



European experiences in managing ASF in wild boar

Virtual Meeting of the Standing Group of Experts
on African Swine Fever for Asia
21 April 2020
Brussels

Žilvinas Ilevičius

**G3 - Eradication of animal diseases and official controls
DG SANTE - European Commission**

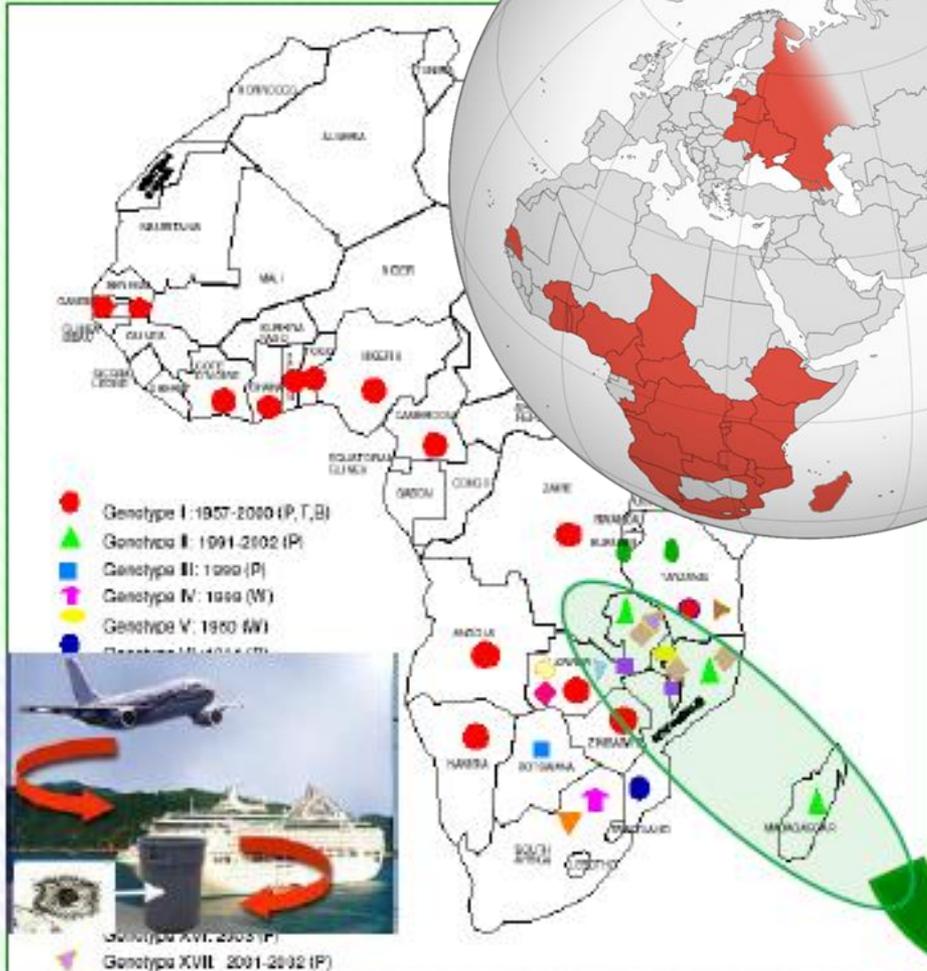
Outline

- **Overview of ASF situation in the EU**
- **EU experience – major challenges for ASF control in wild boar**
- **EU initiatives - some examples**
- **Key messages**



