

Eradication of African swine fever in the EU and the long-term management of wild boar populations

Ministerial Conference –
19 Dec 2018

Opening remarks – Council
Presidency

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CVO - Austria

Agenda

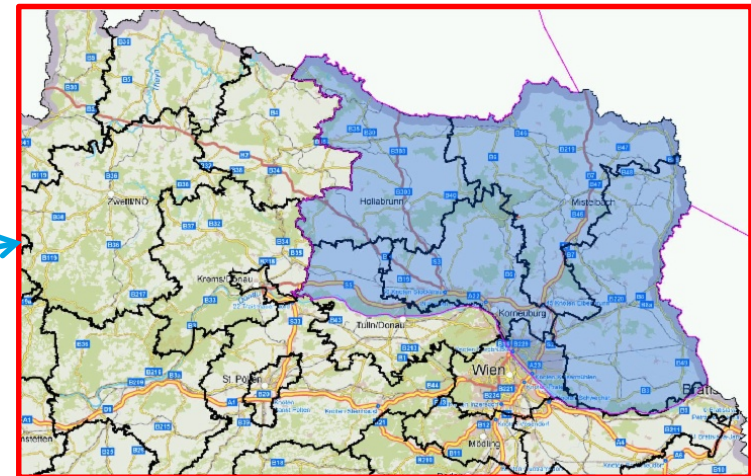
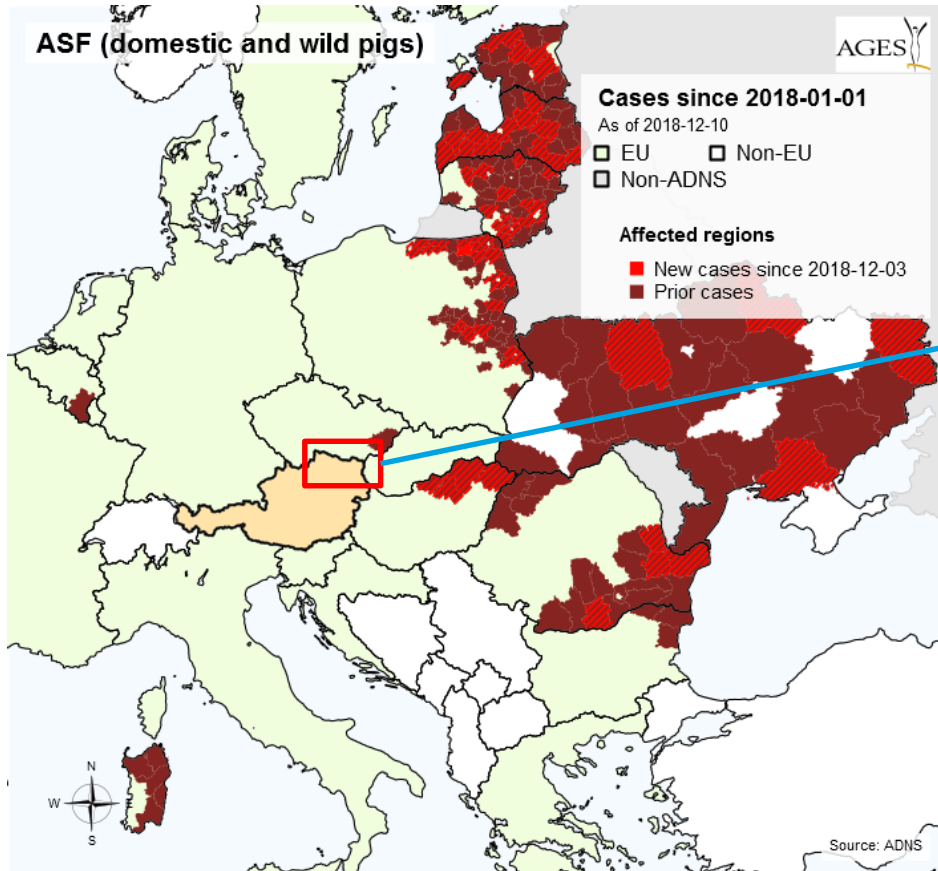
- International initiatives
- Actions taken by Austria on national level
- Outcome of the discussion under Austrian Presidency on a way forward on a future ASF strategy in the EU

