



# African swine fever in Europe: situation, measures and policy coordination under GF-TADs Europe

24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the  
Americas  
Punta Cana 2018

Directorate G – Crisis management in food, animals and plants  
DG SANTE European Commission, Brussels



# Outline

- Overview of ASF situation in Europe
- Main initiatives of the EU on ASF
  
- Policy coordination in Europe through GFTAs Europe



# ASF in Europe

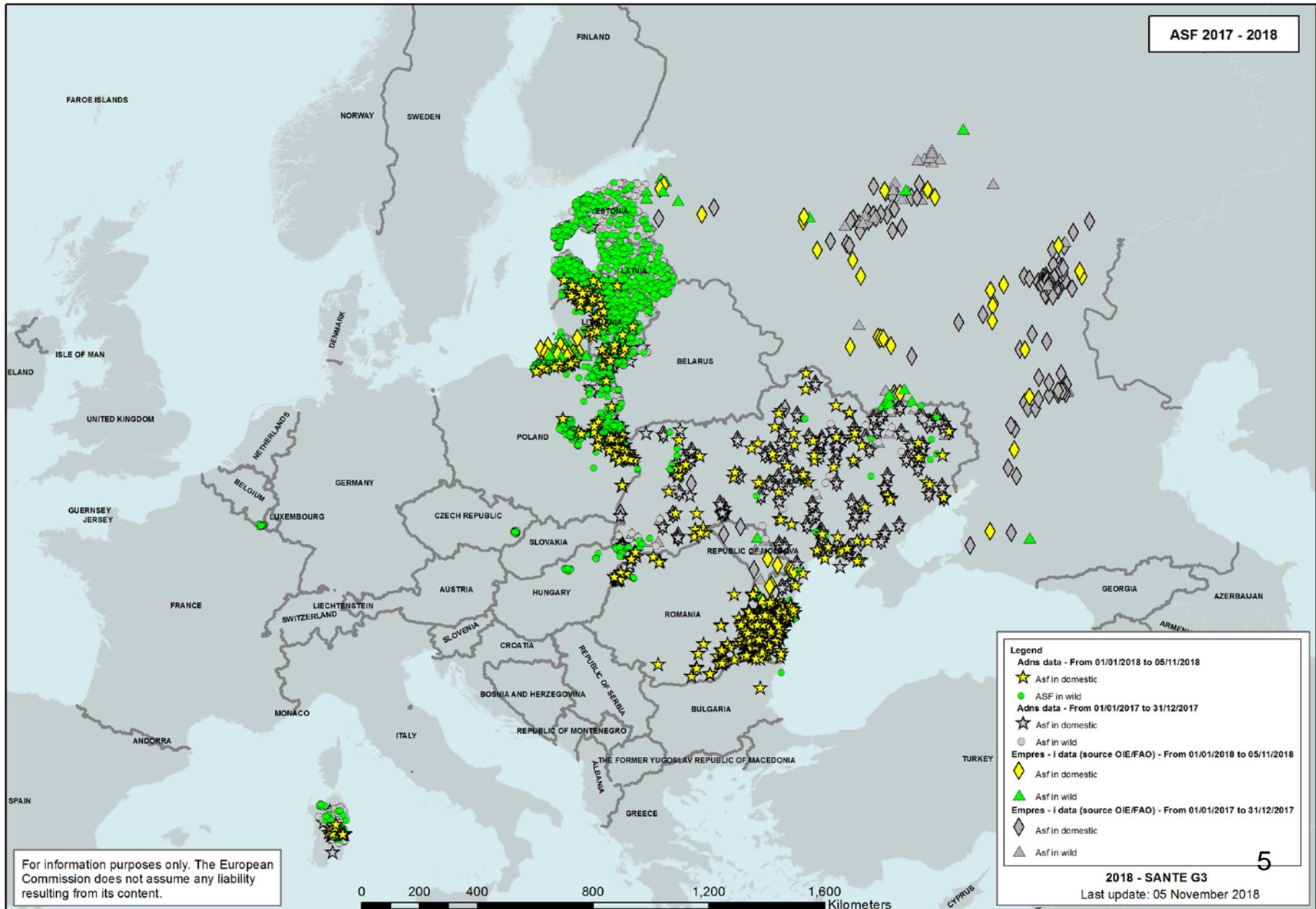
# ASF: 2007 - 2018

- ▲ / ♀ = Wild boar
- ◆ / ☆ = Domestic pigs



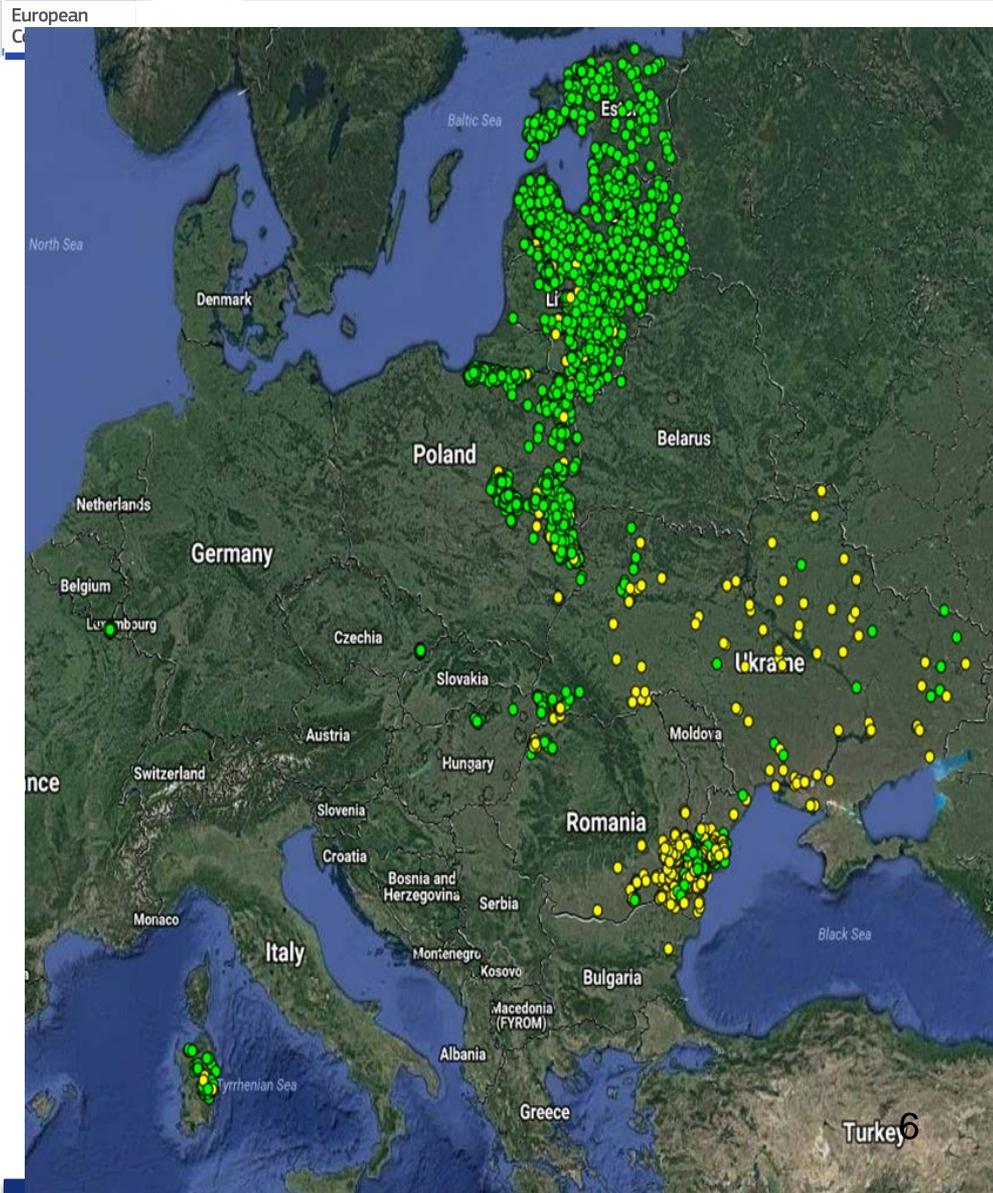
Sources: A DNS  
OIE-FAO

# Current situation of ASF in Europe: 2017-2018



# ASF in 2018: EU

ADNS DATA up to 04/11/2018	notification of cases in Wild Boar in 2018	Outbreaks in Domestic Pigs 2018
<b>POLAND</b>	<b>2068</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	<b>1306</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>LATVIA</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>ESTONIA</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>ROMANIA</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>1081</b>
<b>HUNGARY</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>BULGARIA</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>BELGIUM</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>ITALY</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4468</b>	<b>1262</b>