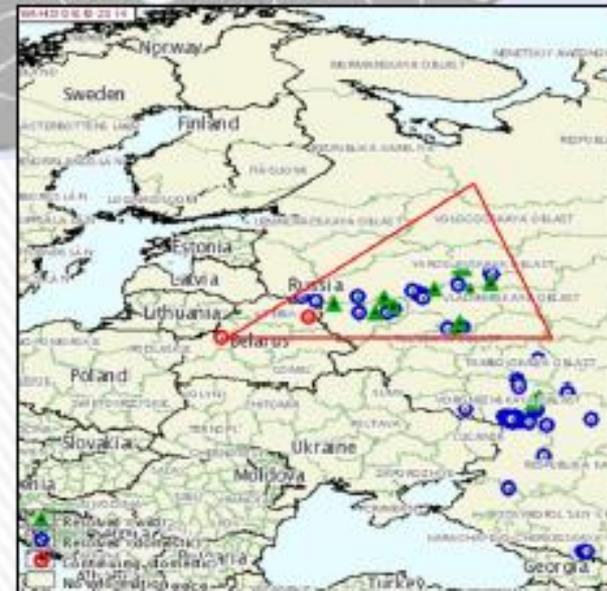
Tracing the origin

Georgia June 2007



2007-2013

WAHID OIE © 2007-2009

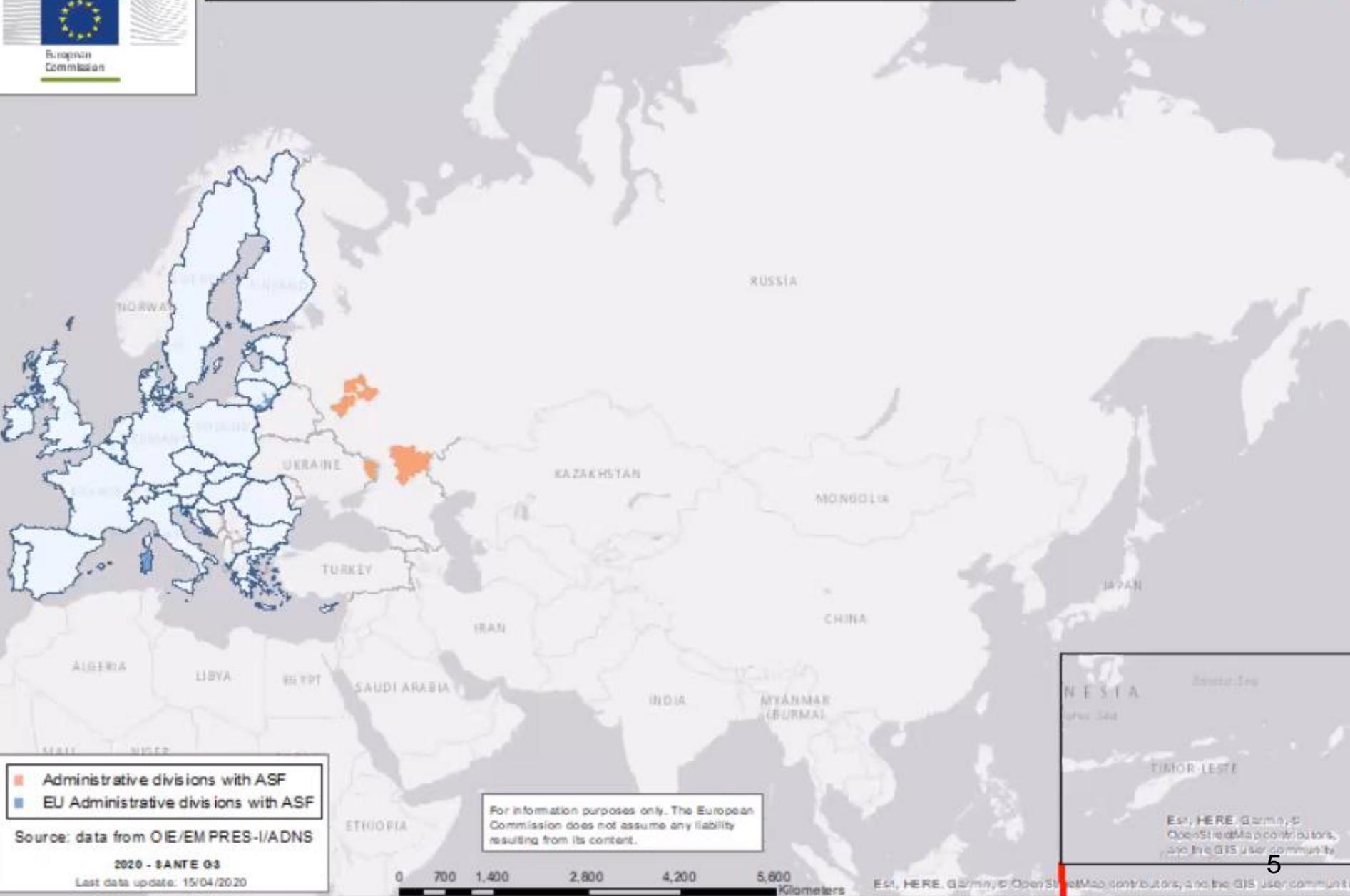


- **6 affected countries in Eastern Europe** (Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus)
- **Ongoing spread of ASFV towards west** affecting eastern European countries, such as Ukraine (2012) and Belarus (2013)



African swine fever by administrative divisions affected in the period 2014-2020 in Europe and Asia

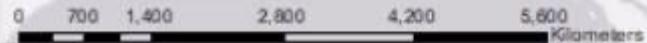
January 2014



- Administrative divisions with ASF
- EU Administrative divisions with ASF

Source: data from OIE/EM PRES-I/ADNS
 2020 - SANTE 03
 Last data update: 15/04/2020

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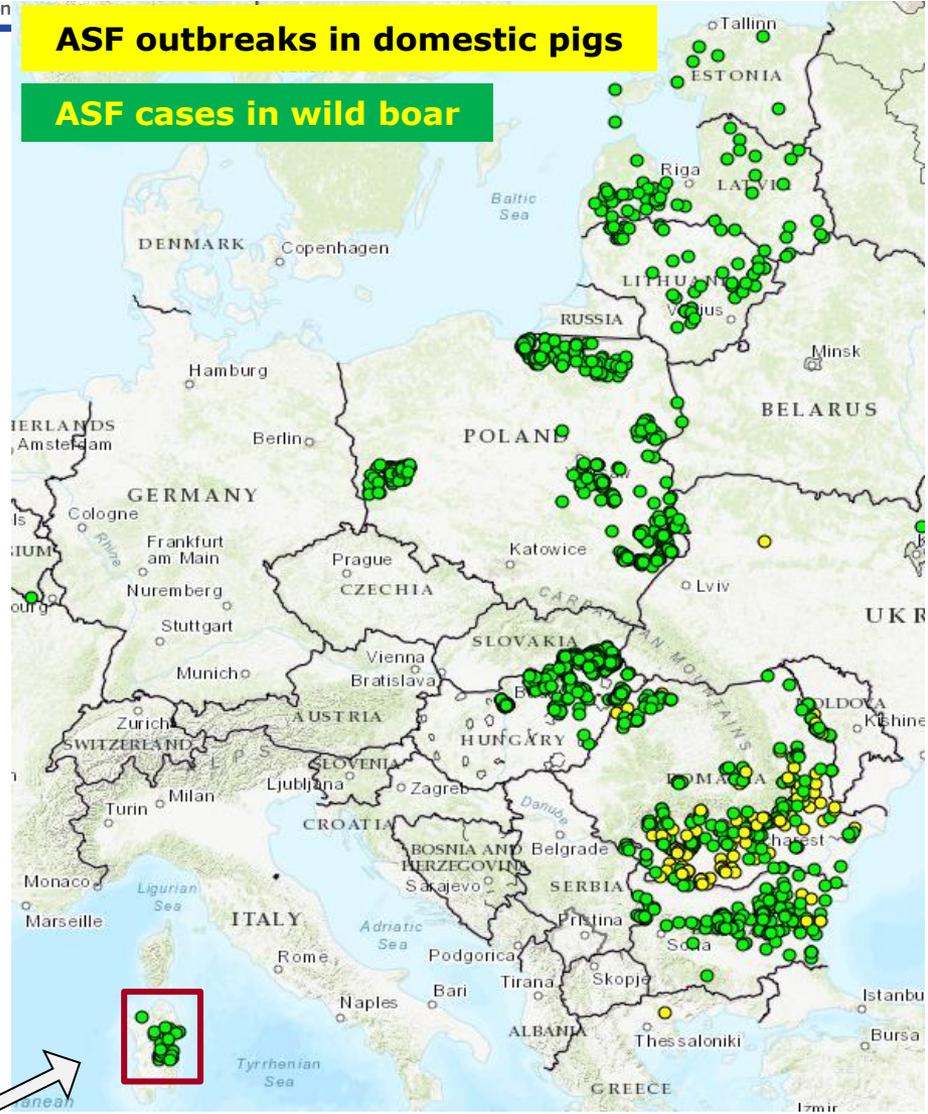
Est. HERE, Garmin, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community

ASF in the EU in 2014-2020

European Commission

ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs

ASF cases in wild boar



- 1. Lithuania (1/2014)
- 2. Poland (1/2014)
- 3. Latvia (6/2014)
- 4. Estonia (7/2015) – last ASF outbreak in pigs 9/2017
- 5. Romania (7/2017)
- 6. Hungary (4/2018) – only in wild boar
- 7. Bulgaria (6/2018)
- 8. Belgium (9/2018) – only in wild boar, no new cases since 08/2019
- 9. Slovakia (7/2019)
- 10. Greece (2/2020) – one outbreak in pigs

Czechia – 6/2017, free from ASF since 02/2019

Sardinia, IT - from 1978, genotype I

Map. ASF in the EU in 2020. European Commission

ASF cases in wild boar in the EU 2014-2020* (ADNS data)

YEAR	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
POLAND	30	53	80	741	2443	2477	1927	7751
LITHUANIA	45	111	303	1328	1446	464	75	3772
HUNGARY	-	-	-	-	138	1605	1536	3279
LATVIA	148	752	865	947	685	369	91	3857
ROMANIA	-	-	-	-	182	693	405	1280
ESTONIA	41	723	1052	637	231	80	19	2783
BELGIUM	-	-	-	-	163	482	3	648
BULGARIA	-	-	-	-	5	165	207	377
SLOVAKIA	-	-	-	-	-	27	56	83
GREECE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	264	1639	2300	3653	5293	6362	4319	23830
SARDINIA (IT)**	70	76	166	110	67	63	32	272

