



# Overview of ASF in the EU and European Commission Activities

Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever

28-29 September 2023

*Simona Forcella*

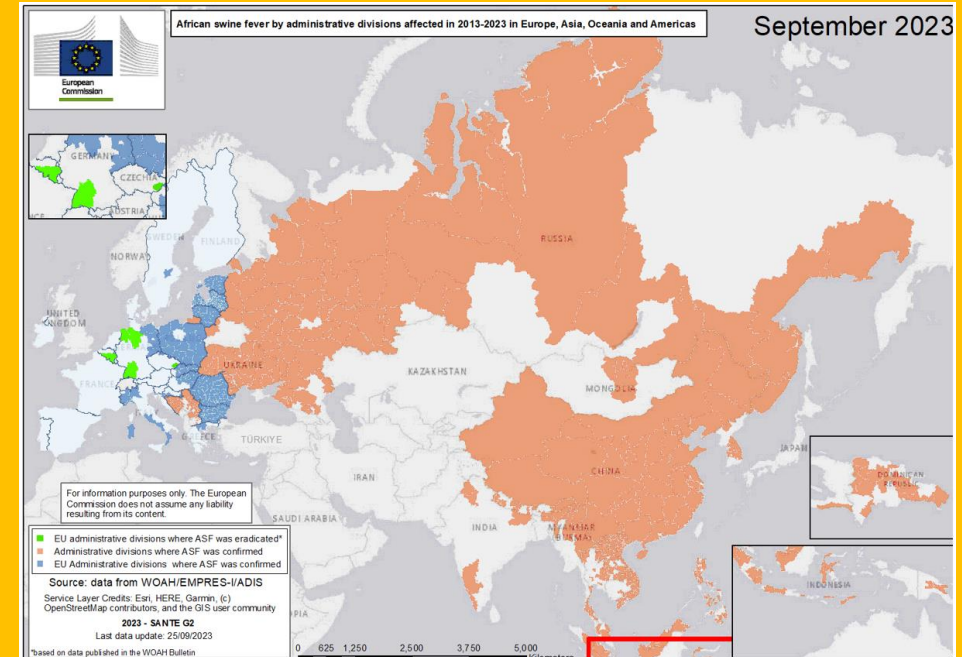
*Unit G2 – Animal Health*

*Directorate G*

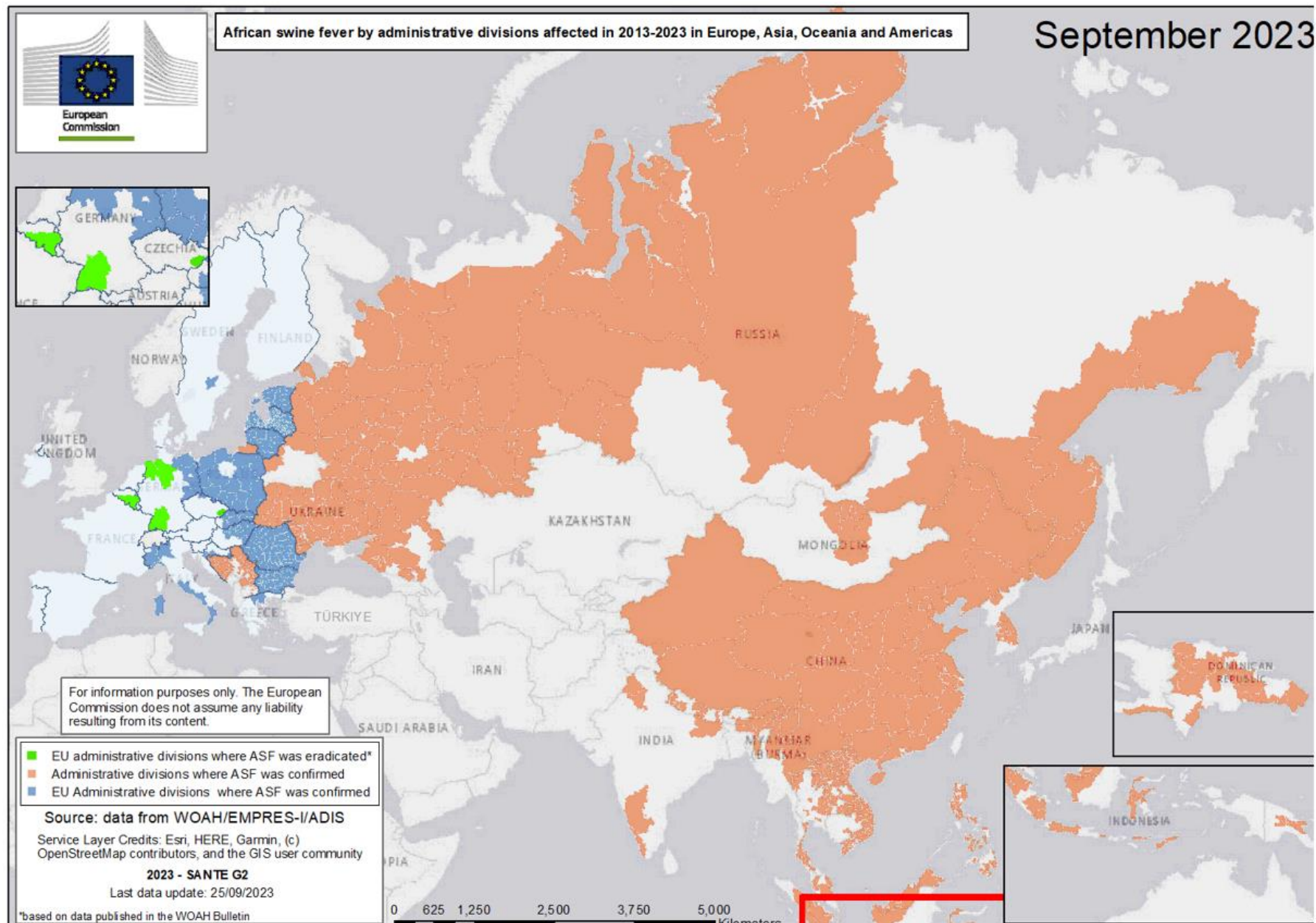
*Crisis preparedness in food, animals and plants*

