



# **African swine fever and the legislative framework: the management of disease eradication through awareness and cooperation**

Conference

"Preparing European hunters to eradicate African Swine Fever"  
30 January 2019, Dortmund

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**G.3. – Official controls and eradication of diseases in animals  
Directorate G – Crisis management in food, animals and plants  
DG SANTE European Commission, Brussels**

# Outline

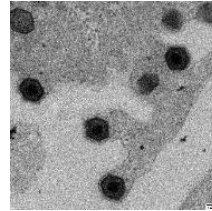
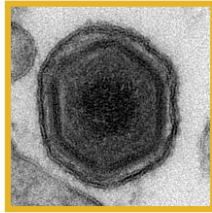
**African swine fever (ASF) in the EU**

**Main initiatives of the EU on ASF**

**Key messages on ASF for hunters**

# African Swine Fever Virus

- Contagious and deadly viral disease of swine
- Highly resistant
- Affects domestic and wild pigs



## European susceptible species:

- Domestic pigs and European wild boar

## ASF affects:

- All age categories (no age dependency)
- Without gender predilection



*It does not affect humans or other animal species*

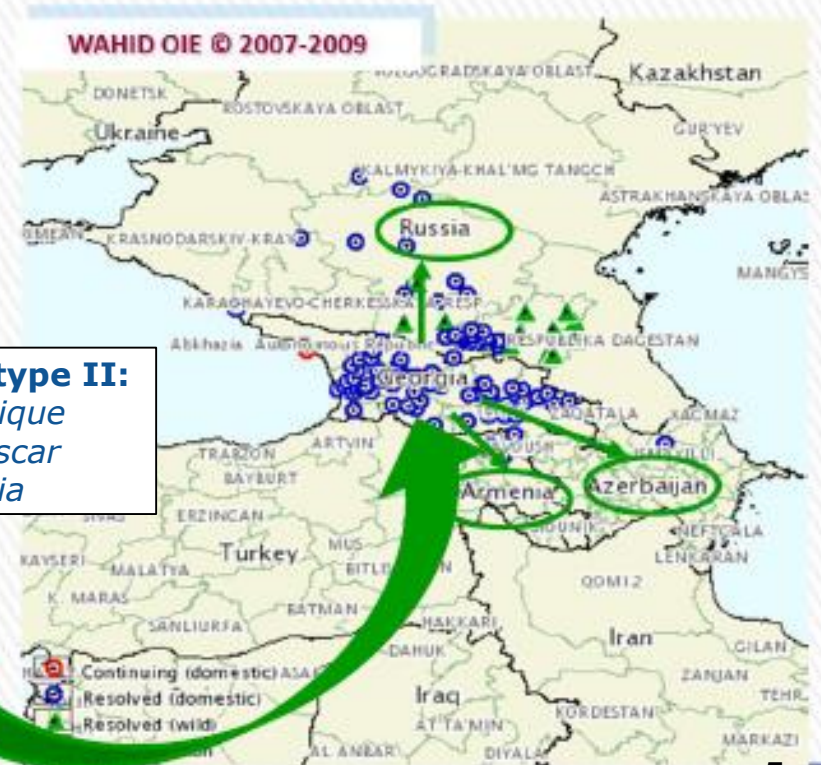
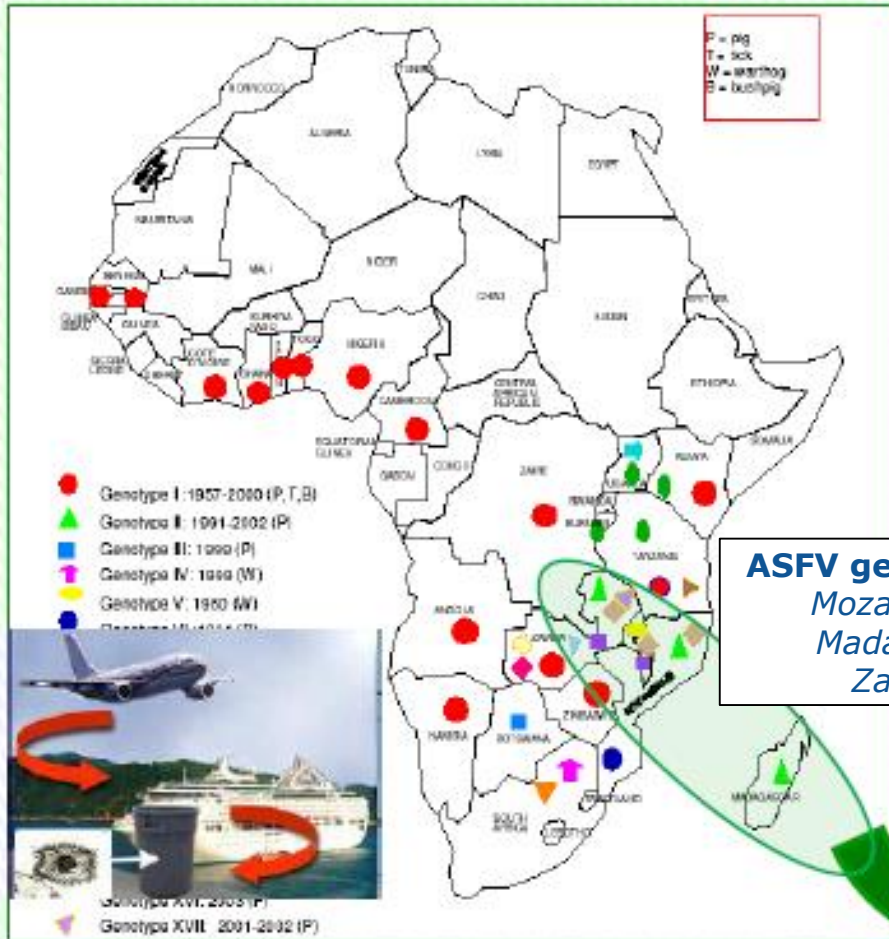
## Eradication of **ASF** in the EU

- France (1974)
- Belgium (1985)
- Netherlands (1986)
- Mainland Italy (1993)
- Spain (1994)
- Portugal (1999)