Major challenges for **ASF** control in wild boar

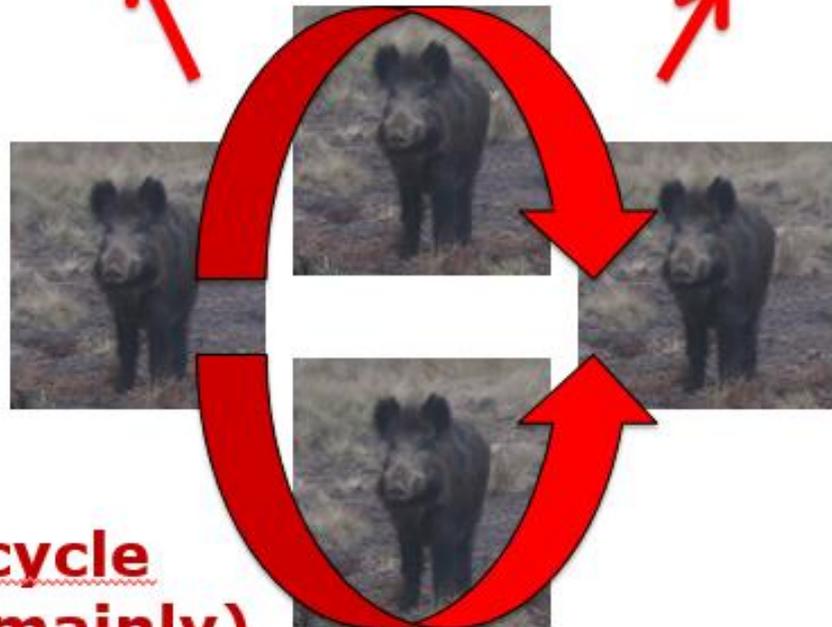
ASFV: the extreme **environmental resistance**

Challenge: a virus survival during winter in wild boar infected carcasses.

ASFV: high lethality but **low contagiousity**

Challenge: High probability of a new cycle in the area.

Virus survival
in infected
carcasses
(winter)



Spring-summer cycle
(direct contacts mainly)

**Virus survival
in carcasses
(winter)**



Despite very few wild boar still alive, the virus survives in carcasses and thus available for the next breeding season. When new born or neighbouring animals will be infected and a new cycle will initiate.

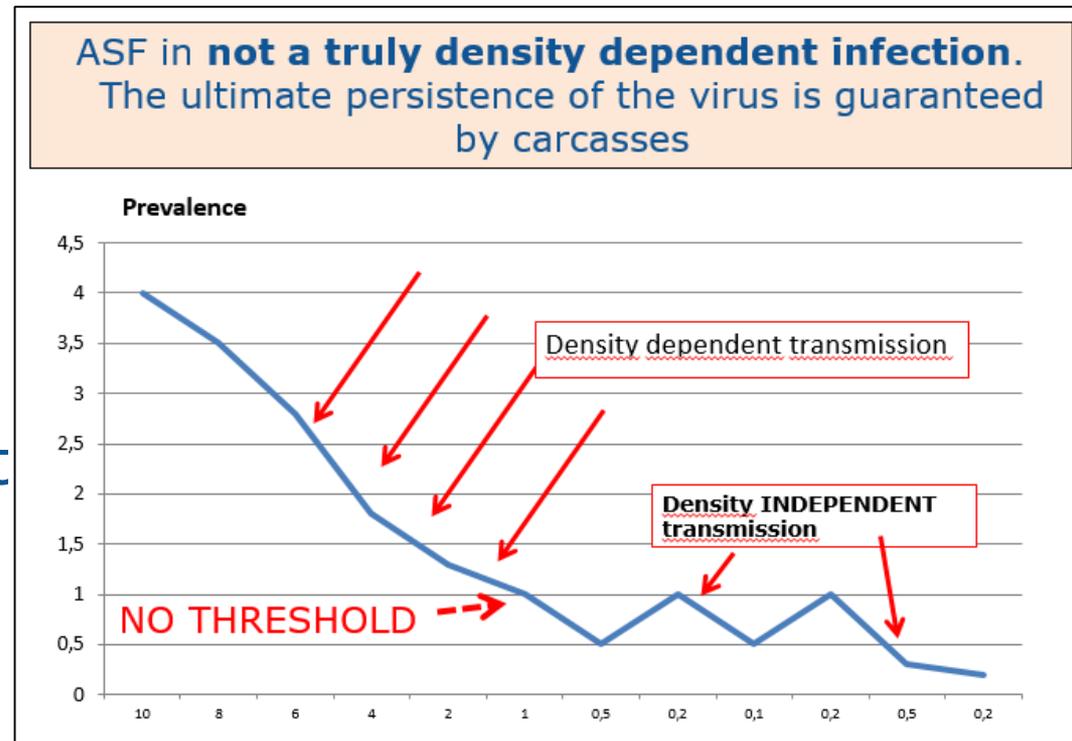


**Spring-summer cycle
direct contact mainly**

Major challenges for **ASF** control in wild boar

ASFV: local **persistence even at low densities** of wild boar

Challenge: no threshold of wild boar density that would not allow sustaining ASF in the environment.



V. Guberti, BTSF training courses on ASF (2019)

Natural spread of **ASF** in wild boar populations

- The speed of natural propagation of ASF in wild boar populations –
between **2.9** and **11.7** km/year*.

SCIENTIFIC REPORT



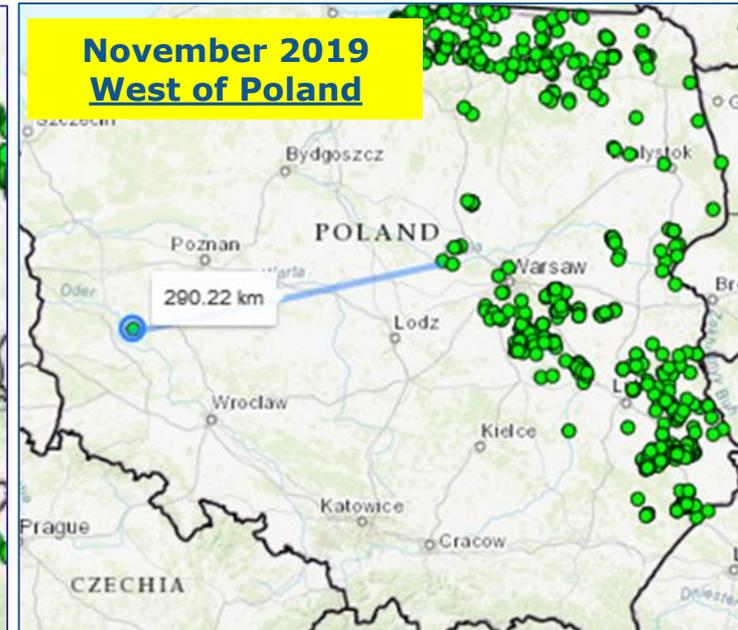
Epidemiological analyses of African swine fever in the European Union (November 2018 to October 2019)

*The median velocity of infection in Belgium, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland (EFSA, 2020).