*DG SANTE, European Commission*

# ASF epidemiological situation in the EU 2014-2023



## ASF in Asia, the Pacific and the Americas



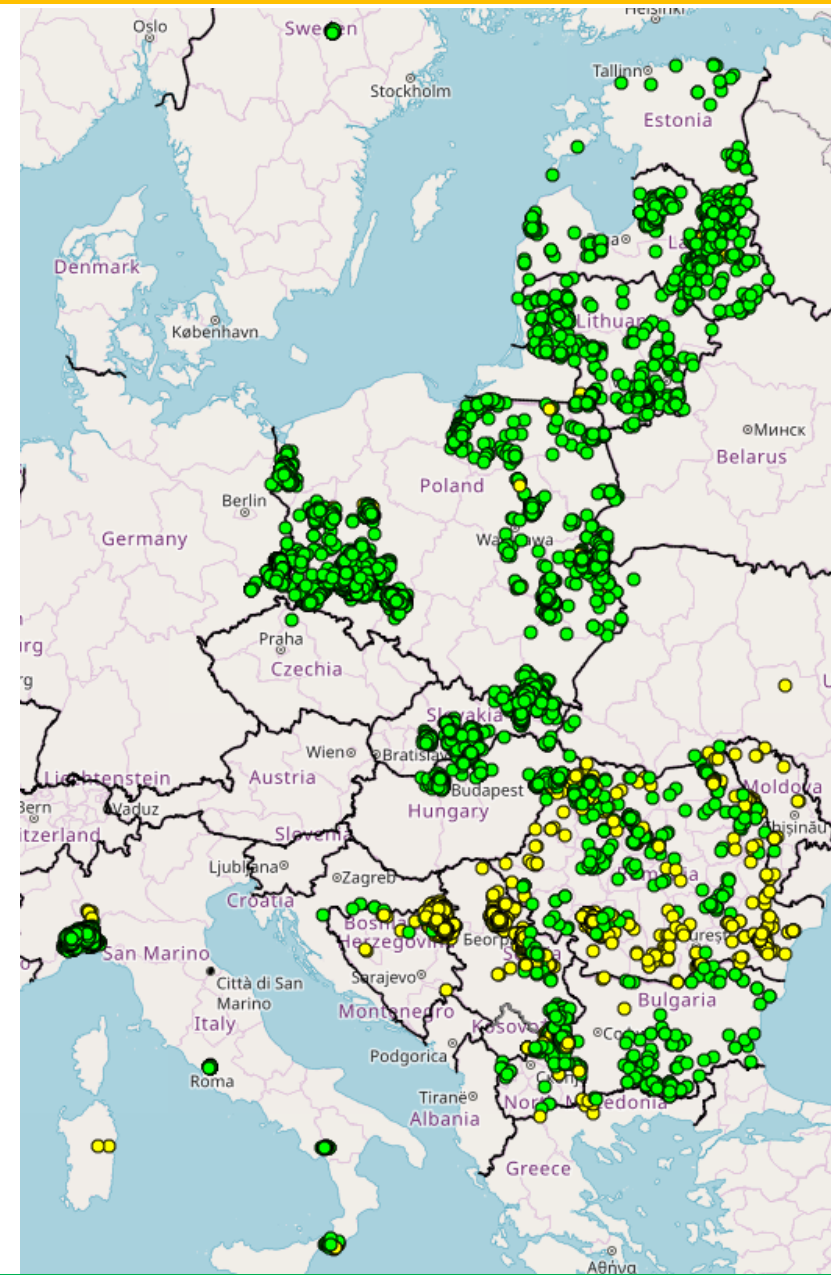
1. China (Aug 2018)
2. Mongolia (Jan 2019)
3. Vietnam (Feb 2019)
4. Cambodia (March 2019)
5. Hong Kong (May 2019)
6. Democratic People's Republic of Korea (May 2019)
7. Lao People's Democratic Republic (Jun 2019)
8. Myanmar (Aug 2019)
9. The Philippines (Jul 2019)
10. Republic of Korea (Sep 2019)
11. Timor-Leste (Sep 2019)
12. Indonesia (Nov 2019)
13. Papua New Guinea (Mar 2020)
14. India (May 2020)
15. Malaysia (Feb 2021)
16. Bhutan (May 2021)
17. Dominican Republic (July 2021).
18. Haiti (September 2021).
19. Thailand (January 2022).
20. Nepal (March 2022).
21. Singapore (February 2023).