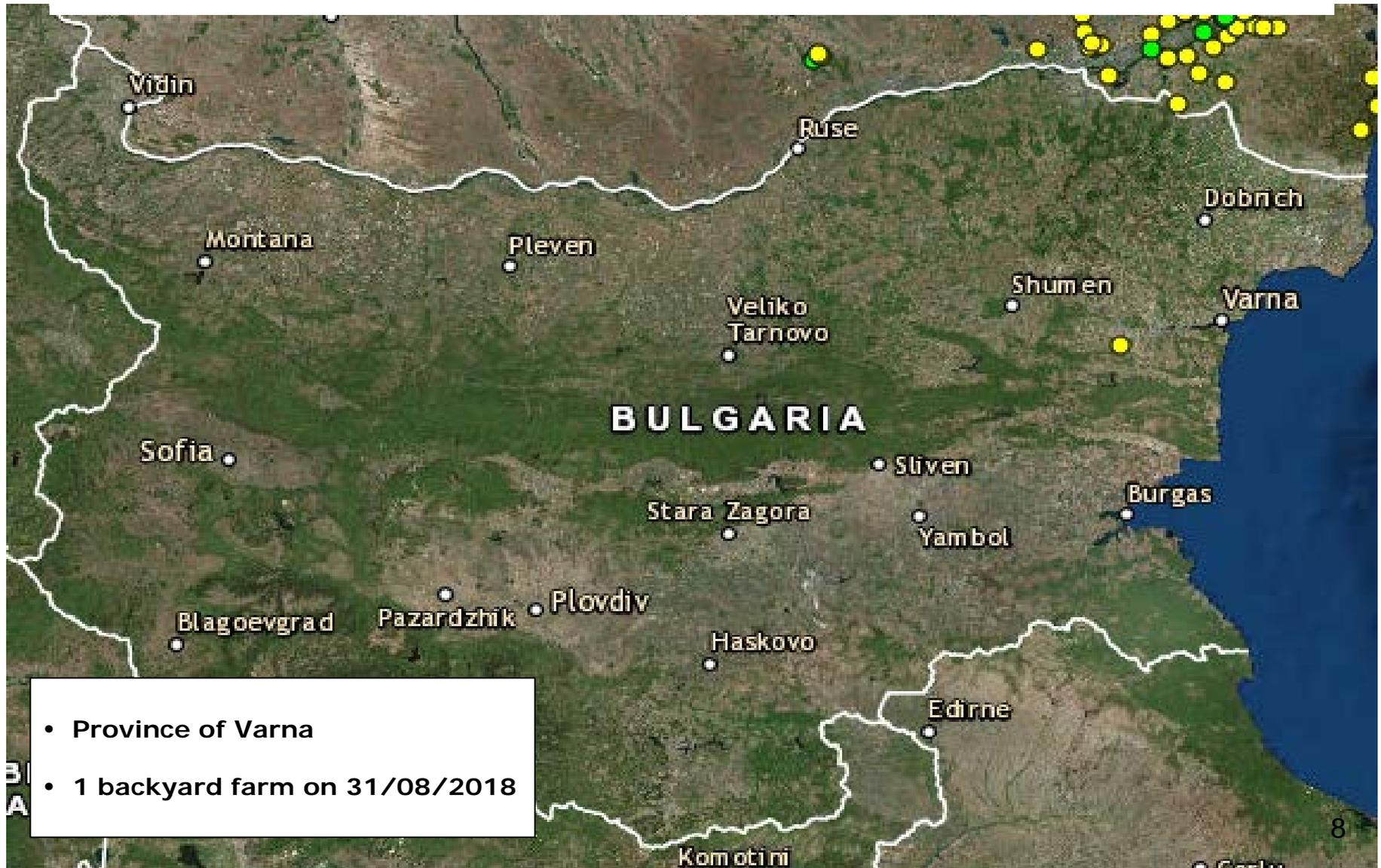
# A closer look to the last events

*Bulgaria*

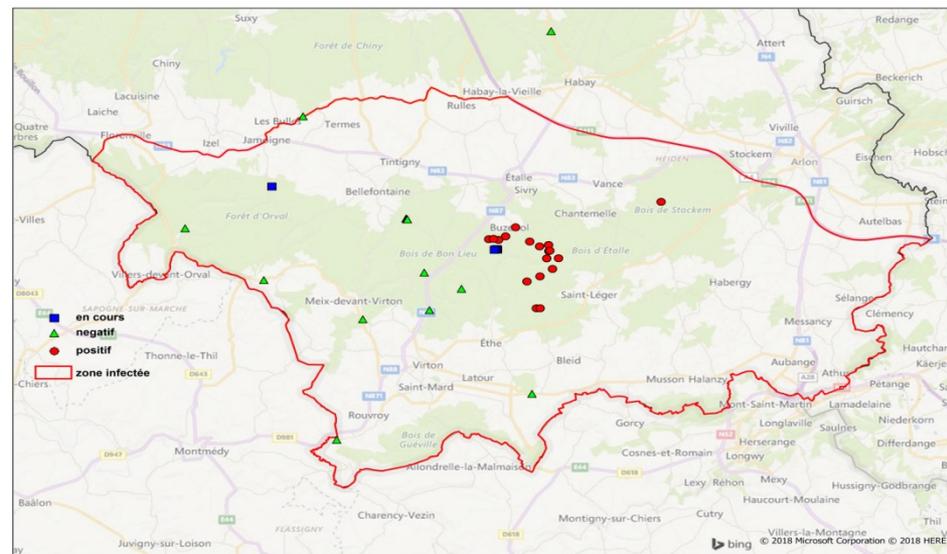