Major challenges for **ASF** control in wild boar

Human mediated spread

Challenge: 'long jumps' of ASF.



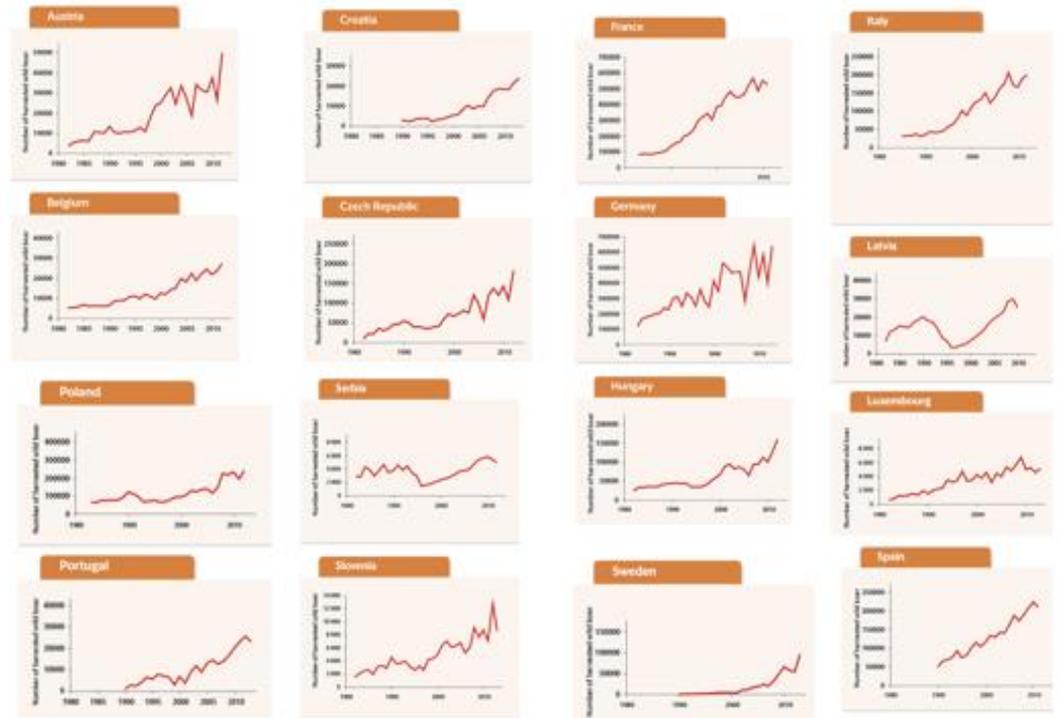
Major challenges for **ASF** control in wild boar

Increase in the **density of wild boar populations** in last decades

Challenge:
Probability of ASF occurrence and spread increases.



* Presentation of Copa-Cogeca. 17 January 2020, IGW, Berlin.



The wild boar population in several regions of Europe developed increased substantially in recent decades and this plays an important role in the spreading and maintaining ASF.



European Commission

Main EU initiatives on ASF

1. Preparedness
2. Scientific advice
3. Research
4. Legislation
5. Guidance to MSs
 - Best practices
6. Regionalization
7. Border controls
8. Audits
9. Financial support
10. Public awareness
11. Urgent intervention
 - EUVET
12. International cooperation
 - GFTADS

EASY STEPS FOR PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER



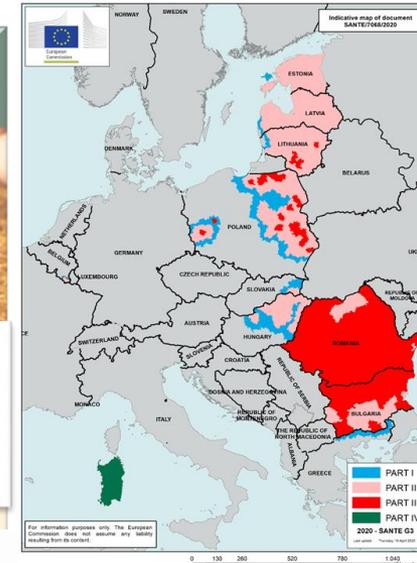
-  **X DO NOT** leave food in areas accessible to wild boar
-  **✓ ENSURE** leftover food is put in sealed bins
-  **X DO NOT** bring meat or meat products into the EU for personal use
-  **✓ PAY ATTENTION** to information on what can and what cannot be introduced when travelling
-  **X DO NOT** touch a dead or sick wild boar
-  **✓ NOTIFY** competent authorities with concerns



GF-TADS
GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE TRANSBOUNDARY CONTROL OF TRANSMISSIBLE ANIMAL DISEASES



European Commission | @Food_EU #Africa | <https://ec.europa.eu/food/animal>



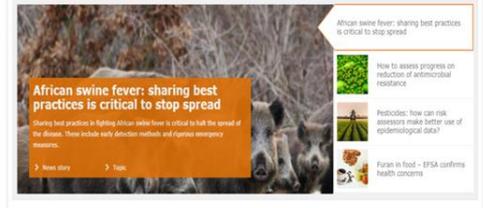

European Food Safety Authority

For more information consult ASF topic page and story map on EFSA website <https://goo.gl/oU3EdD>



European Food Safety Authority

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African swine fever: sharing best practices is critical to stop spread

Sharing best practices in fighting African swine fever is critical to halt the spread of the disease. These include early detection methods and rigorous emergency measures.

African swine fever: sharing best practices is critical to stop spread

How to assess progress on reduction of antimicrobial resistance

Pesticides: how can risk assessors make better use of epidemiological data?

Agon in food – EFSA confirms health concerns

KEEP ANIMAL DISEASES OUT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION!

