



Overview of ASF in the EU and European Commission Activities

24th Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever

3-4 April 2025

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Directorate G

Crisis preparedness in food, animals and plants

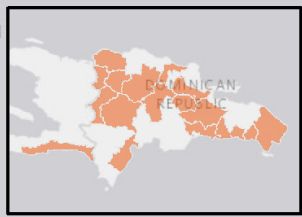
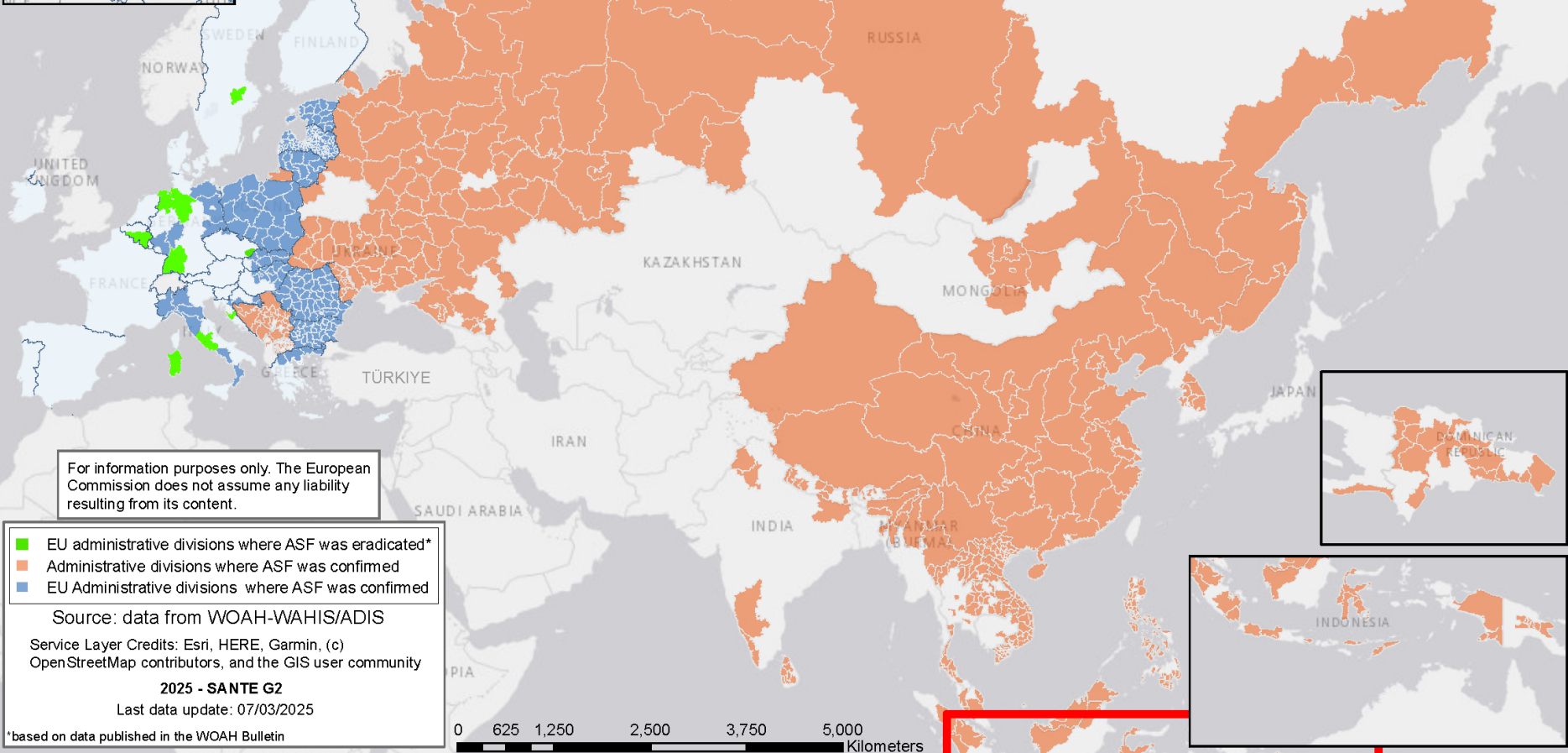
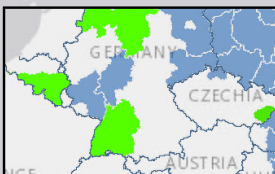
DG SANTE, European Commission

