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Brussels,

Dear [REDACTED],

I have the pleasure to invite you, in my new duties as Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, to a high-level international Ministerial Conference entitled: ‘The future of global pork production under the threat of African Swine Fever’ that will take place in the margin of the “85th Berlin International Green Week¹” on Friday 17 January 2020, from 16:00 to 18:30.

African Swine Fever (ASF) is a mounting challenge for pigs and wild boar threatening the global pork sector and presenting a serious risk to the environment and wild boar populations.

The fight against ASF demands extensive intervention of different authorities and long-term coordinated actions worldwide, as well as our constant vigilance in Europe.

The European Commission and Member States are actively engaged in many initiatives to fight ASF at international level supporting actions beyond the usual remit of veterinary authorities. These actions are essential to secure and prevent the worsening of the global situation and they should be reflected in a long-term global ASF control strategy that we will be discussing in the conference. We very much hope we can count on your support towards shaping out this global strategy.

¹ International Green Week (IGW) is an important international trade fair held annually in Berlin since 1926. IGW is considered one of the world's biggest fair for the food, agricultural, and horticultural industries. More information: <https://www.gruenewoche.com/>

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In light of the above, I would be happy to welcome you to attend the conference in Berlin that will bring together representatives from Governments and Institutions, key international organisations and important stakeholders.

For any further information Mr Bernard Van Goethem [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu), Director for Crisis management in food animals and plants in my services, is the responsible person. For confirmation and registration to the event, please refer to sante-consult-g3@ec.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,

Stella Kyriakides

ANNEX: Draft Programme of the event