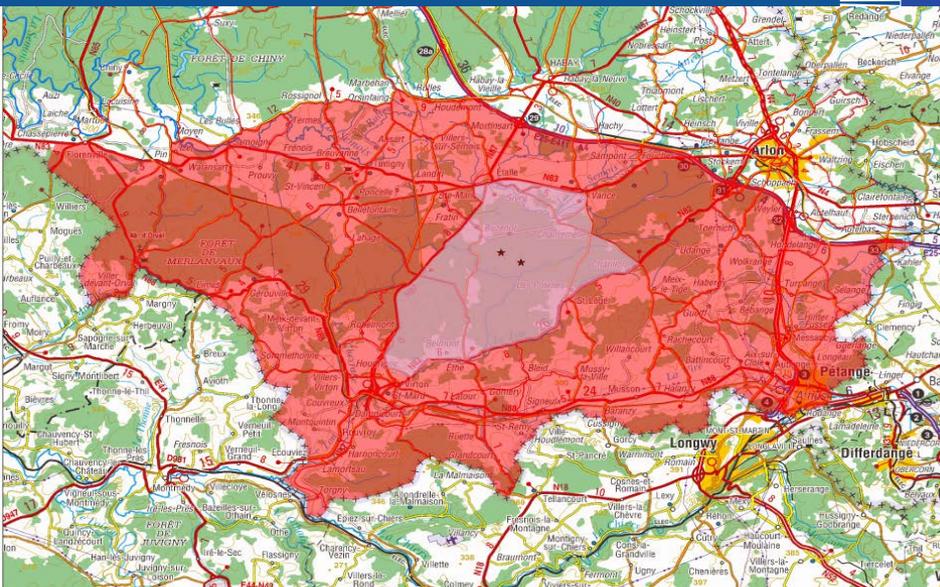
*Belgium*

*Romania*

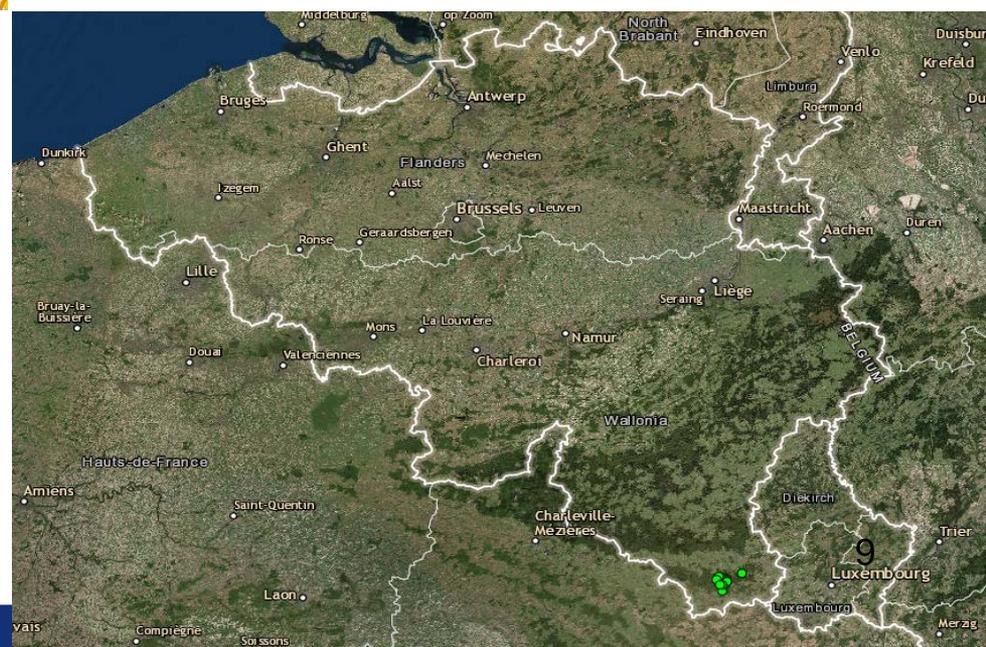
# ASF in backyard in Bulgaria: from 31/08/2018