ASF epidemiological situation in the EU



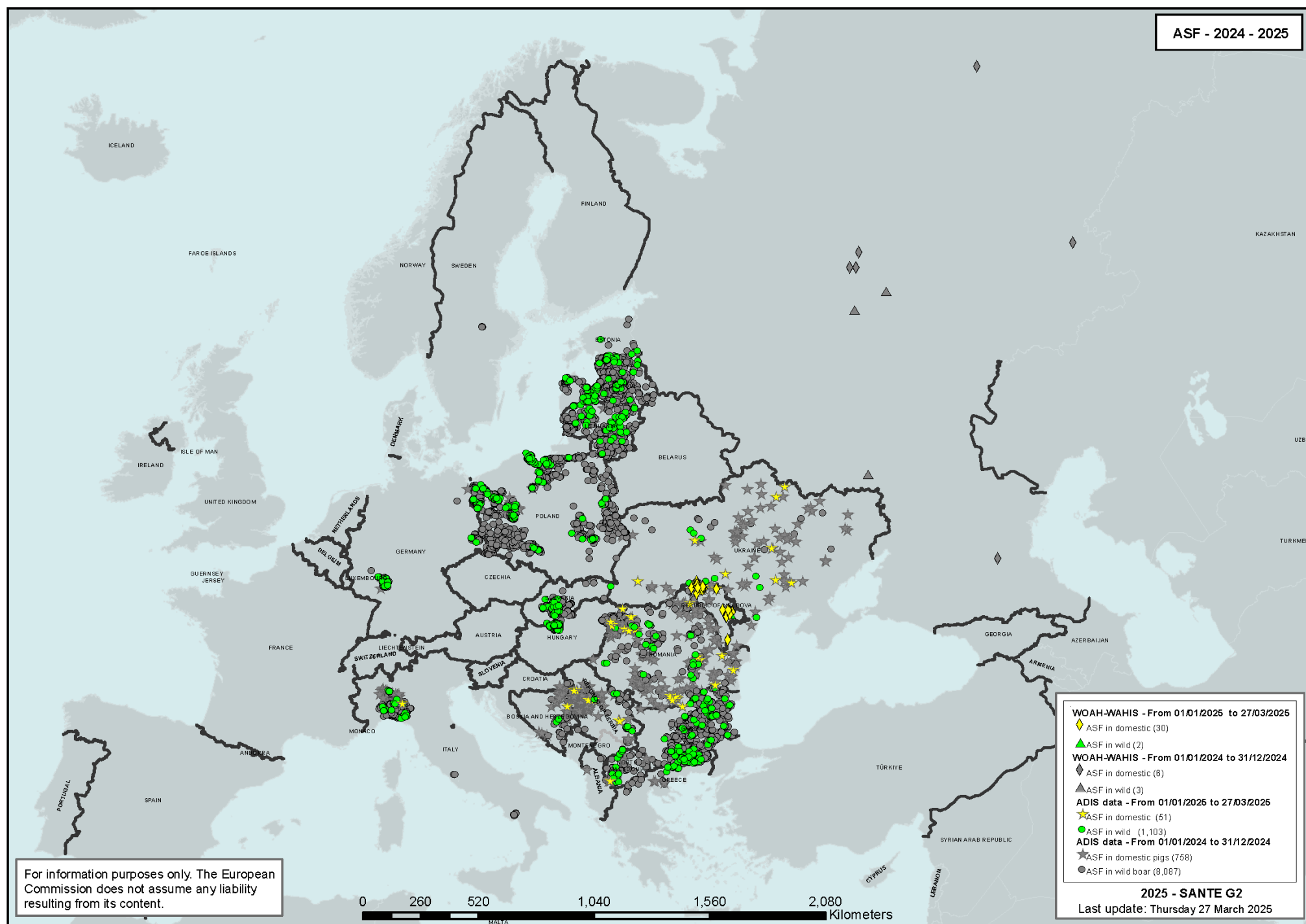
African swine fever by administrative divisions affected in 2013-2025 in Europe, Asia, Oceania and Americas