For more information on ASF, visit the European Commission website

EUROPEANS MUST TAKE THESE MEASURES FOR ASF CONTROLS*

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

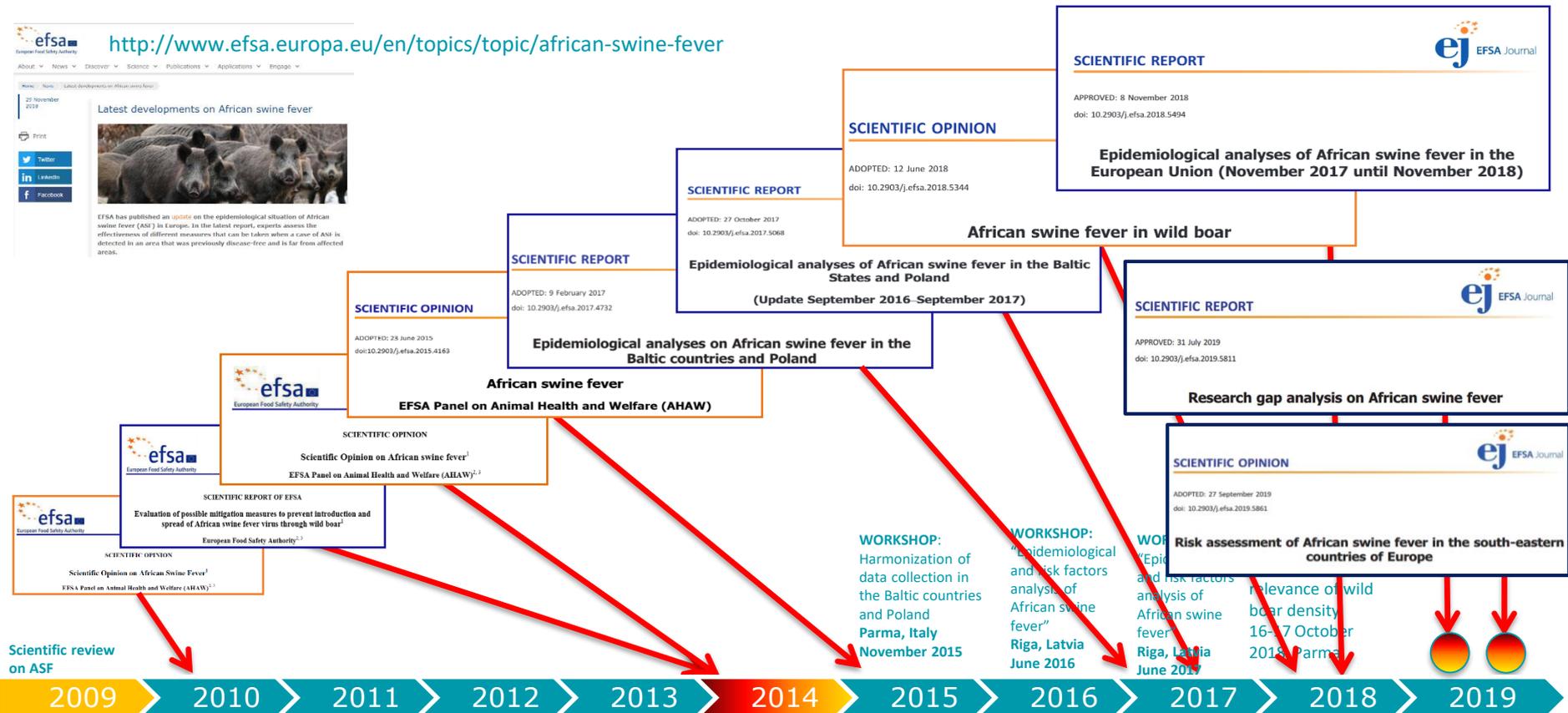
Strict procedures and veterinary controls are in place for the introduction of products of animal origin into the EU.

*For more information on ASF, visit the European Commission website

OVERVIEW OF EFSA'S ASSESSMENTS ON ASF



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





Specific EU legislation on **ASF** – **CID** **2014/709**

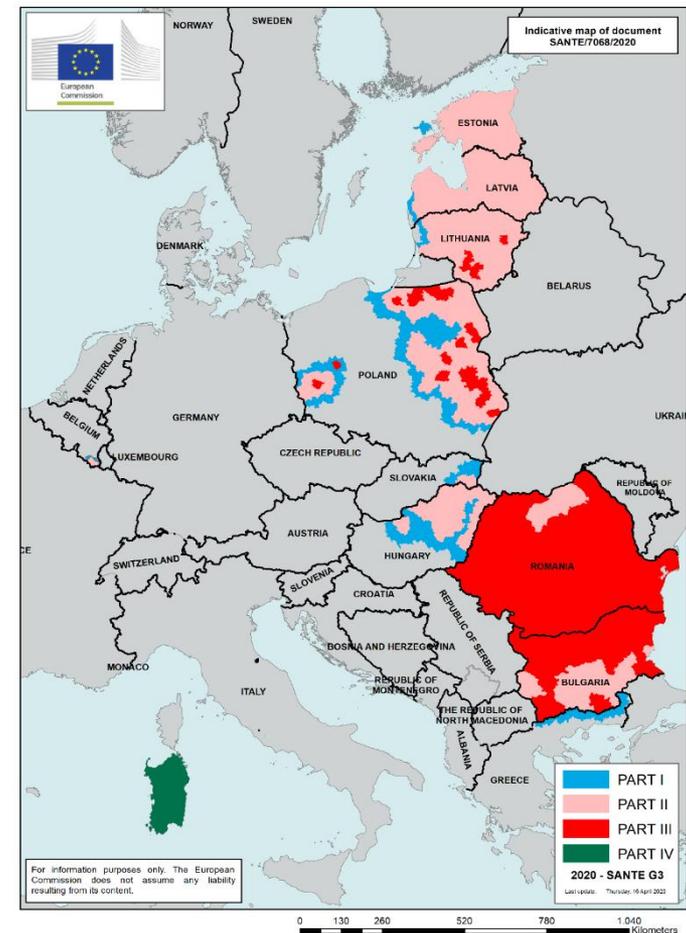
EU regionalisation based on risk assessment:

- **Part I:** ASF not present. High risk, buffer zone.
- **Part II:** ASF only in wild boar.
- **Part III:** ASF in domestic pigs and wild boar.
- **Part IV:** specific endemic situation in Sardinia

+ Principles and criteria for ASF regionalization:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/ad_control-measures_asf_wrk-doc-sante-2015-7112.pdf

- In line with OIE standard
- Recognized internationally (WTO)
- Online interactive map



Specific information obligations on **ASF** in the EU: CID 2014/709

- public awareness campaigns
- on **major** land infrastructure **route**
- **visible and prominent** manner
- should be **easily understood** by travellers coming from, and going to, the areas at risk
- to specifically **identified target** audiences (e.g. truck drivers)



Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft

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

Seit 2014 breitet sich die hochansteckende Afrikanische Schweinepest in Europa aus und bedroht Millionen Haus- und Wildschweine. Lebensmittel können diese, für den Menschen ungefährliche, Krankheit übertragen. Bitte werfen Sie daher Speisereste nur in verschlossene Müllbehälter!

Warning!
The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture of the Federal Republic of Germany hereby gives notice that:

Highly contagious African Swine Fever has been spreading through Europe since 2014 and is now a threat for millions of domestic pigs and wild boar. This disease, which is not dangerous for humans, can be transmitted by food. Please make sure that all leftover food is put in sealed waste containers!

Pozor!
Spolkové ministerstvo pro výživu a zemědělství Spolkové republiky Německo informuje:

Od roku 2014 se v Evropě rozšiřuje vysoce nakaľivý africký prasatí mor a ohrožuje milióny domácích i divokých prasat. Tato nemoc, která není pro lidi nebezpečná, se přenáší potravinařmi. Odhazujte proto, prosím, zbytky potravin pouze do uzavratelných nádob na odpadky!