# ASF in wildboar in Belgium: from 13/09/2018

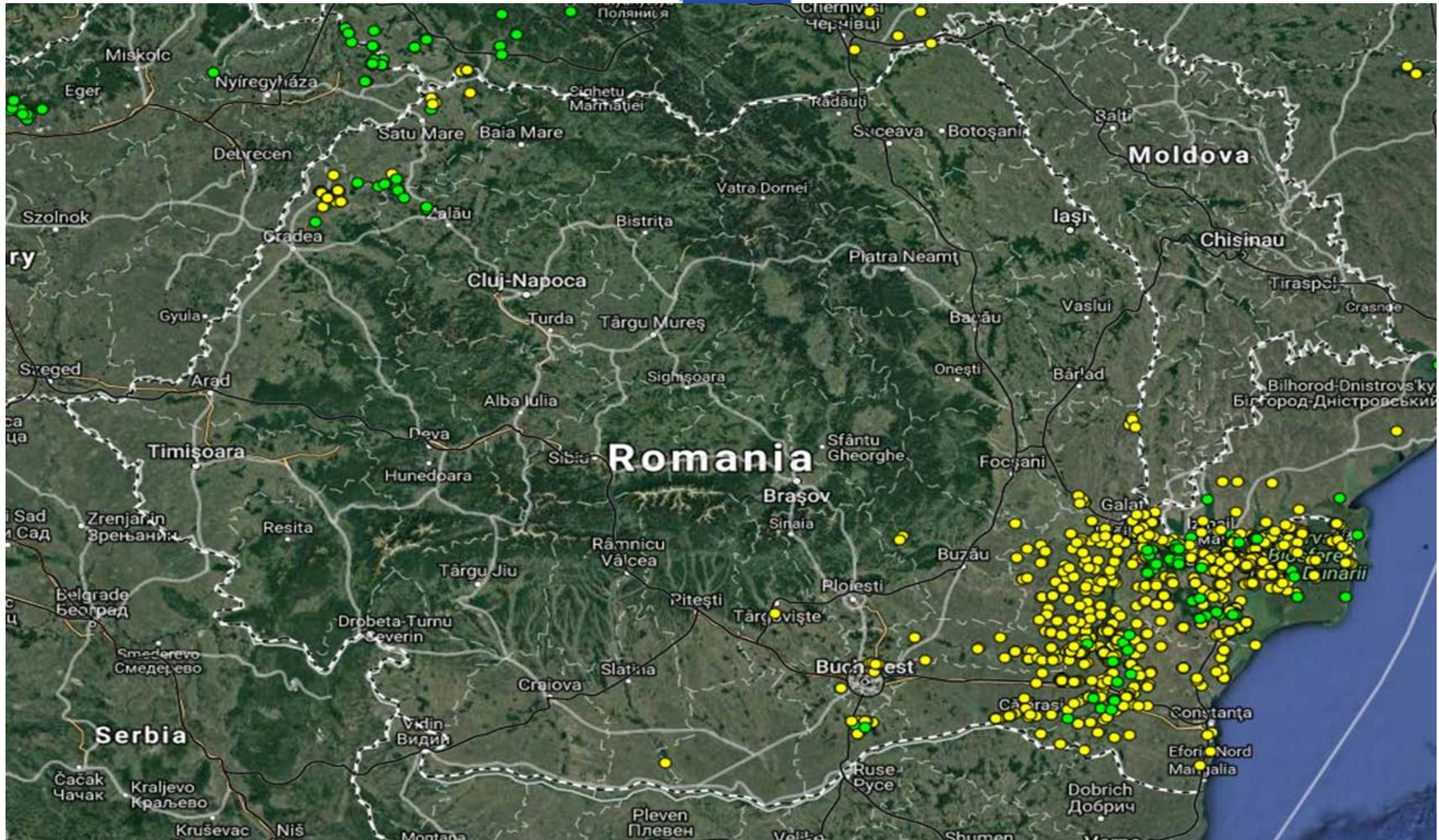


- **Etalle** region (Luxembourg province): ASF confirmed in 2 wild boar on 13/09/2018
- **2 EUVET** missions on the spot: 14-17/09/2018 and 11-12/10/2018
- Up to 05/11/2018 - **85 ADNS notifications** (159 wild boar)



# ASF spread in Romania: in 2018

European  
Commission



1081 outbreaks in domestic pigs & 89 cases in wild boar



# Main initiatives of the EU on ASF

Regionalization

Science (EFSA)

Urgent intervention (EUVET)

Audits

International cooperation (GFTADS)

Public awareness

Financial support

Further initiatives



# EU regionalization: ASF



# Regionalization in the EU context

- Regionalization is applied in the EU in line with OIE and as an integral element of the EU comprehensive strategy aimed at:
  - ensuring the **best possible disease control**
  - **minimize the negative impact of disease outbreaks on the EU single market (intra-EU trade) and on exports** (*without lowering the level of safety of the commodities that are traded/exported (SPS agreement principles)*)

# EU policy on animal disease regionalization

## Characteristics of EU regionalization

- Fulfilling of OIE standards
- Clear criteria to define infected/free- regions
- Measures to maintain/regain free-status of regions
- Surveillance in and outside the infected regions

## Key elements for successful EU regionalisation:

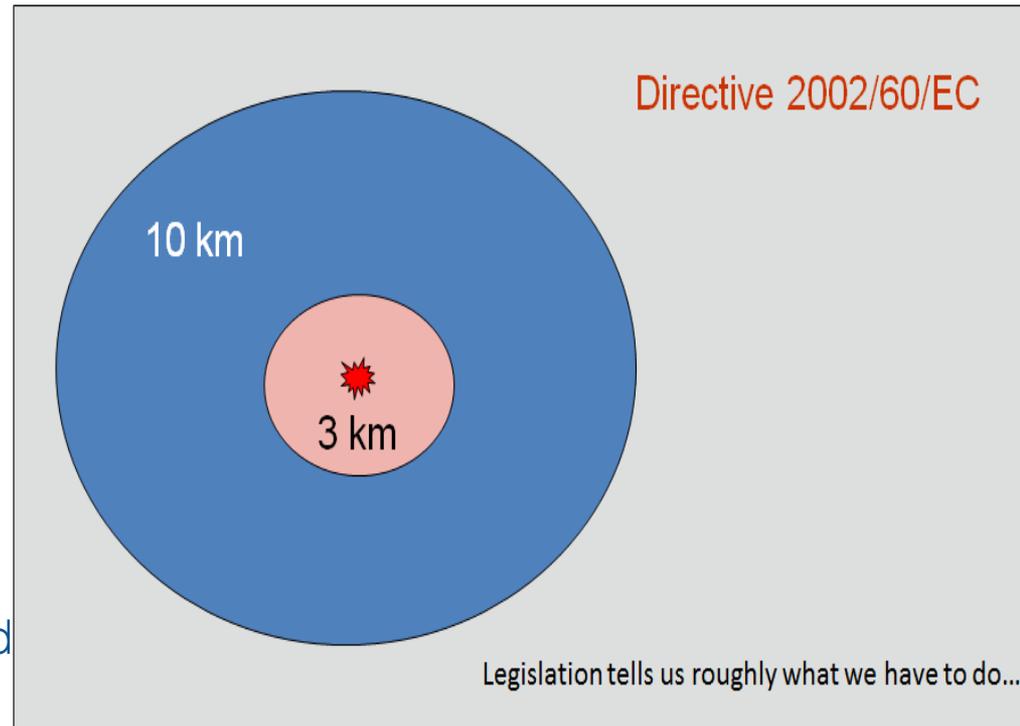
- Flexibility / predictability
- Transparency
- Risk based / proportionality
- Rapidity