International initiatives

- **GFTADs (Global Framework for Transboundary Animal Diseases)**
 - Close cooperation with OIE and FAO
 - Great support by the European Commission (financial and human resources)
 - Recommendations out of 11 SGE - ASF Meetings are available for everybody

- **Information exchange with the EC during**
 - CVO Meetings, SCoPAFF, NRL meetings etc.
 - Weekly report
 - BTSF - Training

Status Quo Austria I

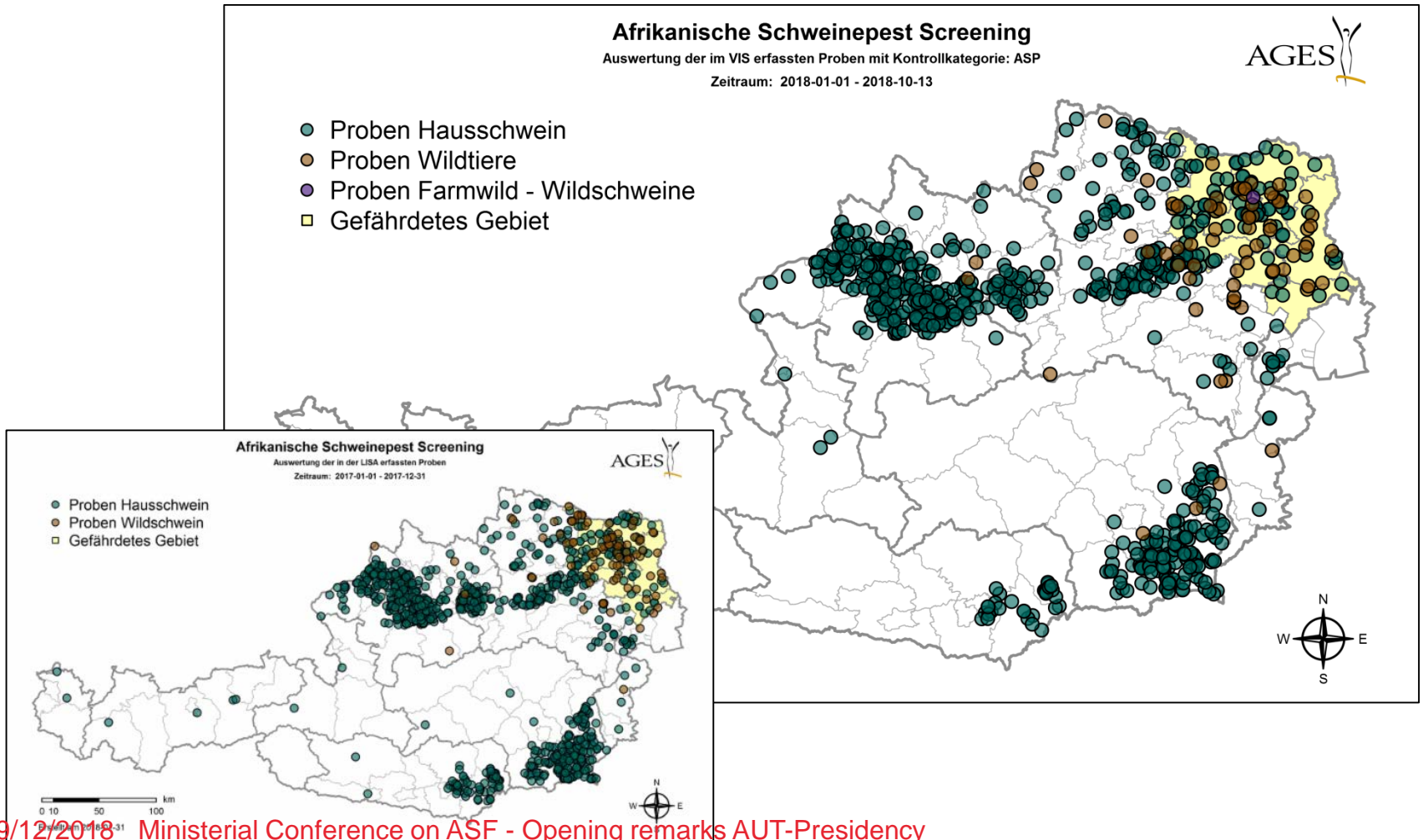


Area with increased risk

Status Quo Austria II

- Since **28th June 2017**, a new national regulation is in force
- This regulation is based on the Animal health law and defines obligations for hunters:
 - Definition of area with increased risk
 - Notification and testing of all dead wild boars is obligatory
 - Biosecurity rules for hunting
 - Restrictions for free range pig holdings since July 2017

ASP Screening 2017 & 2018



Expert groups national

- **„Animal Disease Expert Group“ - enlarged**
 - Veterinary authority on federal and regional level, Ministry of sustainability and Tourism, NRL and AGES, Stakeholder (agri and industry sector), hunting association , university
 - Up to two meetings per year
 - General recommendations on the bases of GFTADs and other international recommendations

- **„Task Force ASF“**
 - Subgroup of the expert group
 - Crisis Plan ASF
 - Management plan for ASF – wild boar



Information campaign (1/2)

- **Aim of the campaign:** Prevention of ASF introduction
- Target group specific information about ASF to increase the awareness as a **management tool** and part of **better risk communication**.
- Target Groups:
 - Hunter
 - Pig producer
 - Traveller (Bus terminal)
 - Forester
 - Seasonal worker
 - Veterinarians
 - Nursing staff
 - Public



Information campaign (2/2)

- 40.000 info sheets for the hunting fair „Hohe Jagd“ – Feb. 2018
- Folders were distributed
 - by the hunting organisations
 - together with the hunting magazines
 - and by the approval of the hunting license in the case of hunting-trips