Atenție!
Ministerul Federal al Alimentației și Agriculturii al Republicii Federale Germania informează:

Din anul 2014 se răspândește în Europa pesta porcină africană extrem de contagioasă care amenință milioane de porci domestici și mistreți. Prin alimente se poate transmite această boală care pentru om nu este periculoasă. De aceea vă rugăm să aruncați resturile alimentare doar în recipiente de gunoi care pot fi închise!

Внимание!
Информация Федерального министерства продовольствия и сельского хозяйства Федеративной Республики Германия:

С 2014 года в Европе распространяется очень заразная африканская чума свиней, представляющая угрозу для миллионов домашних и диких свиней. Это не опасное для человека заболевание может передаваться через продукты питания. Поэтому просим Вас выбрасывать остатки пищи только в закрытые мусорные контейнеры!

Uwaga!
Federalne Ministerstwo Żywności i Rolnictwa Republiki Federalnej Niemiec informuje:

Od roku 2014 na terenie Europy rozprzestrzenia się w wysokim stopniu zakaźna choroba – afrykańska powódź świni – stanowiąca zagrożenie dla milionów sztuk hodowanej trzody chlewnej oraz pogłowa dzików. Ta niebezpieczna zagrożeniem dla człowieka choroba może być przenoszona także przez żywność. Dlatego prosimy, wyrzucić resztki żywności wyłącznie do zamkniętych pojemników na śmieci i odpady!

bmet.de/asp



Harmonised measures in the EU

Strategic approach to the management of ASF for the EU:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/ad_control-measures_asf_wrk-doc-sante-2015-7113.pdf

Detailed guidance on wild boar management:

(i) in all areas (ii) free areas (iii) free areas bordering infected areas (iv) infected areas (to eradicate) (v) infected areas (to control), e.g.:

- **Passive surveillance**
- **Containment and isolation (e.g. fencing)**
- **Active patrolling and search of carcasses**
- **Tailor made hunting in different areas**
- **Biosecurity**
- **Trapping**
- **Prohibition of sustained feeding**
- **Awareness and cooperation**



New! National action plans on wild boar management in the context of ASF prevention, control and eradication

- All Member States (where appropriate) should have in place such plans **by the end of 2020**.
- **Coordinated national efforts and closer partnerships** between relevant governmental and non-governmental sectors
- **A coordinated approach** to prevent, control and eradicate ASF **and long-term actions related to wild boar** in a view of the ASF risk.
- All relevant sectors in addition to animal health or wild life management should have a sense of '**ownership**' of the measures against ASF.

Best practices: the Czech Republic

06.2017-04.2018

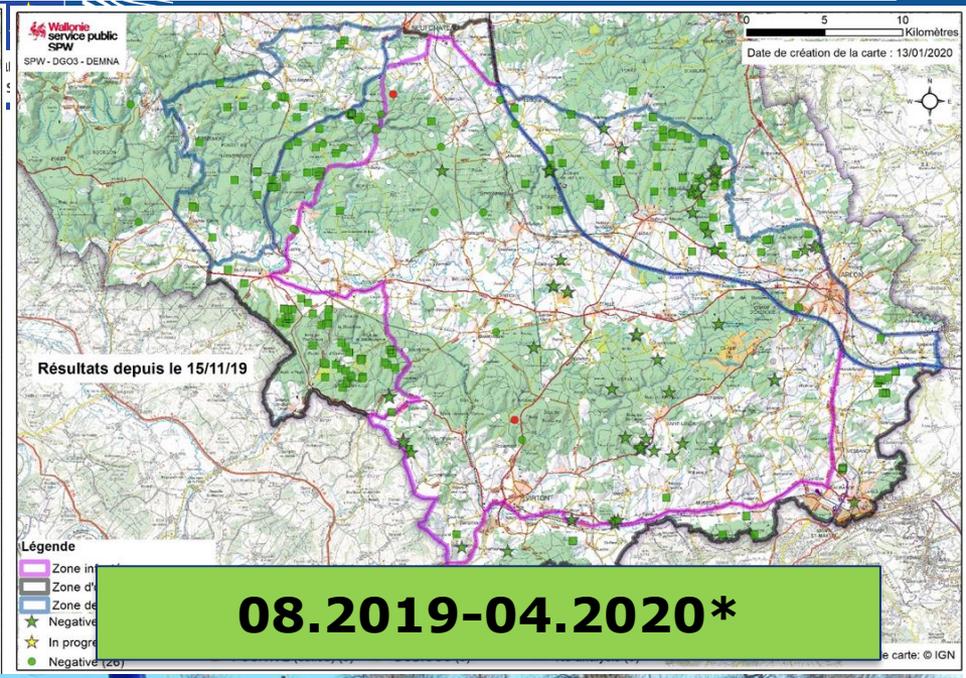
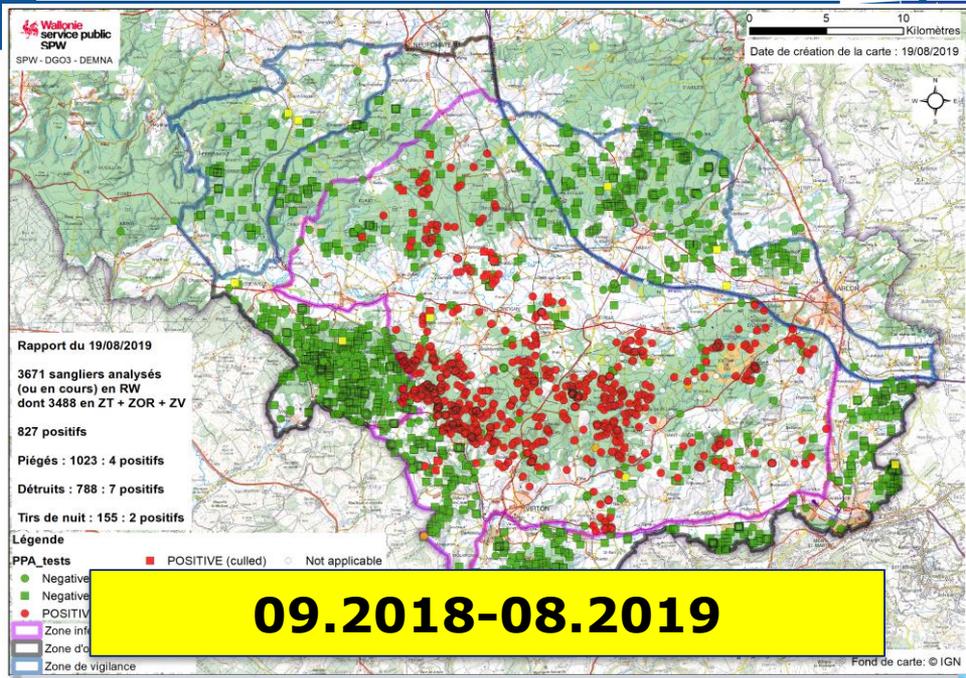