# Tracing the origin

**Georgia**  
**June 2007**



**ASFV genotype II:**  
*Mozambique  
Madagascar  
Zambia*

# ASF in Europe: 2007-2019

SANTE G3

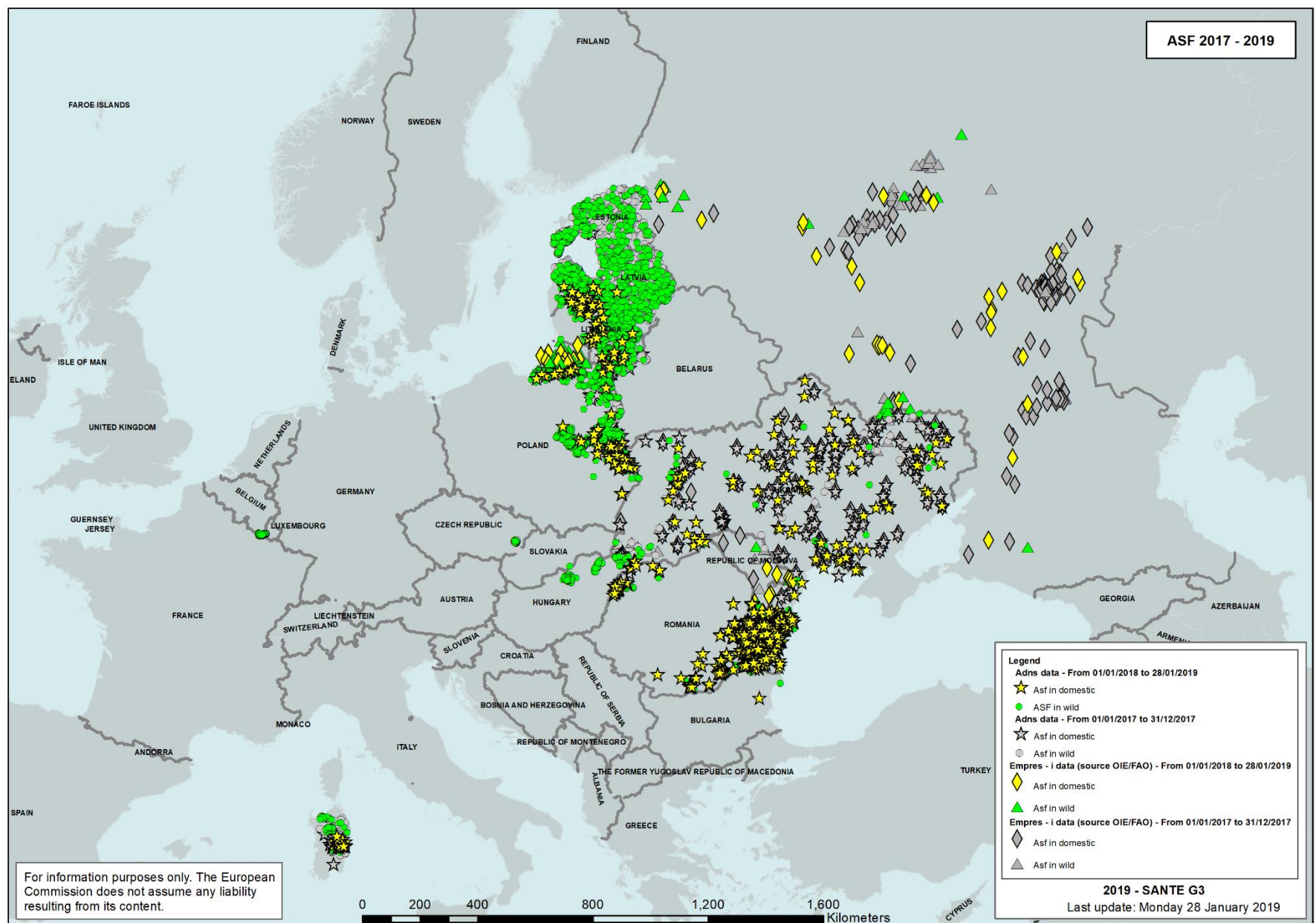
**ASF: Mar 2007 to Apr 2007**

- ▲ / ● Wild boar
- ◆ / ☆ Domestic pigs



Sources: ADNS  
OIE-FAO

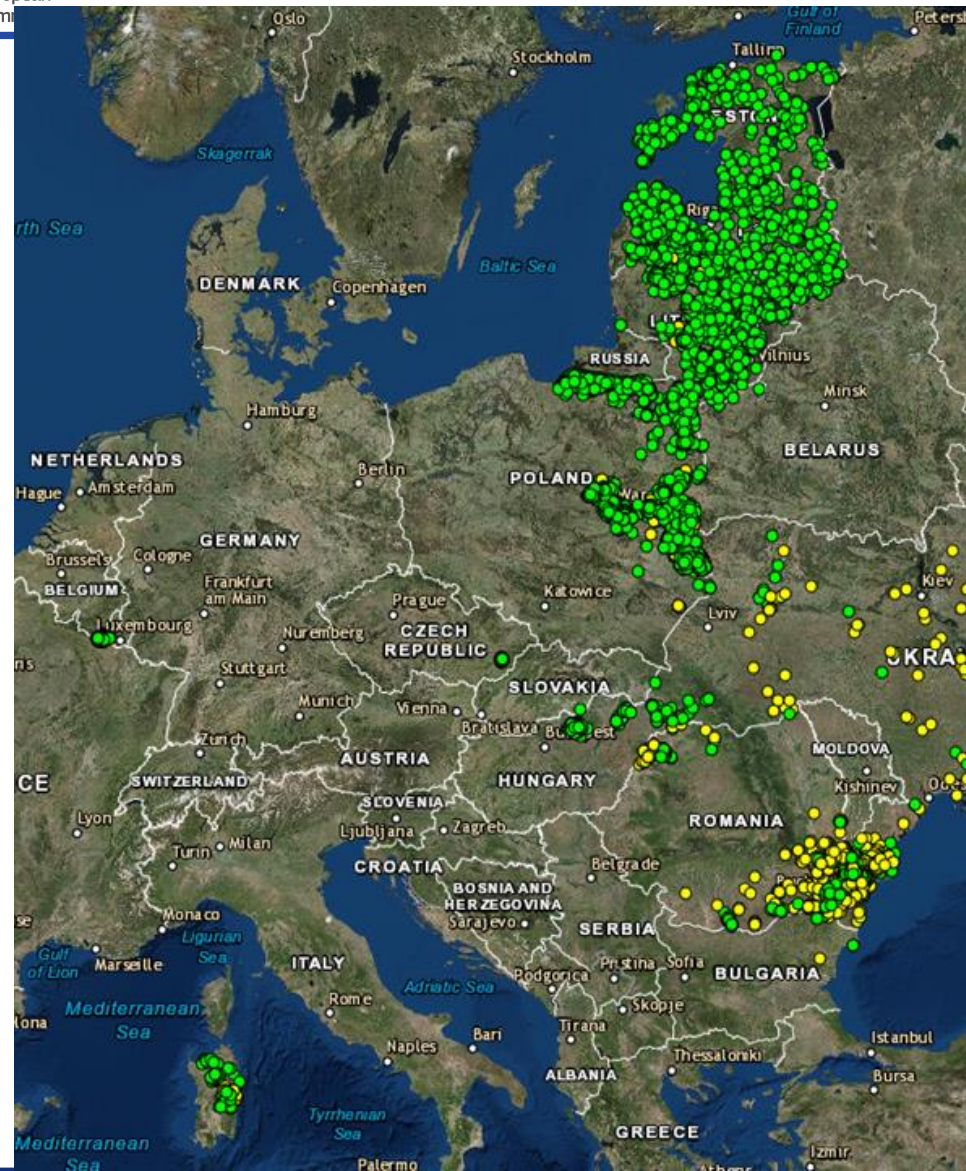
# Current situation of ASF in Europe: 2017-2019