- One booklet for traveller in 10 different languages
- Distribution by the central bus terminals.



Folder



Service Area



The poster features a pig in a field at the top. The text is in German and includes the following elements:

- Logos:** 'sozial' and 'AGES'.
- Headline:** 'ACHTUNG! AFRIKANISCHE SCHWEINEPEST'.
- Text:** 'Die afrikanische Schweinepest ist eine sehr gefährliche Erkrankung von Ferkel- und Wildschweinen, die sich in großen Teilen Osteuropas ausgebreitet hat. Der Mensch kann nicht daran erkranken. Das Virus kann in Blut, Fleisch, Knochen und insbesondere im Speichel (von Ferkel- und Wildschweinen) nachgelassen werden. Wenn Wildschweine diese Erregerreste fressen, verbreiten sie dadurch die Krankheit.'
- Icons:** A trash bin icon and a 'no pig' icon.
- Call to Action:** 'WERFEN SIE DAHER SPEISERESTE BITTE NUR IN VERSCHLOSSENE MÜLLBEHÄLTER!'.
- Country-specific notices:**
 - Uwaga!** (Poland): 'afrikanische Schweinepest jest bardzo groźną chorobą, która może się rozprzestrzenić na całym świecie. Człowiek nie może zachorować na tę chorobę. Choroba przenosi się głównie przez karmienie zwierząt odpadami spożywczymi.'
 - Бережіть!** (Slovakia): 'Afrikanická morčacia chrípka je veľmi nebezpečnou chorobou, ktorá sa môže rozšíriť na celú Európu. Človek na ňu nezachoruje. Choroba sa šíri hlavne kŕmením zvierat odpadmi z potravy.'
 - Pozor!** (Czechia): 'Afrikanická morčáčí chřipka je velmi nebezpečnou chorobou, která se může rozšířit na celou Evropu. Člověk na ni nezachoruje. Choroba se šíří hlavně krměním zvířat odpady z potravy.'
 - Pozor!** (Slovenia): 'Afrikanška prašičja hripa je zelo nevarna bolezen, ki se lahko razširi na celotno Evropo. Človek na njo nebolha. Bolezen se širi predvsem s hranjenjem živali s odpadki iz hrane.'
 - Figyelem!** (Hungary): 'Az afrikai sertífűvesztés nagyon veszélyes betegség, amely elterjedhet az egész Európában. Az ember nem betegszik meg. A betegség főleg az állatok etetésével terjed az élelmiszer-hulladékokkal.'
- Footer:** 'AKTUELLE INFOS unter www.bsp.gut.at oder www.ages.at'.