March 2025



ASF in Asia, the Pacific and the Americas

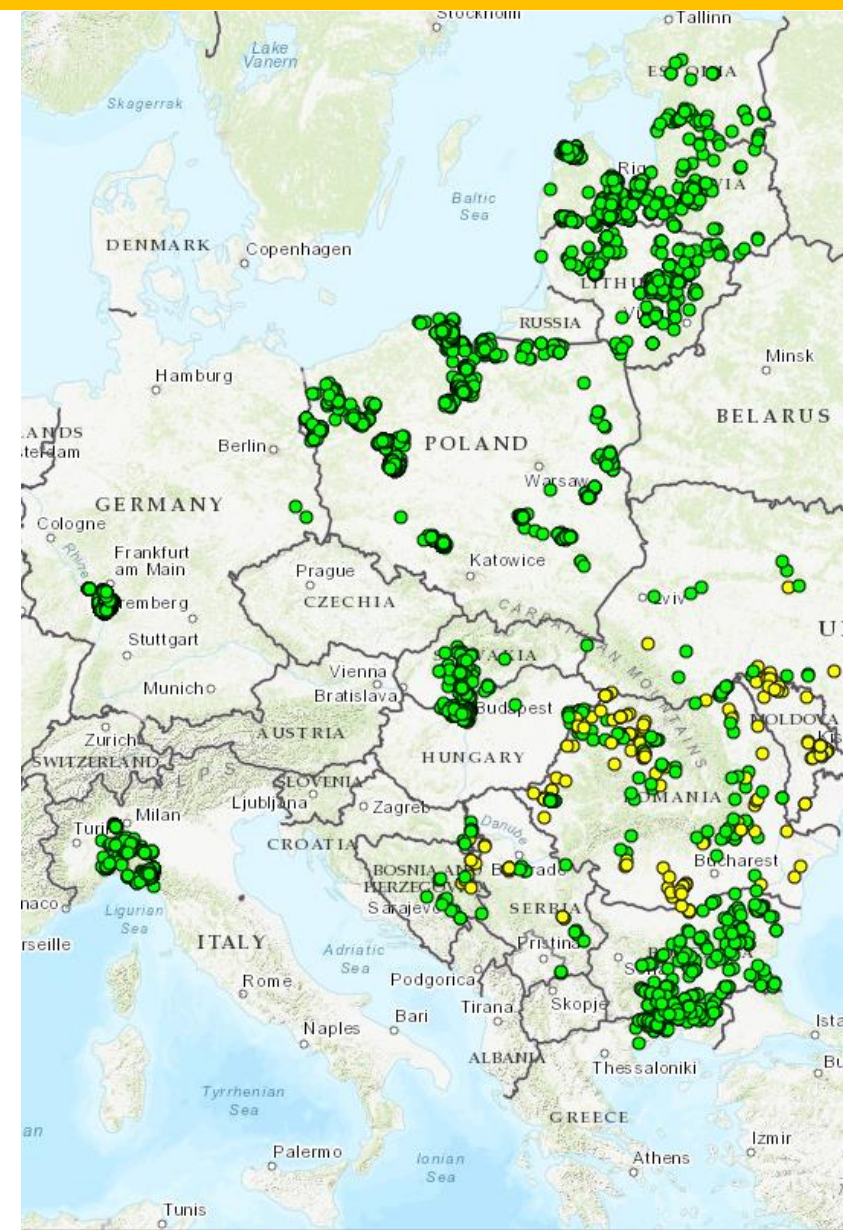
1. China (Aug 2018)
2. Mongolia (Jan 2019)
3. Vietnam (Feb 2019)
4. Cambodia (March 2019)
5. Hong Kong (May 2019)
6. Democratic People's Republic of Korea (May 2019)
7. Lao People's Democratic Republic (Jun 2019)
8. Myanmar (Aug 2019)
9. The Philippines (Jul 2019)
10. Republic of Korea (Sep 2019)
11. 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).
22. Bangladesh (November 2023)