# ASF in 2018: EU

ADNS DATA	notification of cases in Wild Boar in 2018	Outbreaks in Domestic Pigs 2018
POLAND	2443	109
LITHUANIA	1446	51
LATVIA	685	10
ESTONIA	231	0
CZECH REPUBLIC	28	0
ROMANIA	182	1164
HUNGARY	138	0
BULGARIA	5	1
BELGIUM	163	0
ITALY	65	25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5386</b>	<b>1360</b>

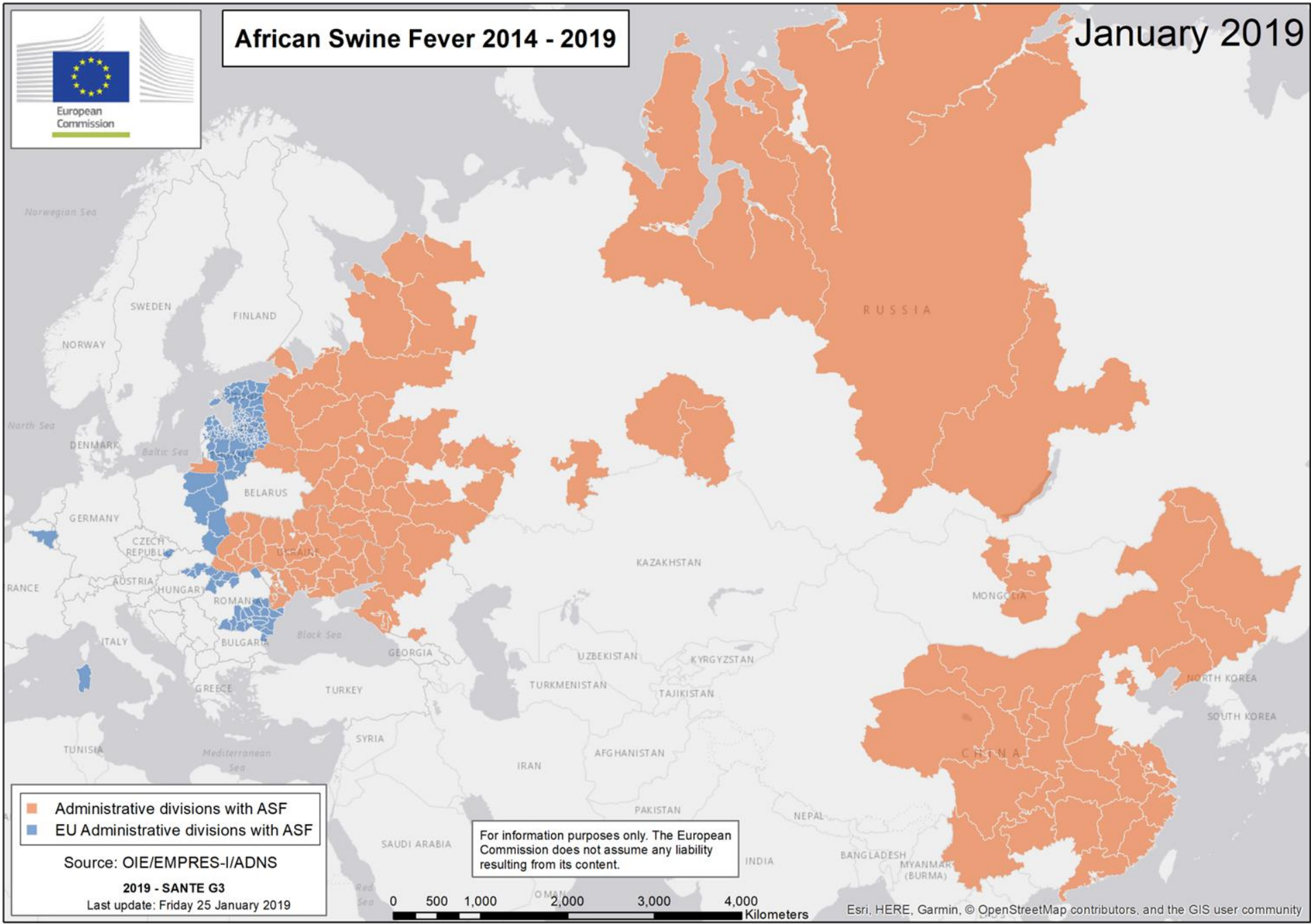
European  
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# African Swine Fever 2014 - 2019