# ASF in the EU in 2014-2023

ASF in the EU and WB in 2023 (up to 26/09/2023)

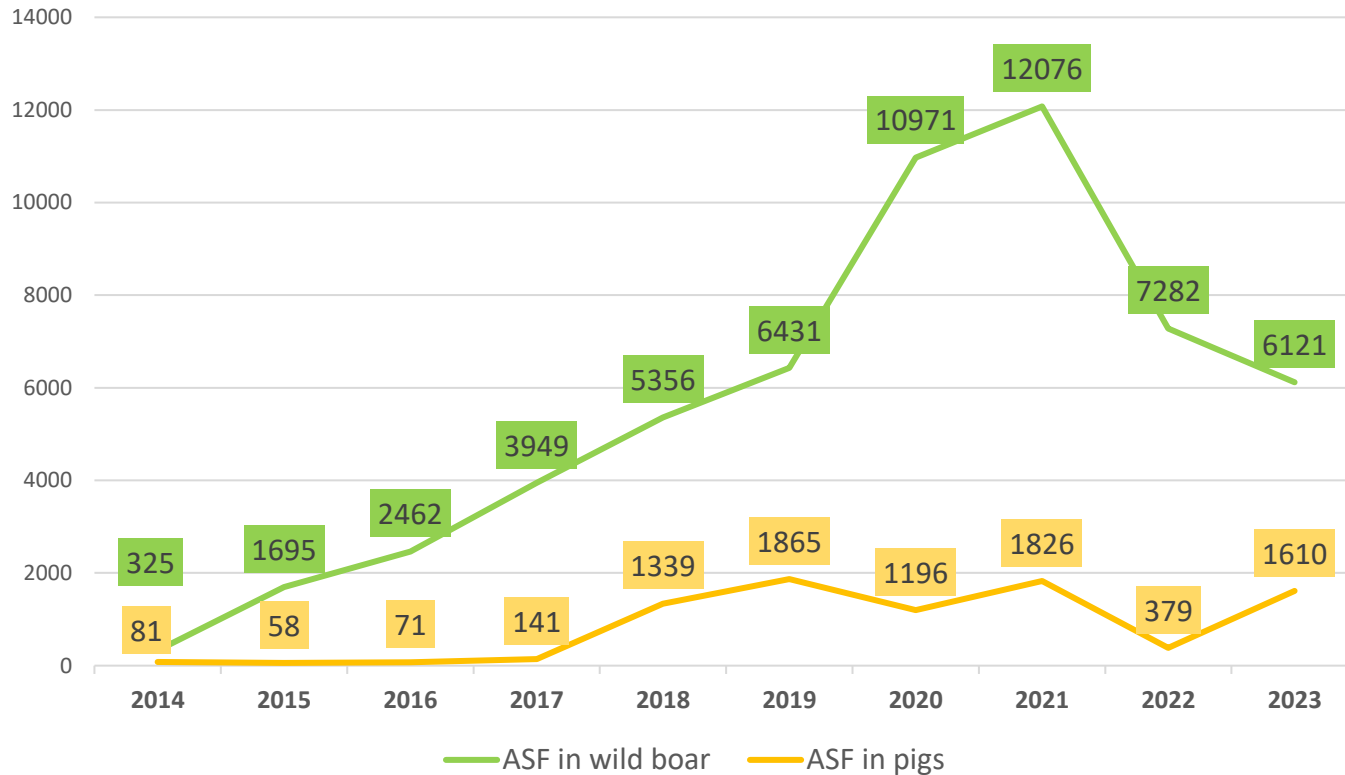
No	MS	1 <sup>st</sup> ASF detection	Wild boar	Domestic pigs	Remarks on the current ASF situation (up to 26/9/2023)
1.	LT	1/2014	+	+	mainly in wild boar; <b>3 outbreaks in pigs</b> (2023)
2.	PL	1/2014	+	+	mainly in wild boar; <b>25 outbreaks in pigs</b> (2023)
3.	LV	6/2014	+	+	mainly in wild boar; <b>8 outbreaks in pigs</b> (2023)
4.	EE	7/2015	+	+	mainly in wild boar; <b>2 outbreaks in pigs</b> (2023)
5.	CZ	6/2017	+		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ASF <b>eradicated in 2019</b></li> <li>new cases at border with PL since 11/2022</li> </ul>
6.	RO	7/2017	+	+	in wild boar; <b>670 outbreaks in pigs</b> (2023)
7.	HU	4/2018	+		in wild boar only
8.	BG	6/2018	+	+	wild boar; <b>3 outbreaks in pigs</b> (2023)
	BE	9/2018	+		free from ASF since 11/2020
9.	SK	7/2019	+	+	mainly in wild boar
10.	EL	2/2020	+	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>one outbreak in pigs <b>in 02/2020 (eradicated)</b></li> <li>new cases in wild boar and <b>6 outbreaks in pigs</b> (2023)</li> </ul>
11.	DE	9/2020	+	+*	mainly in wild boar; <b>1 outbreak in pigs</b> (2023)
12.	IT	1/2022	+	+	in wild boar; <b>16 outbreaks in pigs</b> in 2023 (Sardinia, Lombardy and Calabria Regions)
13.	HR	6/2023	+	+	in wild boar; <b>876 outbreaks in pigs</b> (2023)
14;	SE	9/2023	+		In wild boar