ASF in the EU in 2014 - 2025

ASF in the EU and WB in 2025 (27/03/2025)

No	MS	1 st ASF detection	Wild boar	Pigs	Remarks on the ASF situation in 2024 - 2025
1.	LT	1/2014	+	+	mainly in wild boar; 8 outbreaks in pigs in 2024
2.	PL	1/2014	+	+	mainly in wild boar; 44 outbreaks in pigs in 2024
3.	LV	6/2014	+	+	mainly in wild boar; 7 outbreaks in pigs in 2024
4.	EE	7/2015	+	+	mainly in wild boar;
5.	CZ	6/2017	+		ASF eradicated in 2019 ; new cases in wild boar at the border with PL since 12/2022.
6.	RO	7/2017	+	+	in wild boar; 215 outbreaks in pigs in 2024 / 102 in 2025
7.	HU	4/2018	+		in wild boar only
8.	BG	6/2018	+	+	mainly in wild boar; 1 outbreak in pigs in 2024
	BE	9/2018	+		free from ASF since 11/2020
9.	SK	7/2019	+	+	mainly in wild boar; 1 outbreak in pigs
10.	EL	2/2020	+	+	mainly in wild boar; 5 outbreaks in pigs in 2024
11.	DE	9/2020	+	+	mainly in wild boar; 10 outbreaks in pigs in 2024
12.	IT	1/2022	+	+	mainly in wild boar; 31 outbreaks in pigs in 2024 / 1 in 2025
13.	HR	6/2023	+	+	mainly in wild boar; 6 outbreaks in pigs in 2024 and 1 in 2025
14.	SE	9/2023	+		in wild boar. Eradicated in September 2024



ASF outbreaks in wild boar

ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs

Highlights - EU 2025

- Prevalence of outbreaks in wild boar in the majority of affected Member States
- Italy, Poland and Germany clustered active virus circulation
- Improvements in certain areas

Biosecurity:



Piggy Bank



African Swine Fever

How do wild boars become infected?

How do pigs become infected?

```

graph TD
    Carcass[Carcass  
Carcass or possibly blood  
from an infected wild boar] --> Pig
    Materials[Materials  
Contaminated materials,  
of hardware for example] --> Pig
    Feed[Feed  
Kitchen waste, food residues  
and meat products from  
infected pigs and wild boars] --> Pig
    Boar[Boar  
Direct contact with  
infected wild boar] --> Pig
    SoftTick[Soft tick  
Ticks are a source  
of infection in Africa, but  
there are no indications  
of this in Europe.] --> Pig
    Pig[Pig  
Direct contact with  
infected pig] --> Pig
  
```

Carcass
Carcass or possibly blood
from an infected wild boar

Materials
Contaminated materials,
of hardware for example

Feed
Kitchen waste, food residues
and meat products from
infected pigs and wild boars

Boar
Direct contact with
infected wild boar

Soft tick
Ticks are a source
of infection in Africa, but
there are no indications
of this in Europe.

Pig
Direct contact with
infected pig

Soft tick
Ticks are a source
of infection in Africa, but
there are no indications
of this in Europe.


