by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

2 ASF is a deadly disease in domestic and wild pigs. While it does not present a risk to human health, it affects animal welfare, causes severe production and economic losses, and can threaten food security. There is no vaccine against it, so prevention is key to avoiding the further spread of the virus. The virus is highly resistant in the environment and in pork products, meaning it can travel from one region or country to another through infected pigs, contaminated pork products or clothes. This also applies to crew and passengers embarking and disembarking ships, their clothes and belongings; potentially food waste from ships going to reception facilities; and to cargo.

3 More information for transport authorities on how to prevent the spread of ASF, as well as on countries infected by ASF, can be found at the following links:

- OIE website: www.oie.int
- ASF webpage: www.oie.int/asf
- OIE "ASF kills pigs" awareness campaign: trello.com/b/GloZoik/african-swine-fever-oie
- FAO ASF recommendations: African Swine Fever (ASF) - FAO Emergency Prevention System for Animal Health (EMPRES-AH)
- IMO hot topic page:
<https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/African-Swine-Fever.aspx>