ASF outbreaks in wild boar

ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs

# ASF outbreaks in pigs and wild boar in the EU 2014-2023\*



## CASES

of ASF  
in wild boar

~56.700

## OUTBREAKS

of ASF  
in domestic pigs

~8.500



The number of ASF cases in wild boar (and the size of affected areas) **were gradually increasing until 2021**



**Long-distance 'jumps' occurs yearly: preparedness is key!** no country is safe!



ASF control and eradication in **wide areas remains a huge challenge**



EU has a **knowledge and expertise to deal with the focal introduction** of ASF in wild boar in limited areas (eradicated from CZ and BE)

Overall, **ASF in pigs remains under control** in the EU (despite it remains a **challenge in few regions/MS**)



With some exceptions, **ASF in wild boar in an area results in ASF outbreaks in pigs** (the risk is high!) + **long-distance 'jumps'!**

**Small scale (backyard) farms present particular challenges** to eradicate ASF in pigs

\* until 26/09/2023



# Main EU initiatives on ASF

<https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/video/I-192783>

- Preparedness
- Scientific advice (EFSA)
- Network of labs (+ EURL)
- Research
- Legislation (horizontal + specific)
- EU Guidelines
- Zoning (Regionalization)
- Border controls
- Audits
- Financial support
- Training (BTSF)
- Public awareness
- Urgent intervention (EUVET)
- International cooperation

**CONTROL OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN THE EU**  
The key role of hunters

ASF is a devastating, usually deadly, infectious wild boar for which no vaccine exists.

1. Hunting and trapping

2. Wildlife and hunting

Hunters can make the difference – for better or worse – as they may increase or reduce the spread of the disease.

European Commission/FACE Conference  
**PREPARING EUROPEAN HUNTERS TO ERADICATE AFRICAN SWINE FEVER**

30 January 2019, 10:00-16:00  
Kongresszentrum Moszkatzenhof, 58103 Postfach 10100, 41412 Düsseldorf



**HARMONISED RULES**

efsa  
European Food Safety Authority

For more information consult ASF topic page and story map on EFSA website <https://goo.gl/u3EdD>

**TRAVELLERS MUST SURRENDER THESE PRODUCTS FOR OFFICIAL CONTROLS\***

Products of animal origin may carry pathogens that cause infectious diseases in animals.