Feed
Kitchen waste, food residues
and meat products from
infected pigs and wild boars

Boar
Direct contact with
infected wild boar

Materials
Contaminated materials and
infected transport trucks

Carcass
Carcass or possibly blood
from an infected wild boar

Pig
Direct contact with
infected pig


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Biosecurity and Animal Health Law

The Animal Health Law

- The Animal Health Law (AHL) is a single, robust EU legal framework for animal health that entered into force in April 2021. Its objective is to simplify previous regulations while adopting a more **risk-based**, **proactive**, and **preventive** approach. The AHL categorises and prioritises diseases for EU intervention and clearly defines the responsibilities of keepers, operators, veterinarians, and competent authorities.
- The concept of **prevention** in the Animal Health Law (AHL) focuses on proactive measures to reduce disease risks. This includes:
 - strengthened **biosecurity** at farms, in transport, assembly, at borders
 - enhanced surveillance, reporting, and disease notification, and
 - **improved knowledge and preparedness** through contingency plans.
- The AHL also promotes a **clearer vaccination policy** and provides **more tools to control emerging diseases**, ensuring a shift from traditional good practices to a more structured, risk-based approach.



Interlink:
biosecurity and
surveillance

What may impact biosecurity levels?

- Animal species and categories
- Climatic conditions
- Types of establishments and production systems
- Established practices and existing structures
- Big "industrial" establishments vs. "backyards" and "hobby" keepers
- Challenges related to professional farmers vs. part time and hobby farmers
- Production density
- Peace time vs. disease control measures
- Trading patterns and needs (e.g. international trade, higher trading standards)

Biosecurity: how to help ensuring and preserving high EU animal health status?

- Biosecurity:
 - At farm
 - In production (e.g. germinal products, products of animal origin)
 - During movement and transport of animals
 - At external borders & human mediated
- Biosecurity will work together with other disease prevention and control measures
- Underlying principle: awareness and responsible behaviour by all!



How much biosecurity is realistic?

- Some biosecurity measures are accessible, easy to apply and not too costly
 - Cleaning, washing, preventing persons to enter premises, buying from trustful sources...
- Biosecurity can be expensive and/or complex:
 - (Infra)structural changes (e.g. investments), physical barriers
 - training needed to get higher competences for high biosecurity is expensive
 - Biosecurity plans (welcome but burdensome!)



EU: Biosecurity definition

(Animal Health Regulation)

- (23) 'biosecurity' means the sum of management and physical measures designed to reduce the risk of the introduction, development and spread of diseases to, from and within:
 - (a) an animal population, or
 - (b) an establishment, zone, compartment, means of transport or any other facilities, premises or location;



Biosecurity requirements in the Animal Health Law (AHL)

- Biosecurity recognised as an essential element of disease prevention and control (at all times):
 - **Biosecurity** at farms, in laboratories, in transport, assembly, at borders, etc.
 - **Responsibilities:**
 - Operators = farmers, laboratories, others i.e. transporters, assembly
 - Farmers associations and other providing support
 - Veterinarians & aquatic animal health professionals (play an active role!)
 - Competent Authority
- Detailed biosecurity rules: **in delegated and implementing acts**

Biosecurity at farm level

- Operators responsible for the health of animals and products
- Take appropriate biosecurity measures, depending on the:
 - Species or categories of animals
 - Type of production and
 - Risks involved
- Biosecurity:
 - Management measures
 - Measures of physical protection (infrastructure)
- Biosecurity measures:
 - Formalised (legal requirements, guides)
 - Non-formalised (best practices, training)



Biosecurity in the Delegated and Implementing act Reg. 2020/687 and the Reg. 2023/594 (ASF Regulation)

In general, the competent authority of the Member State concerned may authorise movements of kept porcine animals within and outside restricted zones in cases defined by ASF Regulation from 'compliant establishments'

14(1)(a). General conditions as per Article 43 (2) to (7) of Regulation (EU) 2020/687

prioritising major highways or mainline railways;
avoiding the vicinity of establishments keeping animals of listed species

without unloading or stopping, until the unloading in the establishment of destination (*derogation possible*)