Videos



Presidency activities in 2018

- Wildlife in the context of animal health management was specifically addressed under the **Bulgarian Presidency**
 - a FESASS workshop co-organized
 - outcomes were presented at the meeting of the working party of CVOs in Sofia in April 2018
- The **Austrian Presidency** circulated a questionnaire on the role of wildlife in the context of the future ASF strategy in July 2018
 - Outcome was discussed on Oct. 4th and 9th in the frame of Commission and Council CVO meetings
 - Final discussion took place after a written consultation in November in the frame of the Council CVO meeting on 11th /12th Dec.

Starting points for discussion

- **ASF keeps spreading** within the EU
- In case of **focal introduction** by massive interventions we are hopefully able to stop spread of virus (eradication?)
- **No vaccine** available
- **No eradication** in wild boar populations with endemic ASF-infections **in due time to be expected**
- **Regions** where wild boar populations are infected with ASF **will continue to grow**
- Despite of information campaigns strengthening of legislation (and enhanced controls (BIPs) **still all regions of EU are at risk** of introduction

Outcome of Presidency Questionnaire

- **All MS** in favour to **maintain economic production** of domestic pigs in areas, where only wild boar are affected (Part II) or could be affected (Part I of CID 2014/709/EU)
- **All MS** see **necessity of implementing biosecurity measures (BSM)** which should be appropriate to the risk of introduction and spreading of ASF
- **Vast majority of MS** favours a **risk based approach with regard to enhanced BSM** and surveillance measures also in not affected areas (prevent introduction, early detection)

Elements of discussions - 3rd countries:

- **Inadequate reactions in many cases**
 - total ban of imports
 - no regionalization, OIE-chapter 15.1. on ASF concerning separation of epidemiological status of kept and wild pigs ignored
- **Importance of trade with 3rd countries for MS**
 - strict, science based trade rules needed
 - to prevent introduction of ASF and
 - to convince trade partners of favourable ASF-status
- **Self-declaration dossier as “country or zone free from ASF in domestic pigs”**
 - according to chapter 15.1. of terrestrial Code of OIE

Elements of discussions - socio – economic factor:

- **ASF-introduction in regions far from infected WB populations**
 - **by persons** via infected animals or contaminated products, despite of
 - movement restrictions,
 - information campaigns,
 - enforced controls
 - **socio-economic factors** must be particularly considered

Elements of discussions - maintaining an economic production:

- **Long persistence of ASF-virus in an area, where wild boar population is affected**
 - **Economic production** of domestic pigs, pig meat and products thereof should be **maintained in Part I and Part II areas** of CID 2014/709/EU
 - Appropriate **biosecurity measures at relevant levels** have to
 - prevent introduction in domestic pig population
 - Appropriate measures have to ensure, that **free status** of countries or zones **within the EU is not jeopardized**

Elements for a way forward

- ***the African Swine Fever Strategy for the EU***
 - should be further developed [SANTE/7113/2015 – Rev 9]
- ***Document on principles and criteria for geographically defining ASF regionalization***
 - should be further developed with a focus on the time periods foreseen for the lifting of zones. [SANTE/7112/2015/rev.2]
- ***Commission Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU***
 - is a text well-known by EU business partners and the basis of the favorable WTO jurisprudence.
 - Thus the current approach of regionalization shall be kept in focus
 - while exploring the possibility of its prudent evolution to guarantee more sustainability

Thank you
for your
attention!

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