There are strict procedures and veterinary controls on the introduction of products of animal origin into the European Union.

**Achtung!** Das Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft der Bundesrepublik Deutschland informiert...

**Warning!** The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture of the Federal Republic of Germany gives notice that...

**Pozor!** Specjalne ministerstwo przesyła wiadomość...

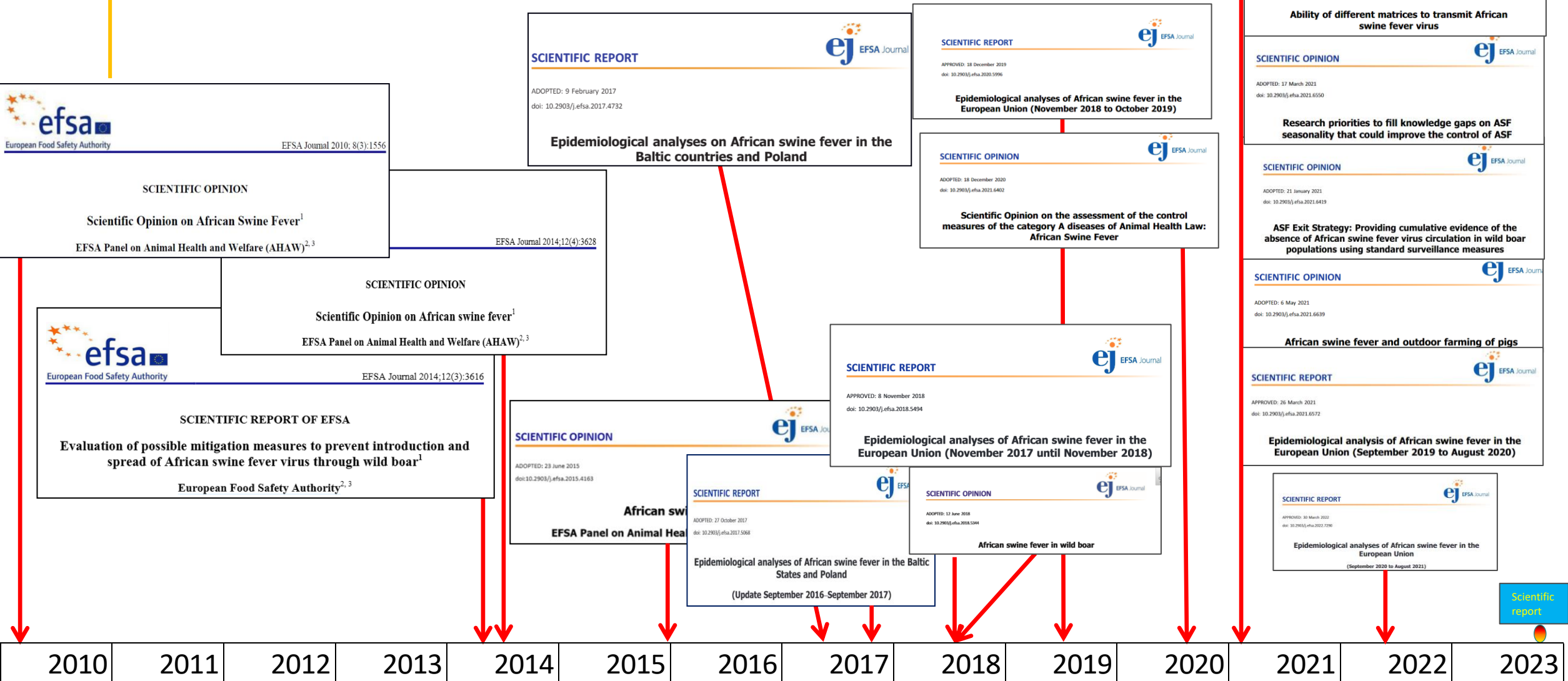
**Atenție!** Ministerul Federal de Agricultură și Silvicultură al Republicii Federaale de Germania...