January 2019



- Administrative divisions with ASF
- EU Administrative divisions with ASF

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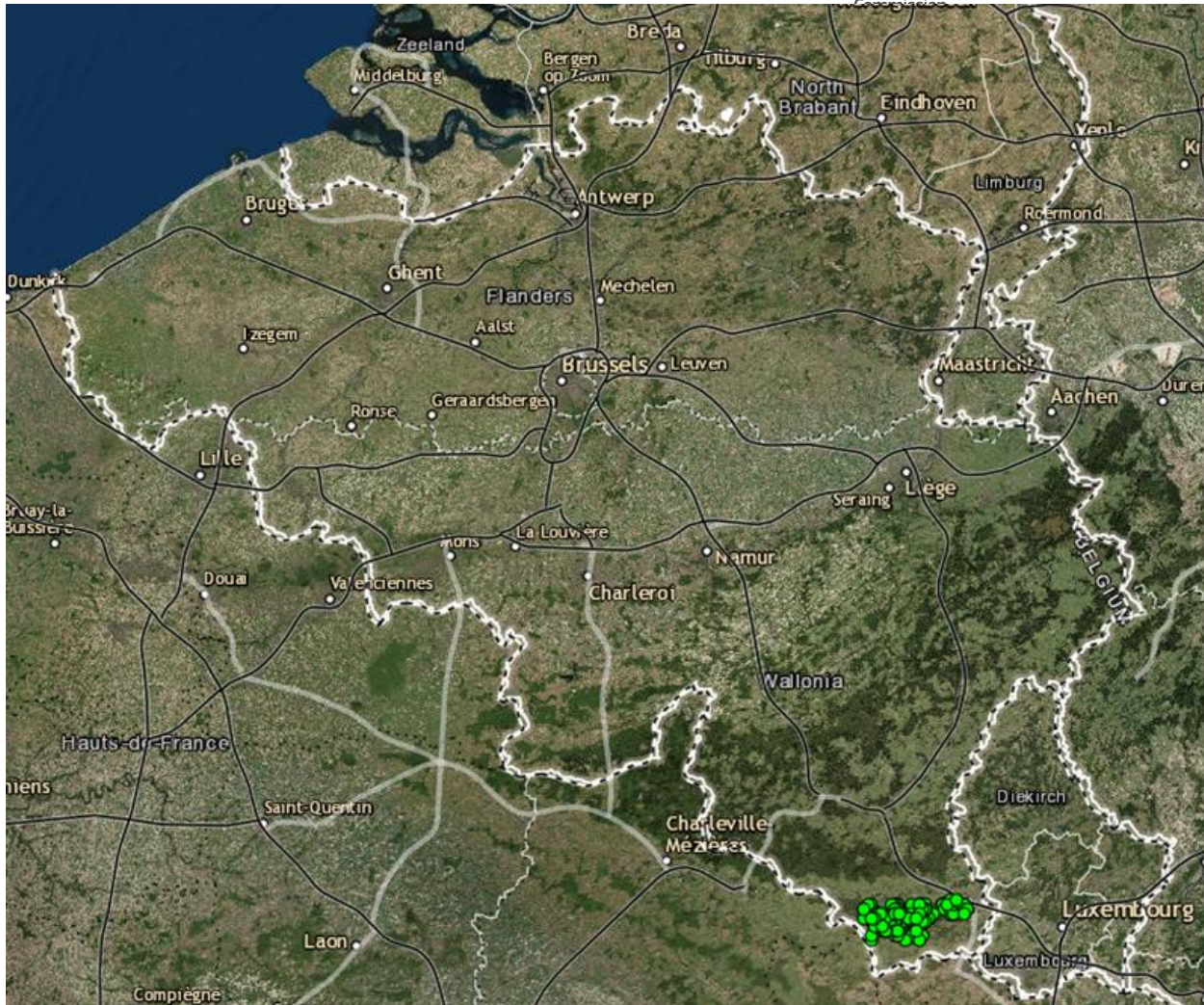
Source: OIE/EMPRES-I/ADNS  
2019 - SANTE G3  
Last update: Friday 25 January 2019



# ASF in Belgium: from 13/09/2018



European  
Geographic

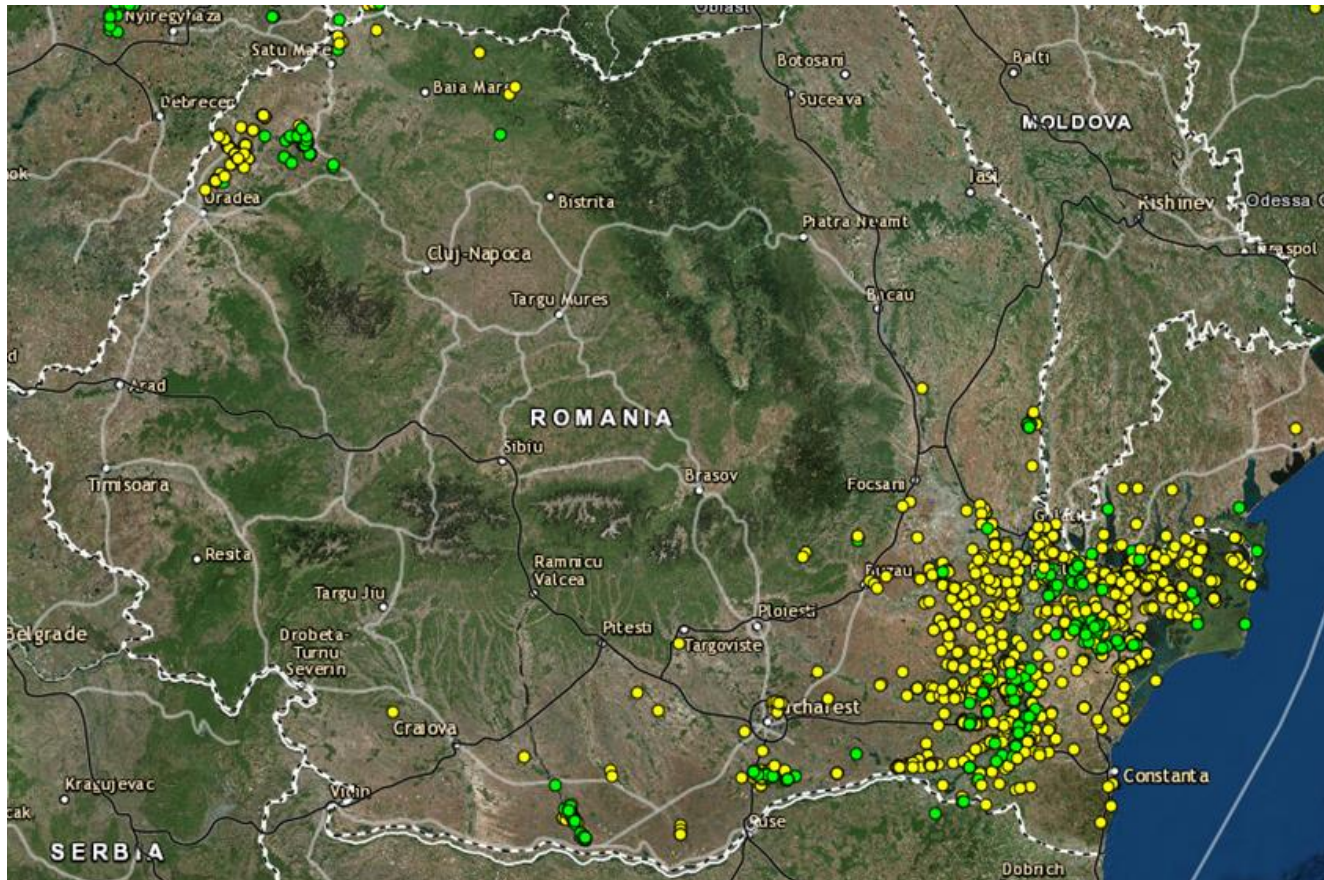


until 25/01/2019

- in 2018 - 163 ADNS notifications
- in 2019 - 49 ADNS notifications
- in the infected area only
- in wild boar only

