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The challenges presented by the ASF are clearly demonstrated by the findings of the two specific audits that were carried out in 2017 and 2018 by the Commission in Romania in order to evaluate the implementation of animal health controls in relation to ASF. The findings of the most recent report¹ refer to insufficient measures taken to regulate the movements of non-commercial pigs and to trace live animals and their products or persons and vehicles that might carry the virus from infected areas in Romania. In addition, the lack of effective traceability and biosecurity precautions for live pigs and products of animal origin moving between non-commercial holdings means that it is challenging to contain the disease within infected areas. Please note that due to extraordinary situation of ASF in Romania and having in mind free movement of people and goods within the EU single market there is a high risk of further virus transmission through the territory of Romania or within other Member States.

Before any relaxation of the EU measures, the competent authorities of Romania should elaborate the action plan with concrete deadlines for targeted actions and strengthen a general system for prevention, eradication and control of the disease in line with existing EU legislation and recommendations provided in the reports of previous EUVET and STM missions and audits carried out by the Commission.

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