**Внимание!** Федеральное Министерство сельского хозяйства и продовольствия Германии...

**Main initiatives of the EU on ASF**



# EFSA Scientific Reports and Opinions



<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/african-swine-fever>





# European Union Reference Laboratory for African swine fever (EURL-ASF): main tasks

- Provide national reference laboratories (NRLs) with **details and guidance on the methods of laboratory analysis, testing or diagnosis**, and reference materials;
- Organise **annual inter-laboratory comparative testing** and appropriate follow-up (for EU NRL, and non-EU where epidemiologically relevant)
- Inform NRLs of advances in the **diagnostic methods** field, also conducting training courses including for experts from third countries;
- Provide **scientific and technical assistance** to the Commission
- Assist in the diagnosis of ASF outbreaks in Member States by carrying out **confirmatory diagnosis and characterisation on ASF isolates**
- Establishing and maintaining **reference collections of ASF viruses**



# EU Veterinary Emergency Team (EUVET)

EUVET:  
Most recent ASF  
missions

- The team includes **experts** in the fields of veterinary sciences, virology, wildlife, laboratory testing, risk management and other relevant areas. The experts are **on stand-by**, ready to respond in animal health situations.
- From 2007 to 2023, **61 EUVET** missions were organised by the Commission to provide support to EU Member States and third countries on ASF
- [https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/veterinary-emergency-team\\_en](https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/veterinary-emergency-team_en)
  - **Experts:** [https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-03/ad\\_emergency\\_cvet\\_experts.pdf](https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-03/ad_emergency_cvet_experts.pdf)
  - **Missions:** [https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-02/ad\\_emergency\\_cvet\\_experts\\_missions.pdf](https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-02/ad_emergency_cvet_experts_missions.pdf)

- **North Macedonia:** 1-4 February 2022
- **Greece:** 7-9 February 2023
- **Czechia:** 10-12 May 2023
- **Italy:** 9 -13 July 2023
- **Croatia:** 11-13 July 2023
- **Sweden:** 20-22 September 2023

# Two specific BTSF training on ASF in 2023

**May 2023, Vilnius (Lithuania) –**

Participants: 24 EU and 7 Non-EU neighboring countries:

Focus on the implementation EU legislation

**October 2023, Ciudad Real (Spain):**

Focus on wild boar management



combination of:

the standard **workshops** and  
**simulation exercises** in the field

# ADEWB II – capacity building project in the Western Balkans

- Project stakeholders

Veterinary competent authorities  
Farmers, traders and other stakeholders  
involved in animal production and trade


Start date: 19.07.2023

Duration: 36 months

## **ADEWB II Workshop**

on preparation of national surveillance plans on  
ASF/CSF (4-5 September 2023, Podgorica,  
Montenegro).

## **ADEWB II Project activities – Complete overview**

- Legislation (EU AHL and OCR):
  - Organization of the competent authorities (general action plan for establishment of quality check system in the area of official controls)
  - ID/Traceability (animal IR and movement)
  - Disease surveillance
  - Animal health emergency preparedness (national CP, SOPs and simulation exercises)
  - ABP system (pre-evaluate designated areas where carcasses could be buried during a large outbreak)
  - Information management systems (transparent sharing of data)
  - Laboratories (lab simulation exercises)
  - Cross border cooperation (WB CVO Forum)
  - Disease statuses (WOAH)
- 