## EU ASF regionalization

- When necessary: by European Commission
- Bigger areas can be restricted (e.g. based on administrative / geographical borders)
- Low risk commodities may be traded under certain additional health conditions (risk mitigation)
- Enhanced surveillance inside and outside the infected region (e.g. serological tests)

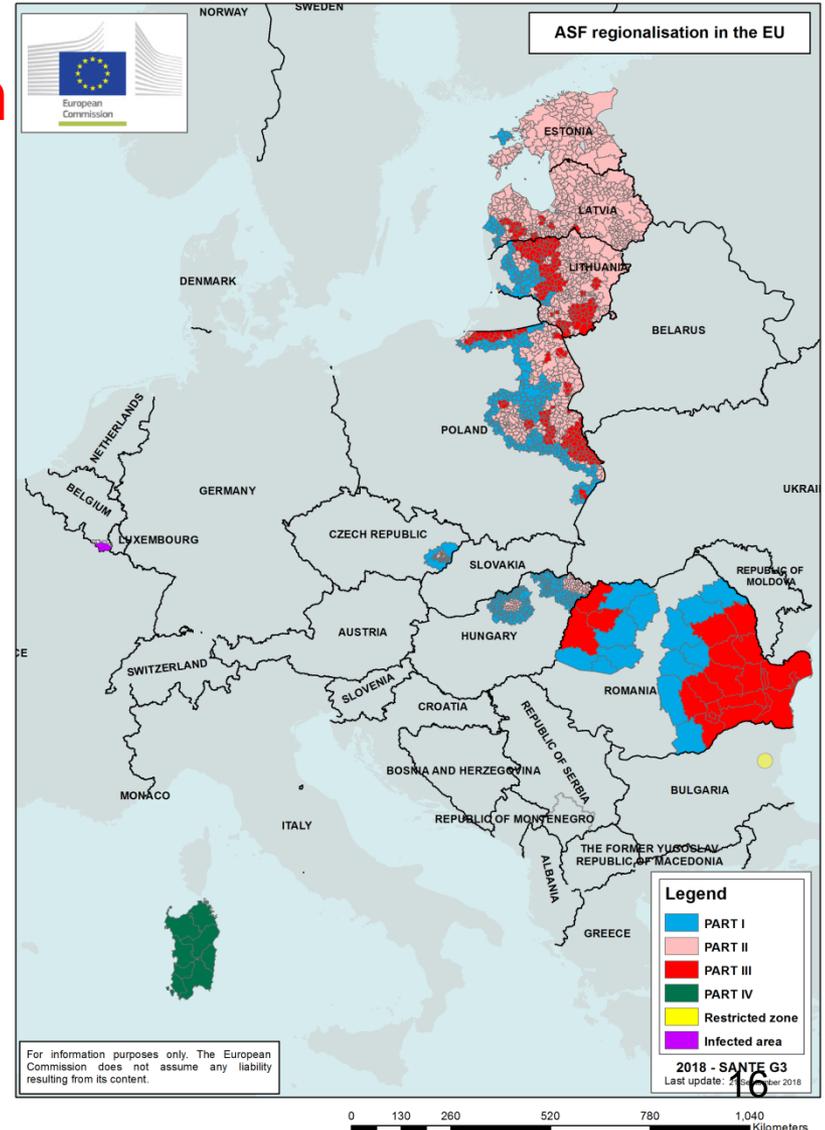
## Basic baseline

Outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs



# 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
- Next revision: November 2018



# How ASF regionalization actually works:

## *Criteria for lifting Part III*

- no ASF outbreak in pigs in an area during the past 12 months,  
or
- total depopulation of all non-commercial (low biosecurity) farms  
in an area: 3 months, if no other outbreaks,  
or
- in case of outbreak in free area (12 months with no outbreaks)  
3 months after the disinfection of infected holding (+ measures)

## *Criteria for lifting Part II*

- no ASF cases in wild boar during the past 12 months

## *Criteria for lifting and Part I*

- based on full consideration of the whole set of epidemiological  
data in a wider geographical and temporal context

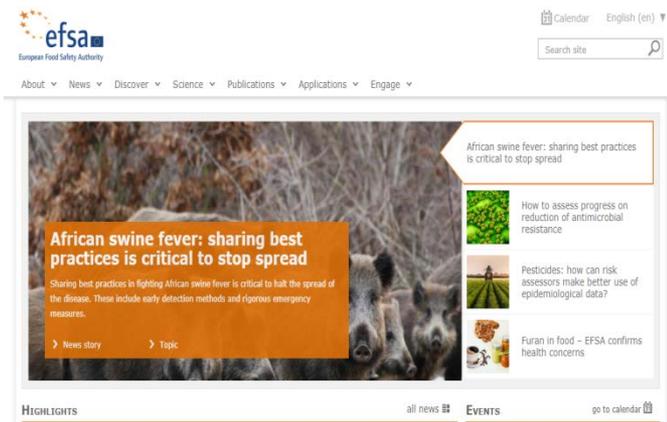


# Scientific advice on ASF



# OVERVIEW OF EFSA'S PAST ASSESSMENTS ON ASF

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



**efsa**  
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>

**efsa**  
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 REPORT**

EFSA Journal

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

**SCIENTIFIC OPINION**

EFSA Journal

ADOPTED: 23 June 2015  
doi:10.2903/j.efsa.2015.4165

**African swine fever**

EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW)

**SCIENTIFIC REPORT**

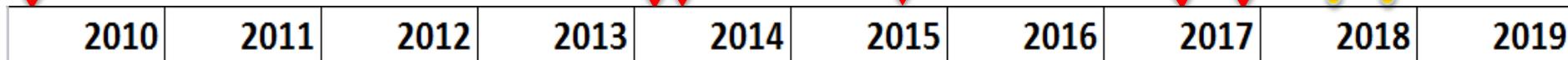
EFSA Journal

ADOPTED: 27 October 2017  
doi: 10.2903/j.efsa.2017.5088

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

(Update September 2016-September 2017)

Scientific opinion    Scientific report



## EFSA ON ASF – 2018-2019

- ***Scientific opinion (published in July 2018):***
  - Wild boar density and threshold for ASF transmission
  - Wild boar depopulation methods
  - Fencing methods
  - Surveillance strategy
  
- ***Epidemiological assessment***
  - Autumn 2018
  
- ***Future work 2019***
  - Risk of hay and straw
  - Research gaps





# Urgent intervention

# 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 (immediate therat)





# Audits



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

- Audits on **implementation of border controls** against ASF in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland done in 2013. In 2014 follow-up audits on implementation of border controls against ASF in Latvia and Estonia (**6 audits**).
- Audits carried out on **animal health preparedness and eradication (12 missions)**: in relation to ASF in Poland and Lithuania (2014), Estonia (2015), Latvia and Estonia (2016), Poland, Hungary, Lithuania, Slovakia and Romania (2017), fact finding mission to Moldova and audit in Czech Republic (2018).
- Two series of **fact finding mission (16 missions)**: carried out by the Commission in 2016 and in 2017 in Finland, Estonia Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia.
- **LAST AUDIT: Romania OCTOBER 2018**



# International cooperation



# 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**
- **10 Field visits** by GFTADs experts in Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, the Czech Republic and Romania.