04.2018-02.2019



Best practices: Belgium

since September 2018

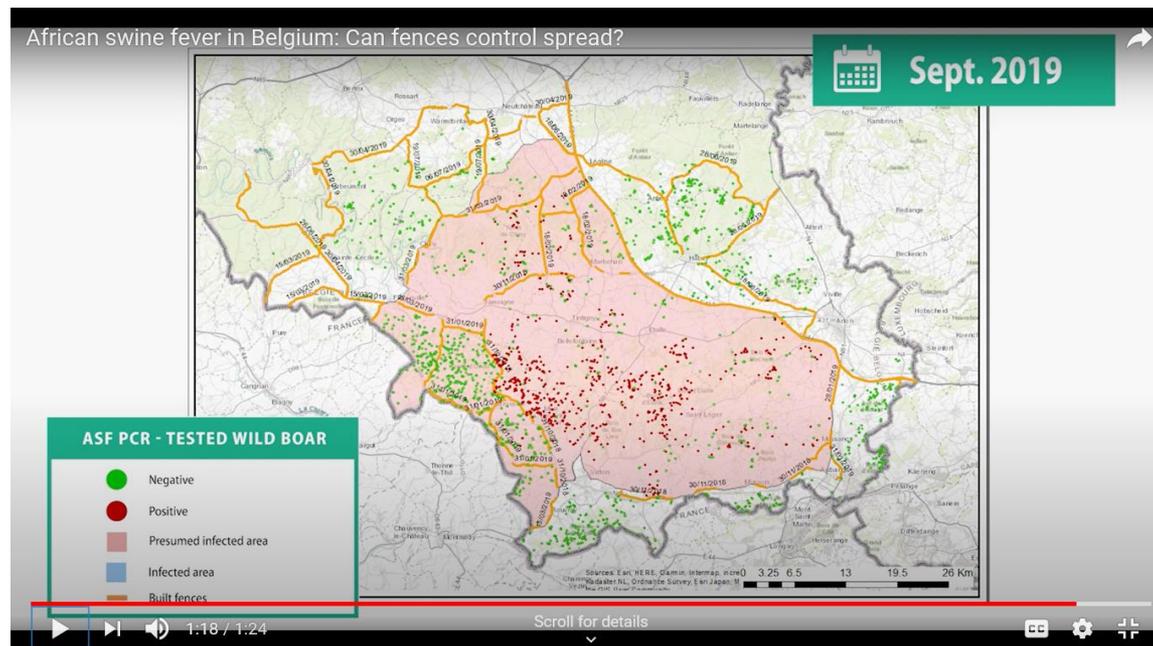


* Last cases notified in ADNS – remainings (e.g. bones) of wild boar that were dead for more than 3-6 months

Effective combination of control measures that have been applied in Belgium

- Artificial boundaries in controlling/slowing/stopping the spread of ASF:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-yORL1k7xw>



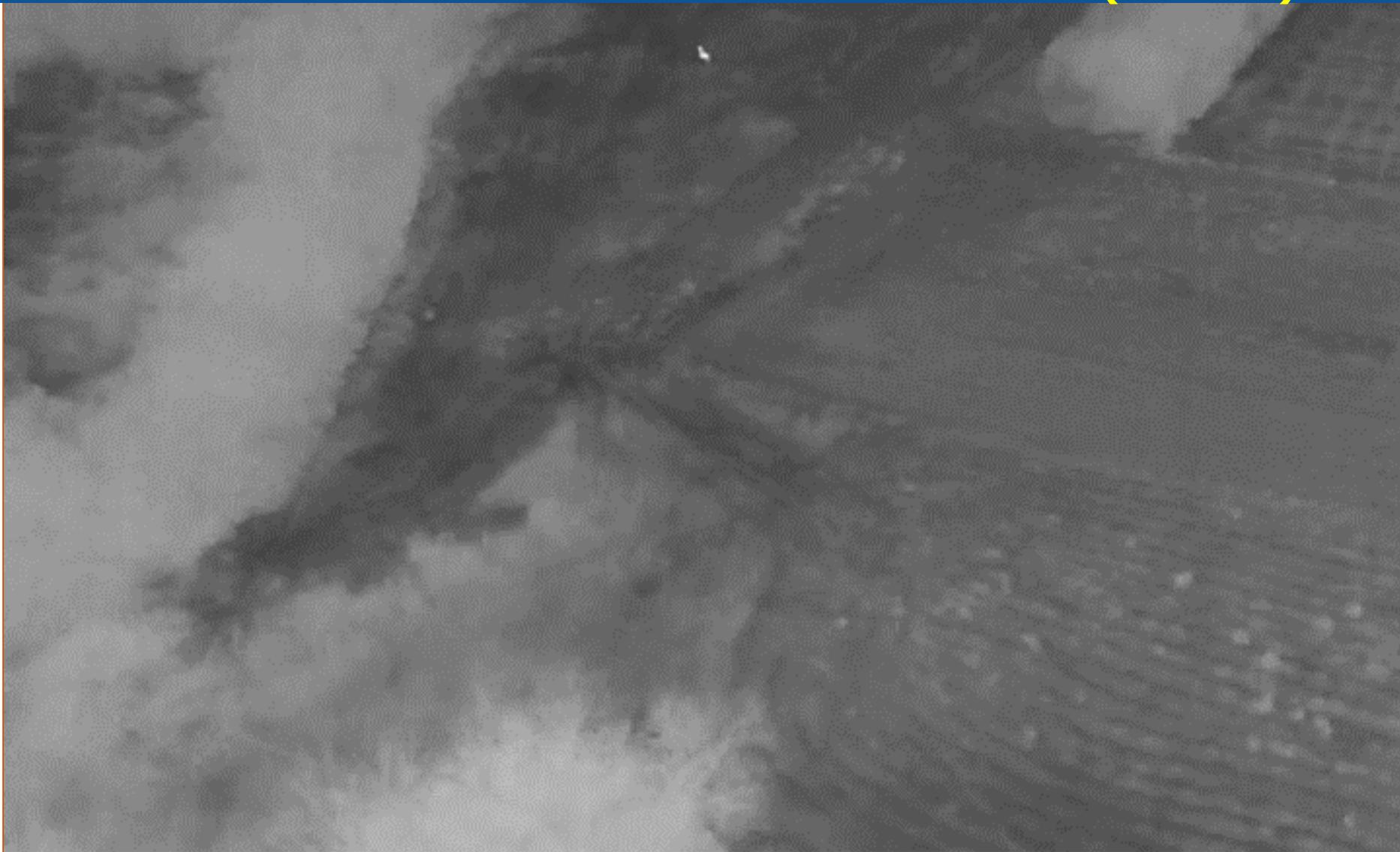
Application of best practises ASF in western Poland – November 2019 (fences)



Application of best practises ASF in western Poland –November 2019 (trapping)



New practises
ASF in western Poland –November 2019 (drones)



Examples of EU cooperation on ASF: hunters

Sofia (BG) TAIEX workshop on wildlife diseases: 03/2018

Dortmund (DE) conference 'Preparing European Hunters to eradicate African swine fever': 01/2019

Noordwijk (NL) conference 'Wild' challenges for hunting and conservation': 04/2019

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

African swine fever (ASF) is a devastating, usually deadly, infectious disease of pigs and wild boar for which no vaccine exists.