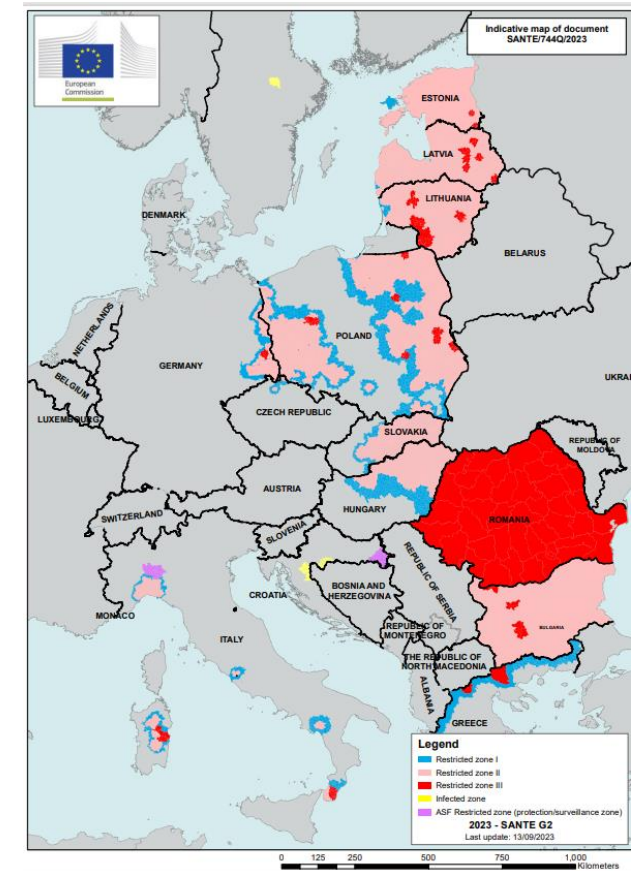


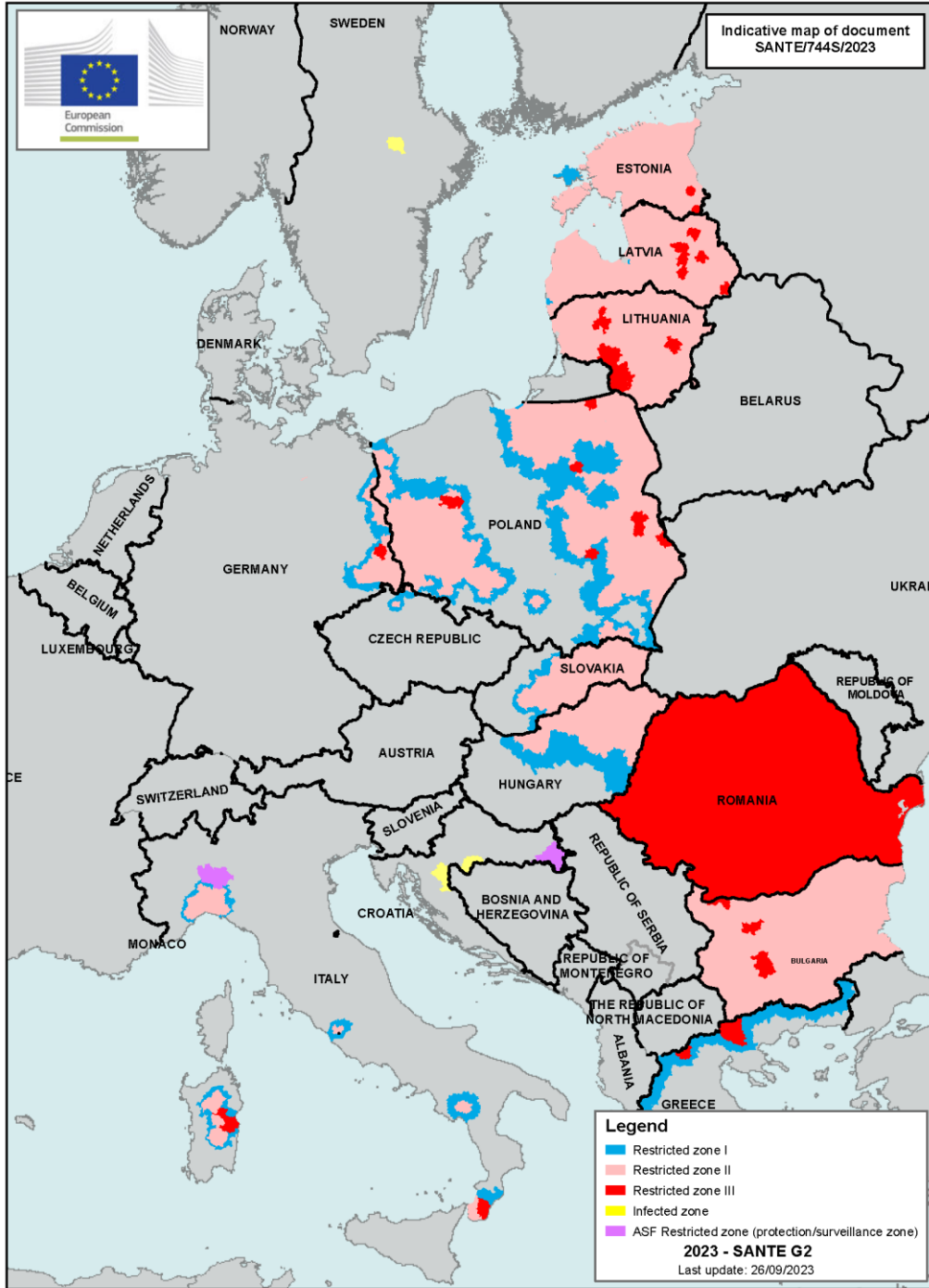
# Main principles of ASF Regulation (special ASF control measures)

- **Prohibitions** in relation to the dispatch of certain commodities out of restricted zones (*the cornerstone of ASF regionalisation is on the origin of the pigs and the measures in the holdings*)
- **Safe derogations** from prohibitions under **specific conditions** and **risk mitigation measures**
- Special **designation** of establishments and **requirements**
- **Information and training obligations** and public **awareness**
- List of restricted zones categorised by the epidemiological situation (**regionalisation**) (Annex I) + list of areas subject to Commission emergency measures (Annex II)
- Reinforced **biosecurity measures** (Annex III)
- **Minimum requirements for national actions plans for wild porcine animals** in order to avoid the spread of ASF in the Union (Annex IV)