# Public awareness

# Don't bring

Diseases such as African carried in pigmeat, which

# Public awareness (1)

[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 food 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**

In Europa is Afrikaanse varkenspest in opmars. Het moet worden voorkomen en tegengaan voor mensen, dieren en de natuur. Het kan worden voorkomen door afval af te voeren op de juiste manier.

Laat dus uw afval niet op straat of anderszins openbaar toegankelijk voor de mens, dieren of de natuur.

Voor meer informatie: [www.waarnemen.nl](http://www.waarnemen.nl)

**Wanneer!** **Achtung!** **Geen!**

**Achtung!**

Das Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft der Bundesrepublik Deutschland gibt hiermit bekannt, dass Wildschweine in Deutschland wieder häufiger vorkommen. Sie sind gefährlich für den Menschen und können Krankheiten übertragen. Bitte beachten Sie die folgenden Hinweise:

**Wichtig!** Lassen Sie keine Lebensmittelreste in Müllbehältern!

**Pozor!**

Spolkové ministerstvo pro výživu a zemědělství  
 Spolková republika Německo Informace:

Od afrického...  
 drve...  
 neb...  
 pro...  
 ob...

**efsa**  
 European Food Safety Authority

European Commission

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

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 употребление. Поэтому просим Вас выбрасывать остатки пищи только в закрытые мусорные контейнеры!

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



# Public awareness (2)

European  
Commission

## 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.

\*Other than those arriving with small quantities for personal consumption from:  
Andorra, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, San Marino and Switzerland

European  
Commission

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# Financial support



# EU Financial support

- EU Member States: in 2013-2018 support (**59.2M€ in total**) has been provided to prevent or eradicate the disease using two different tools: **emergency measures (10.9 M€)** and **eradication programmes (48.3 M€)**.
- Non EU countries:
  - For 2017: for **Ukraine: 225 000 EUR** allocated for surveillance and collection of dead wild boars; for **Moldova: 150 000 EUR** allocated to purchase of material to control the disease
  - For 2018: **345 000 EUR** for **Ukraine** - **121 000 EUR** for **Moldova** allocated for (i) testing; (ii) collection of wild boar carcasses; and (iii) awareness campaigns.



# Further initiatives



## Ongoing initiatives (2)

- **Cooperation between Ministers of Forestry and Environment and Ministers of Agriculture:**
  - a letter from Commissioners Mr. Andriukaitis and Mrs. Bulc was sent on 24/10/2018: request for increased cooperation
  - Informal ministerial meeting on ASF in Brussels on 19 December 2018, in the margins of the December AGRIFISH Council
- **Cooperation between Ministers of Transport and Ministers of Agriculture**
  - a letter from Commissioners Mr. Andriukaitis and Mr. Vella was sent to the Ministers of Agriculture and the Ministers of Environment of all the Member States on the 26/10/2018
  - Request for cooperation and awareness raising in the sector of long-distance road transport and along major highways
- **Common event on ASF with EU hunters organization (FACE) – January 2019, Dortmund at "Jagd&Hund" hunting exhibition**