# ASF in Romania: 2018-2019

European  
Commission



until 25/01/2019

- in 2018: 1164 outbreaks in domestic pigs & 182 cases in wild boar
- in 2019: 19 outbreaks in domestic pigs & 39 cases in wild boar

# ASF in Czech Republic

European  
Commission



- First occurrence of ASF - in two wild boar (found dead) on 21 and 22 June 2017
- ASF positive decomposed carcass (bones) was found 19 April 2018
  - Since then - no more cases in wild boar.

# Why **eradication of ASF** is important

## ***ASF affects EU pig industry***

- the pig sector is one of the most economically significant farming sectors in the EU
- negative impact on the local, national and EU economy
- ASF detection in a country = long-lasting trade disruptions

## ***Link to wild boar?***

- infected wild boar contaminate the environment making more likely secondary outbreaks in domestic pigs (both non-commercial and commercial farms)
- possible persistence of the virus for a long time

# Why **eradication of ASF** is important

## ***ASF affects hunters and environment***

- **hunting ban in newly infected areas**
- **limitations for hunting tourism**
- **additional testing and restrictions**
- **if disease is not contained in limited area = long lasting persistence of the virus, very difficult exit strategy**
- **significant reduction of wild boar population**



**Before  
ASF**



-14°C 02:37:54 07/01/2016



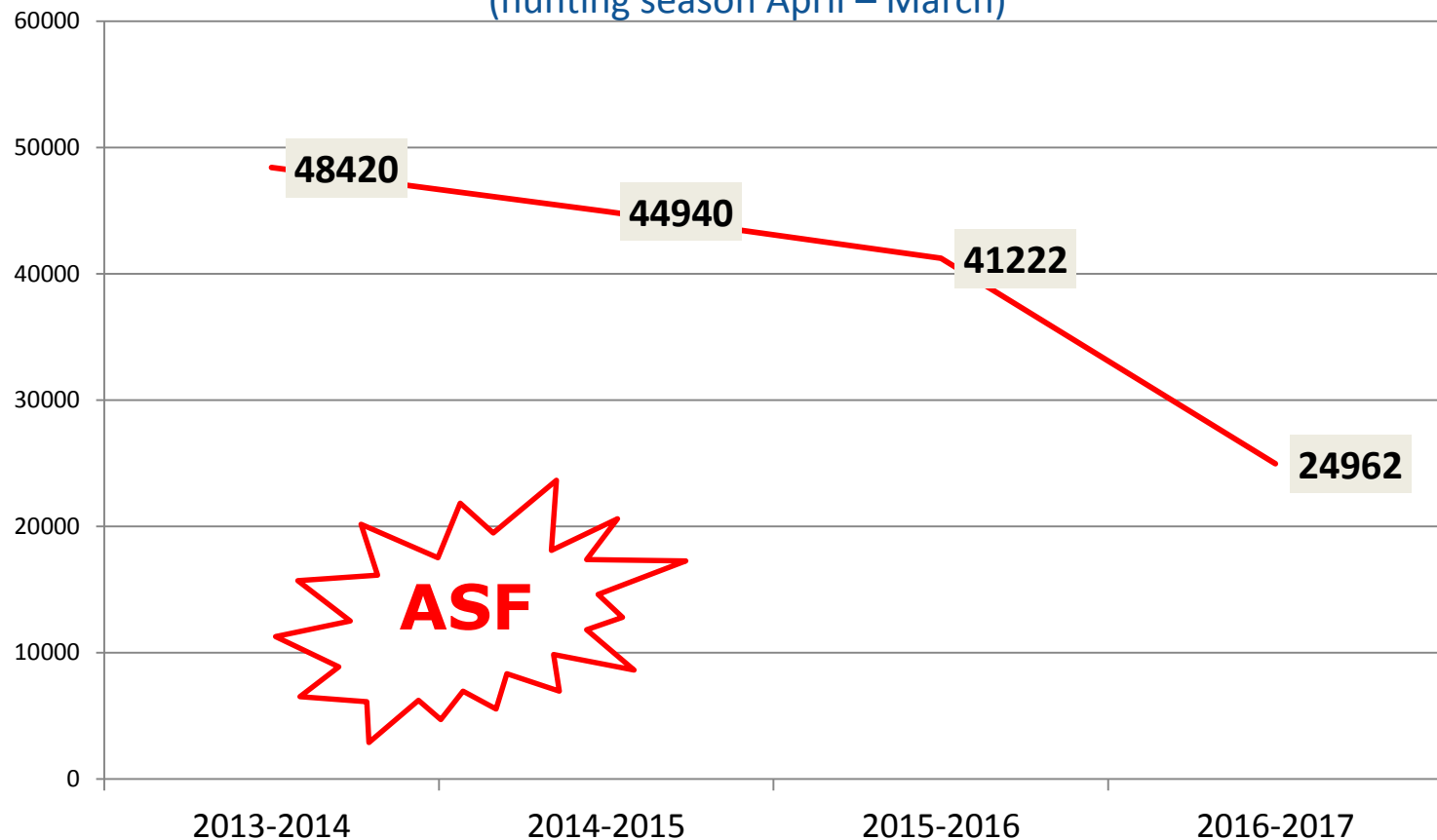
**After ASF**





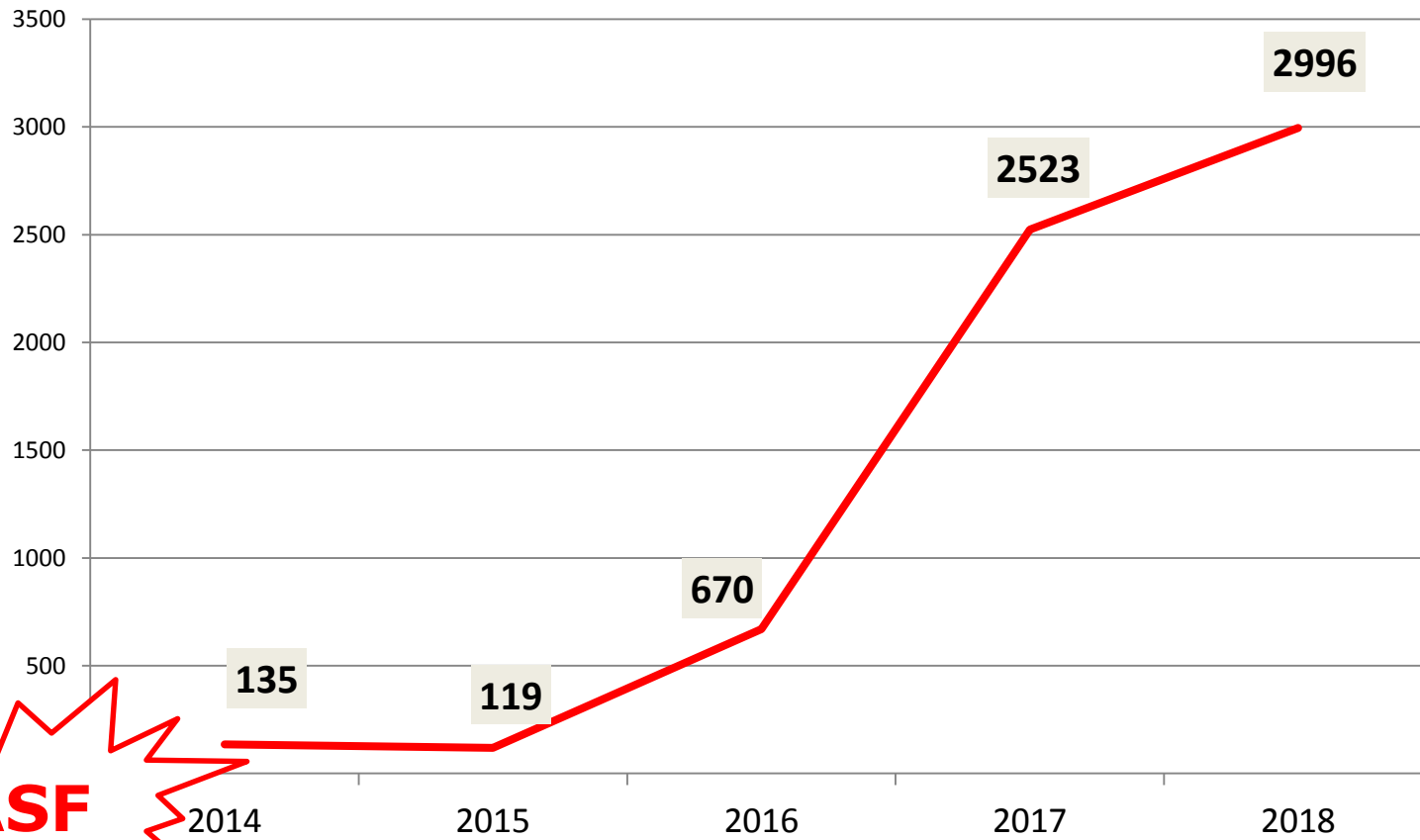
## Wild boar hunted in Lithuania 2013-2017

(hunting season April – March)



\* First ASF case in Lithuania – 24/01/2014

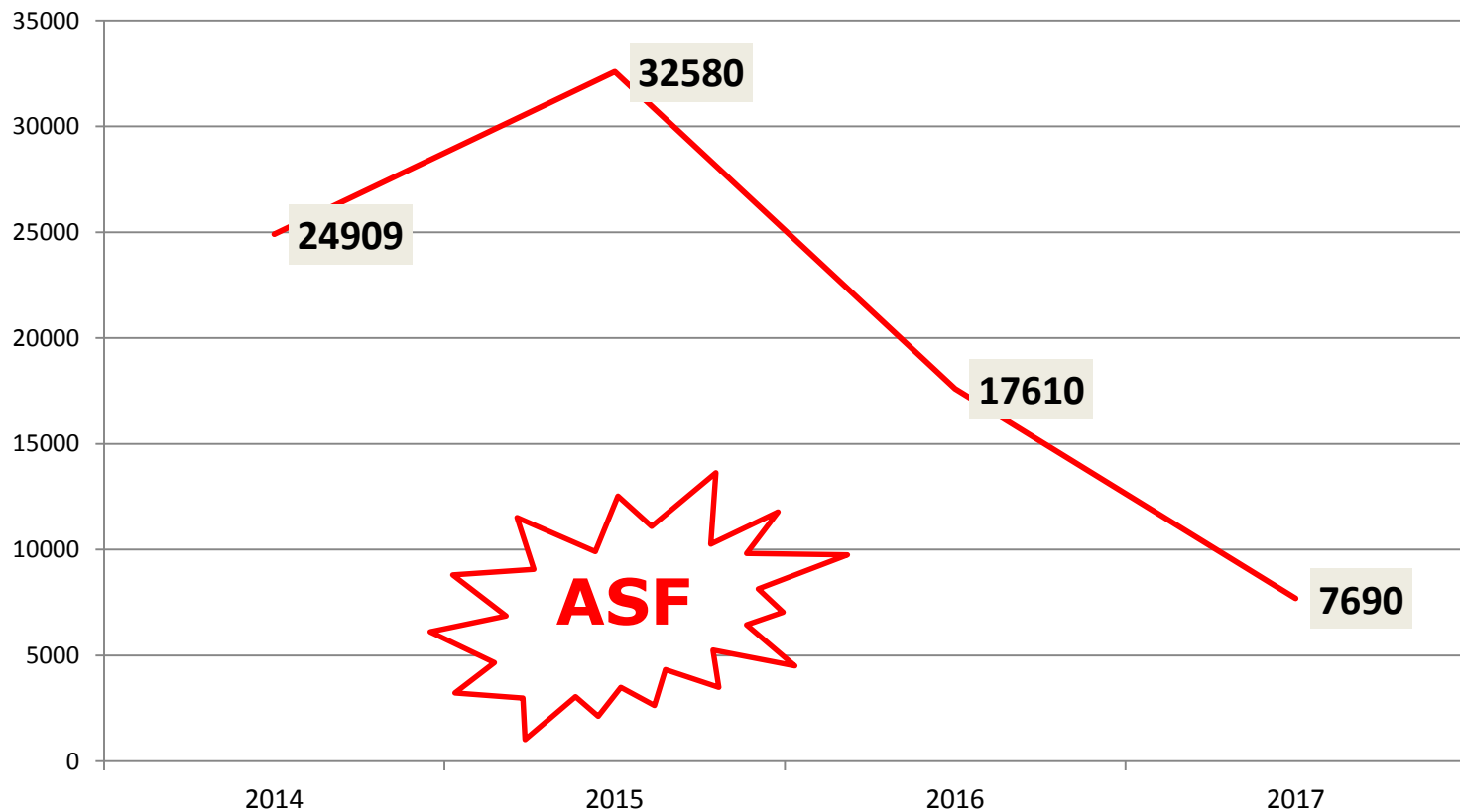
## Wild boar found dead in Lithuania 2014-2018