Designated establishment of destination

Verification on the designation and acceptance of consignment

A clinical & if necessary, laboratory examination

Outcome of visits by official veterinarians

Separation from not eligible animals/products

Supplementary biosecurity measures



Additional general conditions as per Art. 14, 15, 16 of ASF Regulation

14(2). **assessment of risk**

15(1)(a). **residency period** for kept porcine animals (*does not apply for immediate slaughter*)

15(1)(b). a **clinical examination** within 24h period prior to the movement by an official veterinarian

15(1)(c). if necessary (competent authority decides), **PCR tests of porcine animals** (establishment, consignment)

16(1)(a). **regular visits by official veterinarians** (at least 2 X year in RZ I/II; 1 X every three months in RZ III)

16(1)(b). biosecurity requirements (Annex III (EU) + national)

16(1)(c). continuous **passive surveillance**: PCR testing of dead animals = early detection of ASF!

17. **means of transport** (construction, maintenance, cleaning and disinfection under the control or supervision of the competent authority)



Biosecurity and Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

Commission common agricultural policy (CAP)



The Commission CAP is the EU framework in support of farmers to ensuring food security, and to promote rural development.

Member States can tailor this support instrument to specific needs through **National Strategic Plans**, which are **programming tools** including several targeted **interventions** drafted by Member States and approved by the Commission.

National Strategic Plans support broader agricultural and rural development policies that can encompass disease prevention strategies.

The Commission asked several Member States to establish **interventions** to address biosecurity in pig establishments in their CAP **National Strategic Plans** through **investment measures increasing infrastructure level**, but also with targeted trainings and advisory services.





ADEWB II project

Biosecurity on pig farms for ASF control – ADEWB II Project SANTE/2022/EA-OP/0001

➤ Biosecurity requirements for ASF control:

- Legal background
- Description of biosecurity requirements for commercial farms + check lists
- Description of biosecurity requirements for backyards + check lists
- Guidelines on biosecurity inspection on pig farms
- Recommendations for enforcement

➤ Communication material - Communication guideline

➤ Workshop: Webinar to present and discuss the recommendations (17 May 2024)

➤ Continuous support: Further engage, ensuring practical enforcement of biosecurity standards, including:

- **Assess the current situation**, identifying country-specific biosecurity gaps and challenges.
- Conduct **field visits** to evaluate existing biosecurity measures and explore next steps for improvement.
- **Share expertise and provide tailored recommendations** to improve compliance with biosecurity requirements.
- Engage in **technical discussions with national authorities** to support the implementation of effective biosecurity measures.

EFSA STOP ASF campaign



België (Nederlands)

български

Bosanski

Crnogorski

čeština

Deutsch

eesti

ελληνικά

español

français

hrvatski

italiano

latviešu

lietuvių

magyar

polski

Северна Македонија

română

slovenčina

slovenščina

Srpski

Shqip

English

- Between 2020 – 2023 EFSA launched a communication campaign to **rise awareness about prevention** of ASF among veterinarians, hunters, and farmers.
- The campaign targeted 18 countries in Central and Eastern Europe: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Czechia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia, Estonia, Hungary, and Romania.
- On EFSA website there is a **toolkit** comprises infographics, posters and ready-to-use social media posts organised by audience (farmers, hunters and veterinarians).
- This communication material can be **freely** used to help inform on signs of ASF, safety measures to adopt and who to contact in suspected cases.

Conclusion

- EU constantly exposed to animal health threats, including ASF
- **Biosecurity is amongst key tools** to prevent and control animal diseases
 - To be applied at all levels; **Awareness** and cooperation of all actors along the chain is needed
- **Animal Health Law: wide legal** framework with several biosecurity elements complementing each other
 - To be used together with other disease preventive and control measures!!!
- **Regulation (EU) 2023/594:** targeted legal framework to ensure that derogations are allowed only in establishments with high biosecurity level in restricted zones
- **CAP NSP**—Dedicate investment to increase biosecurity in pig establishments in EU Member States restricted zones and free areas



Thank you



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