The consequences of the disease affect:

1. Farms and the economy:
 - the virus kills animals.
 - economic losses for EU farmers are aggravated by disruption of international trade of animals and meat.
 - economic losses for the hunters.
2. Wildlife and hunting:
 - because of the disease wild boar populations can decrease significantly or even disappear.
 - hunting may be restricted or even banned in some infected areas (including collector of carcasses and trophies).

The pig sector is one of the most economically significant farming sectors in the EU.
It represents 8.5% of the total output of the EU agricultural industry, the highest when compared to other meat sectors.
Pigmeat accounts for 50% of total EU meat production.
Pigmeat is the most exported of all meat produced in the EU: it represents 62% of EU total meat exports.

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

Disease transmission and spread
Transmission can happen through direct contact of healthy pigs or wild boar with infected (dead or sick) pigs or wild boar. However, humans and especially hunters - while not being affected by the disease - can help spreading it by:

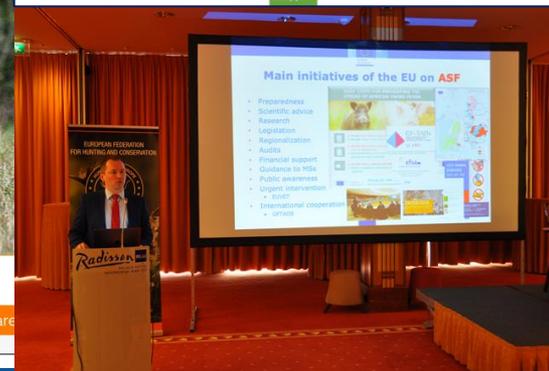
- Any contact with infected animals and dead bodies (carcasses).
- Contact with anything contaminated by the virus (e.g. clothing, vehicles, other equipment).
- Feeding the animals with meat or meat products from infected animals (e.g. sausages or uncooked meat) or garbage containing infected meat (e.g. kitchen waste, swill feed, including offal).



FACE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HUNTING ASSOCIATIONS AND HUNTERS IN PREPARING FOR AND DEALING WITH AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (ASF) IN THE FIELD

Animal Health & Welfare

African Swine Fever



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

Interpretation: EN-DE
Livestream provided

30 January 2019, 10:00-16:00
Kongresszentrum Westfalenhallen, "Silbersaal"
Registration: alesso.borrello@face.eu

Kongresszentrum Westfalenhallen, "Silbersaal"
(Rheinlanddamm 200, 44139 Dortmund)

Westfalenhallen Dortmund

<https://www.face.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/ASF-Recommendednations-EN.pdf>

https://www.face.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/ASF_recommendations_document_EN.pdf

EU Veterinary Emergency Team

EUVET: 2018-2019 missions on ASF

- Team of highly experienced field experts
- Can be **mobilised within 24h**
- Provide tailor made recommendations
- Field visits on the spot



https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/emergency-team_en

Hungary	April 2018
Romania	June 2018
Romania	July 2018
Bulgaria*	August 2018
Bulgaria	September 2018
Belgium	September 2018
Belgium	October 2018
France*	October 2018
Belgium	January 2019
Romania	February 2019
Belgium	April & May 2019
Luxembourg*	May 2019
Bulgaria	July 2019
Serbia	August 2019
Slovakia	August 2019
Poland	November 2019
Serbia	December 2019
Germany*	January 2020
Hungary	January 2020
Poland	February 2020
Greece	February 2020

* on ASF preparedness



EU international cooperation: **GF-TADs (FAO/OIE):**

14 meetings of the Standing Group of Experts on ASF in Europe since 2014:

- Bern (22/09/14) - **Kick-off**
- Minsk (1-2/12/14) - **Wild boar management**
- Tallinn (11-12/02/15) - **backyard holding management**
- Moscow (15-16/03/16) - **reviewing the outcome of the ASF filed visits**
- Lisbon (19/09/16) - **ASF situation and planning actions**
- Vilnius (28-29/11/16) - **ASF situation and planning actions**
- Paris (23/05/17) - **ASF situation and planning actions**
- Moldova (20-21/09/17) - **awareness and communication**
- Kiev (22-23/03/2018) - **cross border cooperation addressing (legal and) irregular movements of pigs and their products**
- Paris (22/05/18) - **ASF situation and planning actions**
- Warsaw (September 2018) - **ASF epidemiology in wild boar population and in the environment**
- Prague, SGE ASF12 (11-12 March 2019) - **building up on the Czech Republic experience in eradicating ASF in wild boar**
- Paris (29/5/19) - **ASF situation and planning actions**
- Sofia (10-11/9/19) - ASF outbreaks investigation and data collection
- **Next/virtual (06/05/2020) - Update on the countries' situation and ASF management in the framework of the Covid-19 crisis**

12 Field visits by GFTADs experts in Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, the Czech Republic, Romania, Bulgaria and Belgium.



Key messages

- **Hunting biosecurity** should be an "everyday" practice (handbook)
- Tailor made **long-term strategy on wild boar populations**: Reducing wild boar densities can limit disease spread and persistence (e.g. a complete feeding ban)
- **Ban** on cross-border **trade of wild boar**
- **Specific hunting regulations and depopulation actions** depending on the zone
- **Passive surveillance** is the most important tool for early detection = urgent response!



Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever in Europe
under the GF-TADs umbrella



Handbook on African Swine Fever in wild boar
and biosecurity during hunting

Main authors:
Vittorio Guberti, Sergei Khomenko, Marius Masiulis, Suzanne Kerba

A 'baseline' for effective passive surveillance

- As a rough guide, the number of **carcasses detectable each year is approximately 1%** of the total adult population (assuming **10% annual mortality** and **10% of carcasses detectable**) - the number of carcasses that should be detected on an ongoing basis
- **Set up, maintain** and **periodically evaluate** systems of passive surveillance, in particular for early detection of ASF in wild boar. It will also further assist in defining the geographic extent of the infected wild boar population
- **Active surveillance** – *certain scientific value, building evidence to regain ASF-free status*

Key messages

- When an epidemic is ongoing, **certain activities** that may increase the movement of wild boar **should be avoided** (e.g. intensive drive hunts, feeding)
- **Minimizing environmental viral** load should be a top-priority (e.g. carcass search and safe removal)
- A **regular dialogue** between all involved stakeholders
- Sharing of knowledge from **experience and science**
- Cross border and international **cooperation**
- **Coordinated approach** is crucial (EU's experience)

Thank you!

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/control-measures/asf_en