Last update: CIR (EU) 2023/1799  
of 19 September 2023

## EU regionalisation





# EU regionalisation measures for ASF

In line with  
WOAH

## Regulation (EU) 2023/594:

- **Restricted zone I** ('an additional further restricted zone') – zone, bordering zone II or III, where relevant (no ASF)
- **Restricted zone II** ('an infected zone') – ASF in wild boar
- **Restricted zone III** ('a further restricted zone', in addition to PZ/SZ) – ASF in domestic pigs (with or without ASF in wild boar)

- the **Strategic approach** to the management of African Swine Fever for the EU

[https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2020-04/ad\\_control-measures\\_asf\\_wrk-doc-sante-2015-7113.pdf](https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2020-04/ad_control-measures_asf_wrk-doc-sante-2015-7113.pdf)

- the **principles and criteria** for geographically and temporally defining ASF regionalisation:

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/ad\\_control-measures\\_asf\\_wrk-doc-sante-2015-7112.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/ad_control-measures_asf_wrk-doc-sante-2015-7112.pdf)

Currently being revised

- **Online interactive map:**

<https://santegis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=45cdd657542a437c84bfc9cf1846ae8c>



# Review of EU guidelines related to ASF

Work in progress



*[draft]* Guidelines on the prevention, control and eradication of African swine fever in the Union ('ASF guidelines')

## *Draft chapters*

- I. GENERAL (EU LEGISLATION).
- II. KEPT PORCINE.
- III. WILD PORCINE.
- IV. PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA FOR REGIONALISATION.

## ANNEXES

1. Key messages for awareness raising.
2. Biosecurity requirements for hunters and for searching/handling carcasses of wild porcine.
3. Sampling and removal of carcasses of wild porcine.
4. Summary recommendations for the management of wild porcine.

# Awareness raising on ASF

- **Recent events (EU initiative) dedicated to ASF:**
  - A high-level **international conference** ‘*The future of global pork production under the threat of African swine fever*’ (85<sup>th</sup> International **Green Week**, Berlin, 17 January 2020)
  - **Thematic session on ASF at WTO SPS Committee** (remote, 23 March 2021)
  - **EU Ministerial conference on ASF**, 27 September 2022 (Brussels)
- **Continuous bilateral meetings and communication** with third countries and international organizations (such as WOA, FAO)



# Chief veterinary Officers meeting on African swine fever in the Western Balkan Countries

- **31 August 2023** (remote)
- CVOs and other representatives from EU MSs, Western Balkan countries, EU Commission, GFTADs secretariat etc. (**~ 70 participants connected**)
- Agenda, presentations and conclusions are available on the **website of the EU Commission** at:
- *[https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/diseases-and-control-measures/african-swine-fever/cvos-meeting-asf-western-balkan-countries-31-august-2023\\_en](https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/diseases-and-control-measures/african-swine-fever/cvos-meeting-asf-western-balkan-countries-31-august-2023_en)*



# Key messages

# Key messages

- **Preparedness** is crucial – no country (= no farmer!) worldwide is safe from ASF
- **Biosecurity** should be an "everyday" practice (both at hunting or pig keeping)
- Continuous **passive surveillance** is the most important tool for early detection = urgent response!
- Tailor made **long-term strategy on wild boar** populations
- **Awareness** and a **regular dialogue** between all involved
- Sharing of **best practices and knowledge**
- Technical measures should be based on **science** and **experience**
- **Cooperation** (including cross-border and regional): it helps building trust, increases transparency and helps to ensure a global response on ASF)

# More information material:



- [https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-health/animal-health-law\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-health/animal-health-law_en)
- [https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/diseases-and-control-measures/african-swine-fever\\_en](https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/diseases-and-control-measures/african-swine-fever_en)
- <https://rr-europe.woah.org/en/Projects/gf-tads-europe/standing-groups-of-experts-on-african-swine-fever-in-europe/>

# Thank you for your attention

## Questions?



[https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-health/animal-health-law\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-health/animal-health-law_en)

[https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/diseases-and-control-measures/african-swine-fever\\_en](https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/diseases-and-control-measures/african-swine-fever_en)

<https://rr-europe.woah.org/en/Projects/gf-tads-europe/standing-groups-of-experts-on-african-swine-fever-in-europe/>