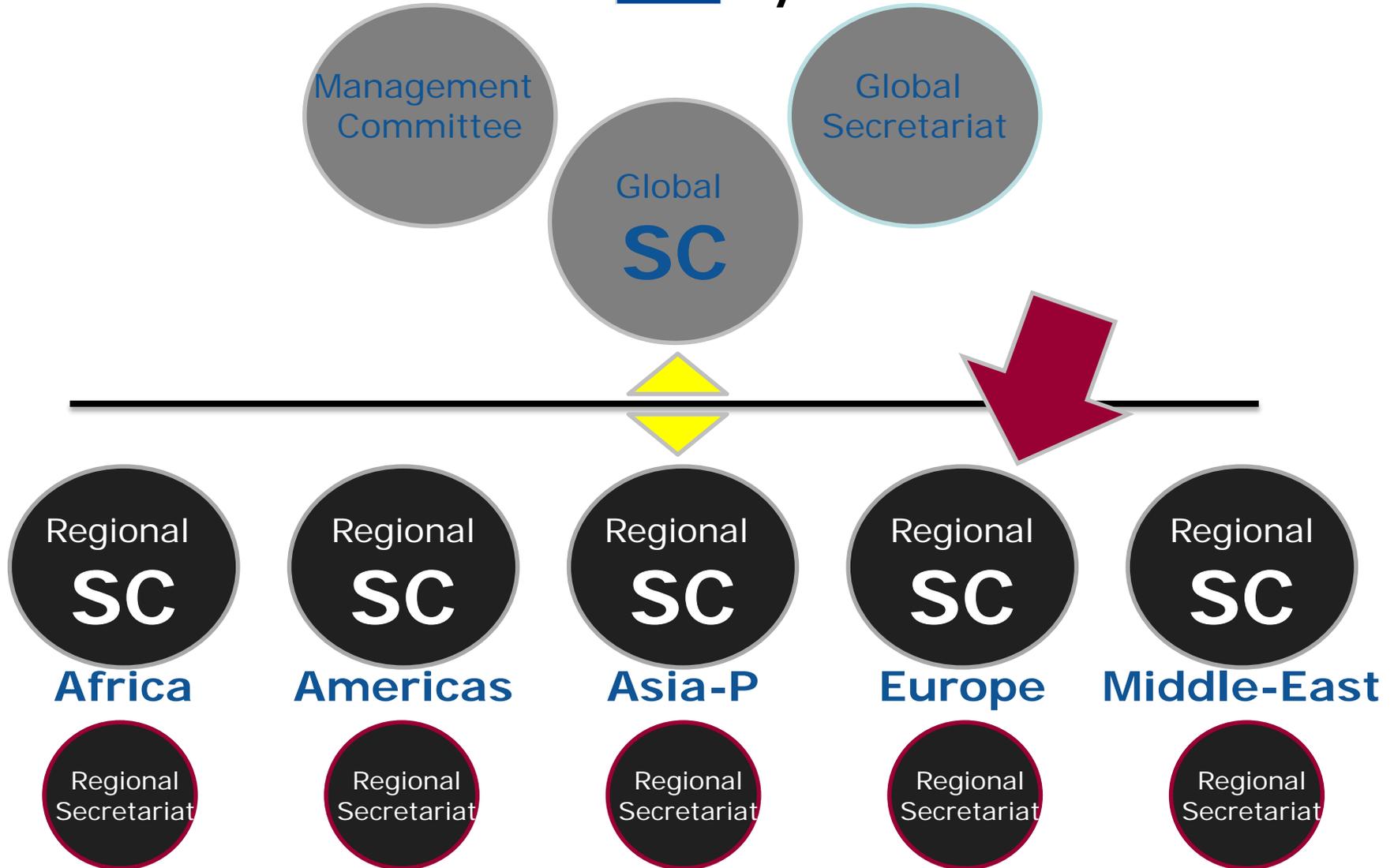


# Policy coordination in Europe through GFTAs Europe

European experience with Standing  
groups of Experts: ASF and LSD



# Introduction / Reminder





# Introduction / Reminder

*Regional governance → Regional **Steering Committee** of the GF-TADs for Europe*

## Composition

**President: B. Van Goethem (EC)**

Vicepresidents: E. Nepoklonov (RF),  
U. Herzog (AT)

Members:

- OIE – FAO - WHO
- Countries (4): RF – KZ – AT - BE
- Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (4)
- Regional Specialised Organisations: EC - EuFMD – REMESA
- Donors (EU, France, Italy, etc)
- Observers (ad hoc)



## Meetings

- RSC1 (Paris, October 2005)
- RSC2 (Paris, December 2007)
- RSC3 (Brussels, February 2010)
- RSC4 (Brussels, January 2012)
- RSC5 (Brussels, October 2013)
- RSC6 (Brussels, September 2015)
- RSC7 (Brussels, October 2017)
- RSC 8 (Brussels, October 2018)

# GFTADs Europa

## *Priorities:*

*7 diseases: FMD – ASF – CSF – HPAI – PPR – Brucellosis – Rabies + LSD (added in 2015)*

## *Main activities:*

- the **FMD** Roadmap for West Eurasia
- the **PPR** Roadmap for West Eurasia
- The Standing Group of Experts for **ASF** and **LSD**



# Standing Group of Experts on **ASF**

Baltic and Eastern Europe region (9 countries)

SGE ASF  
Launching

26<sup>th</sup> OIE Conf.  
Europe (Bern,  
Sept 2014)

*Presidency  
and  
Secretariat*

*Affected and  
at-risk  
countries*

2-Year  
anniversary

27<sup>th</sup> OIE Conf.  
Europe (Lisbon,  
Sept 2016)

We are  
here!

**Kick-Off**

**ASF1**  
(Dec 2014)

**ASF2**  
(Feb 2015)

**ASF3**  
(Mar 2016)

**ASF4**  
(May 2016)

**ASF5**  
(Sept 2016)

**ASF6**  
(Nov 2016)

**ASF7**  
(May 2017-  
2018)





# Activities of the Standing Group of Experts on **ASF**

## Technical guidance based on science provided

**Technical meetings with renowned experts (5), key recommendations on:**

- Wild boar (ASF1, Dec 2014, Minsk)
- Biosecurity (ASF2, Feb 2015, Tallinn)
- Control measures (ASF3, March 2016, Moscow)
- Stamping out procedures; carcass disposal and disinfection (ASF6, Nov 2016, Vilnius)
- ASF risk communication, laboratory diagnostics/capability (ASF8, Sept 2017, Chisinau)
- Cross border cooperation, legal and irregular movements of pigs/ products (ASF9, March 2018, Kiev)
- Wild boar (Warsaw, Poland, on 24-25 September 2018)

## Country situation and control measures assessed

**8 country assessment missions** by renowned experts (5)



## Trust among countries in the sub-region increased

**6 coordination meetings**



## Prevention and control capacity of countries (to be) improved

**Capacity building programme** under development (BTSF workshops)



# Example of recommendations from the Standing Group of Experts on **ASF**

## **Tallinn, Estonia, 11 – 12 February 2015 (BIOSECURITY)**

Backyard holdings with low bio-security in place are currently playing an important role in the spread of ASF. Given the economic relevance of these holdings in certain areas, the control and **biosecurity measures to be applied in such production systems** need to be carefully evaluated

## **Moscow, Russia, 15-16 March 2016 (SURVEILLANCE)**

**Passive surveillance** is clearly the most effective way of detecting the presence of the disease and has a key role in early detection of ASF. Incentives or obstacles to reporting be explored and **awareness campaigns** be carried out to motivate and promote disease notification



# Activities of the Standing Group of Experts on **LSD**

New initiative building on the positive SGE experience for ASF

South East Europe(19 countries)

*Countries with an institutional role*

*Presidency and Secretariat*

*Affected and at-risk countries*

We are here!

SGE LSD  
Launching

SGE LSD1,  
Brussels, 4-5  
July 2016)





# Activities of the Standing Group of Experts on **LSD**

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## Country situation shared

LSD1, LSD2, LSD3: country presentations

## Technical guidance provided and recommendations adopted

First technical meeting (LSD1, Brussels, July 2016) with renowned experts (3):

- Epidemiology, prevention and control measures
- Country experience sharing (Israel)

Second technical meeting (LSD2, Lisbon, Sept 2016) with renowned experts (3)

- Country presentations (updates)
- Decision for vaccination data collection (2016; 2017) to elaborate a regional control strategy

Third technical meeting (LSD3, Istanbul, Dec 2016) with renowned experts (3)

- Country presentations (updates)
- Regional vaccination strategy: **general principles agreed**
- Support from EC reiterated



# Example of recommendations from the Standing Group of Experts on **LSD**

## Brussels, Belgium, 4-5 July 2016 (VACCINATION)

Vaccination be conducted in affected and at risk countries or zones taking into account the following indications:

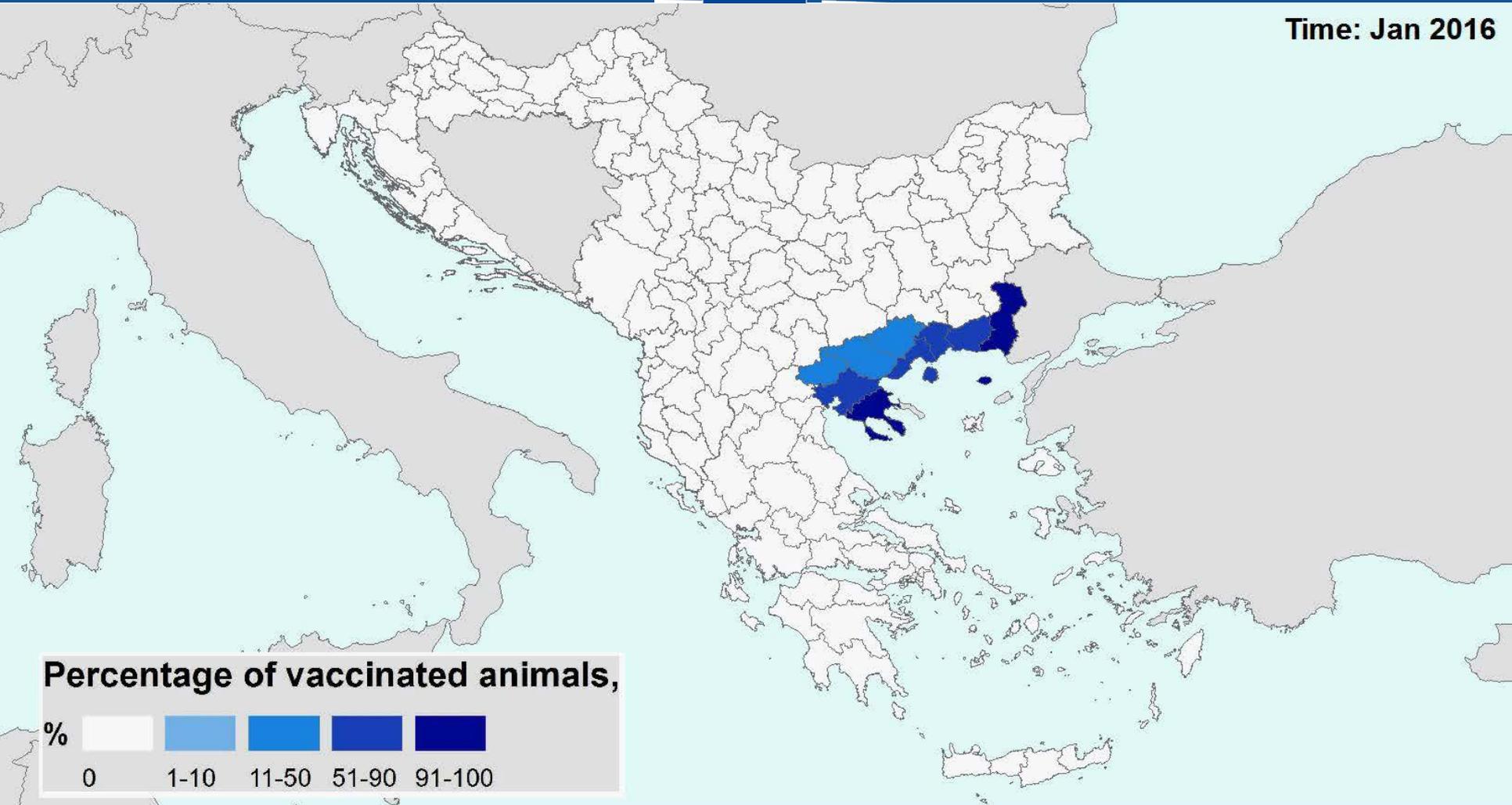
- the seasonality of the disease ;
- in a sufficiently large area (for example at least 50 km radius from an outbreak, including in the case of an outbreak occurring in a neighbouring country, taking into account the epidemiological circumstances);
- using preferably live homologous vaccines; possible future use of inactivated vaccines be explored when available;
- considering the production systems in the country (large commercial farms versus backyard systems) and the likelihood of having the most and fastest impact;
- with strong considerations for logistics aspects;
- ensuring very high and homogeneous vaccine coverage (minimum 90%);

## Istanbul, Turkey, 12-13 December 2016

LSD vaccination campaigns in 2017 (including annual booster) should ensure immunisation of all cattle (at least 95% of herds representing at least 80% of cattle population protected);



Time: Jan 2016



## More information (dedicated webpages):

**oie**  
World Organisation for Animal Health

Regional Web Site for Europe



**Standing Group of Experts on Lumpy Skin Disease in South-East Europe**  
under the GF-TADS umbrella

**Presentation / objectives**

Lumpy Skin Disease is a growing concern in Europe, due to the recent spread in Israel (2012), Turkey (2013), Azerbaijan (July 2014), Russia (July 2015), Greece (August 2015) and further spread into the Balkans in the course of 2016 (Bulgaria; FYROM; Serbia; Kosovo\*).

A new initiative called **Standing Group of Experts on Lumpy Skin Disease in South East Europe** (hereafter referred as 'SGE LSD') was launched on 4-5 July 2016 under the GF-TADS umbrella to build up a closer cooperation among countries affected by Lumpy Skin disease (LSD) and thereby, address the disease in a more collaborative and harmonised manner across the region. It is a unique opportunity to engage affected countries into a fruitful regional dialogue and increased transparency. The GF-TADS offers the ideal framework to discuss common / harmonized mitigation measures based on scientific and technical grounds. LSD was discussed during the 6th meeting of the GF-TADS for Europe Steering Committee (RSC6).

The Standing Group of Expertson LSD builds on the successful experience of a similar mechanism for African swine fever in the

http://www.m-europe.oie.int/  
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World Organisation for Animal Health  
Illustrations provided by Pasteur Museum  
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Editorial Director: Dr Belev

**oie**  
World Organisation for Animal Health

Regional Web Site for Europe



**Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever in the Baltic and Eastern Europe region**  
under the GF-TADS umbrella

**Presentation / objectives**

A new initiative called **Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever in the Baltic and Eastern Europe region** (hereafter referred as 'SGE ASF') was set up under the GF-TADS umbrella to build up a closer cooperation among countries affected by African swine fever (ASF) and thereby, address the disease in a more collaborative and harmonised manner across the Baltic and Eastern Europe sub-region.

The Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever in the Baltic and Eastern Europe region is a unique opportunity to engage affected countries into a fruitful regional dialogue and increased transparency. The GF-TADS offers the ideal framework to discuss common / harmonized mitigation measures based on scientific and technical grounds only.

**Members:**

countries: BY, EE, LT, LV, PL, SI, UA

http://www.m-europe.oie.int/  
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Illustrations provided by Pasteur Museum  
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Editorial Director: Dr Belev



# 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)