**ASF**

\* First ASF case in Lithuania - 24/01/2014

## Wild boar hunted in Estonia 2015-2017



\* First ASF case in Estonia – 08/09/2014



# **Main initiatives of the EU on ASF**

**Regionalization**

**Scientific advice (EFSA)**

**Urgent intervention (EUVET)**

**Audits**

**Guidance to MSs**

**International cooperation (GFTADS)**

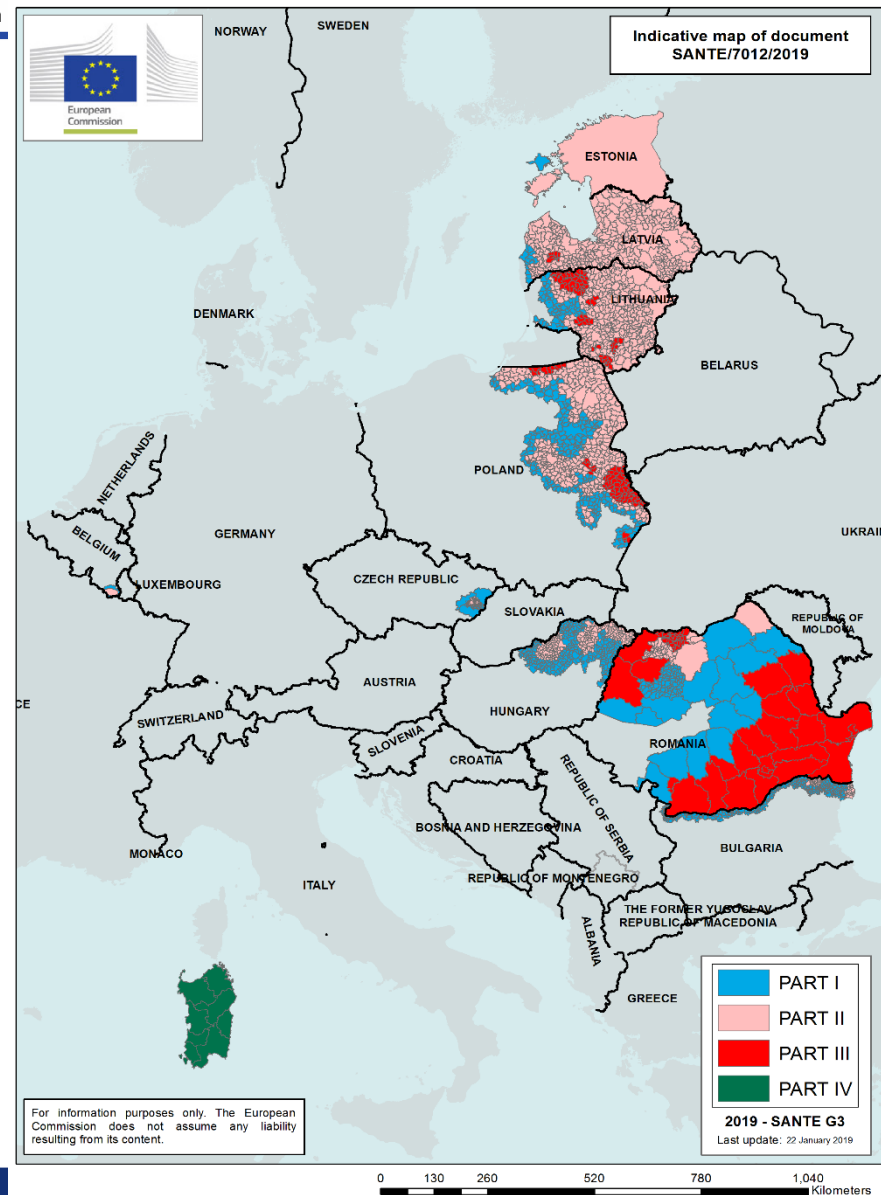
**Financial support**

**Research**

**Public awareness**

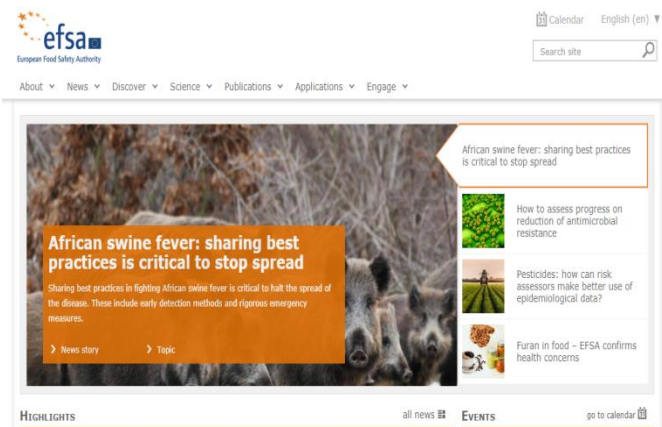
# EU ASF regionalisation measures

- Clearly defined roles for Member States and Commission
- Rapid flow of information
- Urgent adoption of emergency measures
- Agreed with Member States
- Immediately applicable
- Decisions published in the Official Journal of the European Union in 23 languages



# OVERVIEW OF EFSA'S PAST ASSESSMENTS ON ASF

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



European Food Safety Authority
 EFSA Journal 2010; 8(3):1556

**SCIENTIFIC OPINION**

**Scientific Opinion on African Swine Fever<sup>1</sup>**

EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW)<sup>2,3</sup>

EFSA Journal 2014;12(4):3628

**SCIENTIFIC OPINION**

**Scientific Opinion on African swine fever<sup>1</sup>**

EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW)<sup>2,3</sup>

**SCIENTIFIC REPORT**

ADOPTED: 9 February 2017  
doi: 10.2903/j.efsa.2017.4732

**Epidemiological analyses on African swine fever in Baltic countries and Poland**

European Food Safety Authority
 EFSA Journal 2014;12(3):3616

**SCIENTIFIC REPORT OF EFSA**

**Evaluation of possible mitigation measures to prevent introduction and spread of African swine fever virus through wild boar<sup>1</sup>**

European Food Safety Authority<sup>2,3</sup>

**SCIENTIFIC OPINION**

ADOPTED: 23 June 2015  
doi:10.2903/j.efsa.2015.4163

**African swine fever in wild boar**

EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW)<sup>2,3</sup>

**SCIENTIFIC REPORT**

ADOPTED: 27 October 2017  
doi: 10.2903/j.efsa.2017.5068

**Epidemiological analyses of African swine fever in the States and Poland**

(Update September 2016-September 2017)

**SCIENTIFIC REPORT**

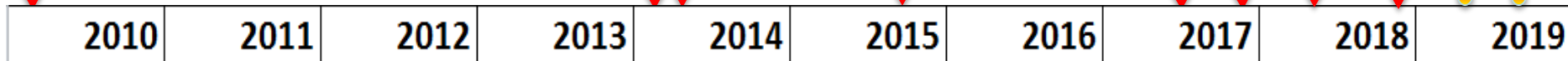
APPROVED: 8 November 2018  
doi: 10.2903/j.efsa.2018.5494

**Epidemiological analyses of African swine fever in the European Union (November 2017 until November 2018)**

**SCIENTIFIC OPINION**

ADOPTED: 12 June 2018  
doi: 10.2903/j.efsa.2018.5344

**African swine fever in wild boar**



Scientific opinion    Scientific report

# EU Veterinary Emergency Team **EUVET** missions on ASF in 2018

1. Hungary: 24-25 April 2018 (wild boar)
2. Romania: 5-9 June 2018 (wild boar)
3. Romania: 2-4 July 2018 (domestic pigs)
4. Bulgaria: 1-3 August 2018 (preparedness)
5. Bulgaria: 4-7 September 2018 (domestic pigs)
6. Belgium: 14-17 September 2018 (wild boar)
7. Belgium: 11-12 October 2018 (follow-up)
8. France: 18-19 October 2018 (preparedness)



## **Audits + fact finding missions:** **Directorate SANTE F**

- Audits on **implementation of border controls** against ASF
- Audits carried out on **animal health preparedness and eradication**
- Series of **fact finding missions**



# EU guidance on ASF

- **Strategic approach** to the management of African Swine Fever for the EU
- The **principles and criteria** for geographically and temporally defining ASF regionalisation
- **Guidelines on surveillance and control** of African swine fever in feral pigs and preventive measures for pig holdings

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

- **11 meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on ASF in the Baltic and Eastern Europe region 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) – Practical field management**
- **10 Field visits by GFTADs experts in Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, the Czech Republic and Romania + Bulgaria (January 2019)**

# EU international cooperation on ASF: Ministerial meetings

## • 8 High level Ministerial meetings on ASF:

- Vilnius – 17/05/15
- Tallinn – 26/02/16
- Warsaw – 28/10/16
- Riga – 02/06/17
- Prague – 08/11/17
- Warsaw – 26/03/2018



- Brussels – 06/09/2018

High-Level Conference "Transboundary Animal Diseases in Europe: The Importance of International Cooperation for a sustainable livestock"

- Brussels – 19/12/2018

High-level Ministerial conference on the "Eradication of African swine fever in the EU and the long-term management of wild boar populations"

# Continuous **financial support** to prevent, control and eradicate ASF

- Since 2013, grants for a total amount of **EUR 95 million** have been awarded for programmes and emergency measures implemented by MS in the combat against ASF
- Up to 75% co-funding rate for the reimbursement of the cost incurred
- **Awareness campaigns** and wild boar **passive surveillance** - eligible in all MSs
- From 2020: selective hunting - not eligible in the programmes for EU co-funding



# Research on ASF

## FP7 projects:

- **ASFORCE**
- **ASFRISK**

## H2020 projects:

- **DEFEND**
- **SWINOSTICS**
- **ASF-STOP**
- **VETBIONET**
- **Topic SFS-12-2019**
- **ERANETs**

**The portfolio of actions taken/planned covers extensively aspects of ASF and mobilizes at least €43-48 million**

# Don't bring

Diseases such as African carried in pigmeat, which

# Public awareness

[http://web.oie.int/RR-Europe/eng/Regprog/en\\_ASF\\_depository.htm#ASFcampaignmaterial](http://web.oie.int/RR-Europe/eng/Regprog/en_ASF_depository.htm#ASFcampaignmaterial)

**EASY STEPS FOR PREVENTING SPREAD OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER**

- X DO NOT leave food in areas accessible to wild boar**
- ✓ ENSURE leftover meat or meat products back from non EU countries is put in sealed waste container**
- X DO NOT bring meat or meat products back from non EU countries even 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 any suspicious sightings or concerns**

**@Food\_EU #AfricanSwineFever**  
[https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/control-measures/asf\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/control-measures/asf_en)

**Voorkom Afrikaanse varkenspest**

**Achtung**  
 Das Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft der Bundesrepublik Deutschland

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

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

**Wichtig!**  
 Achtung!  
 Atenție!

**DIS PREVEN ST AUTHORIZE**

**KEEP ANIMAL DISEASES OUT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION!**

**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.

**efsa**  
 European Food Safety Authority

**European Commission**

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

**African Swine Fever: how to stay one step ahead**

# Cooperation with hunters (latest initiatives)



## 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 collection 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).



# Key messages for hunters

- Cautious approach to **hunting trips** to the areas considered at risk;
- **Early detection = urgent response!**
- **Hunting biosecurity** should be an "everyday" practice (handbook);
- **Preventive intensive hunting** and **not feeding wild boar** should be implemented to reduce the risks of outbreaks in areas not at high risk;
- When an epidemic is ongoing, activities that may increase the **movement of wild boar should be avoided** (e.g. intensive drive hunts) and in case of **areas newly affected by the disease a total hunting ban**;
- possibly **infected carcasses should be safely removed** from the environment (virus is very stable: carcasses remains infectious for 3 – 5 weeks);
- A **regular dialogue** between all involved stakeholders to increase preparedness is of paramount importance (sharing of knowledge from EU experience and science and tailor made long-term strategy on wild boar populations: less wild boar=less risk for rapid (unmanageable) spread of ASF).



# Thank you!



**CHRONOLOGY OF MAIN INITIATIVE TAKEN OR SUPPORTED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION:**

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/ad-control\\_measures-asf-chronology\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/ad-control_measures-asf-chronology_en.pdf)