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AFRICAN SWINE FEVER UPDATE

National Disease Control Centre
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Greece reports its first case of African swine fever in wild boar, whilst the Czech Republic has confirmed its first case in wild boar in 4 years

- On 20 January 2023, **Greece** confirmed a case of **African swine fever (ASF)** in a wild boar in the region of Sintiki, near the country's border with Bulgaria
- Although the origin of the infection remains unknown, the neighbouring countries of Bulgaria and North Macedonia have continued to report cases of ASF in wild boar in recent weeks
- Prior to this confirmed case in wild boar, the most recent outbreak of ASF in Greece was confirmed on 5 February 2020, in a backyard holding keeping 32 pigs
- Czech Republic confirmed a case of ASF in a wild boar on 2 December 2022. Prior to this, the most recent case of ASF confirmed in a wild boar in the Czech Republic was on 19 April 2018. The ASF positive wild boar was located close to the country's border with Poland
- Czech Republic was one of only 2 countries, together with Belgium to have eradicated ASF from the wild boar population
- **Infected wild boar** play an important role in the **spread of ASF**
- Humans can also transmit ASF to pigs through feeding of **food waste** contaminated with ASF to pigs, or by bringing **clothing, footwear, vehicles** and **equipment contaminated with ASF** onto a pig farm
- There has been no movement of live pigs into Ireland from Greece or the Czech Republic in the past six months



Figure 1: Location of African swine fever case in Sintiki, Greece. This is the first outbreak in wild boar in Greece (Source: Animal Disease Information System (ADIS))

Figure 2: Location of African swine fever case confirmed on 2 December 2022 in Czech Republic, near the country's border with Poland. This is the first outbreak in wild boar in the country in nearly 4 years (Source: Animal Disease Information System (ADIS))



Diseases don't respect borders

Risk to Ireland

- **ASF continues to be reported in certain areas** including parts of mainland Italy and north-east Germany as well as spreading into new areas in the Czech Republic and mainland Greece
- **Humans** can play an important role in **spreading ASF** to new regions
- **Travellers coming back from ASF affected regions** must be **vigilant** to avoid inadvertently bringing back to Ireland ASF contaminated meat, meat products, clothing, footwear, vehicles, equipment, etc.
- **Food waste infected with the ASF virus** being consumed by pigs represents the **most significant risk pathway** for a disease incursion into Ireland

- Other risk factors **include clothing, footwear, vehicles and equipment contaminated** with the ASF virus
- **Wild boar and feral pigs** play an important role in the spread of the disease worldwide
- Ireland does not have a sustainable wild boar or feral pig population
- EU legislation (Article 15 of Commission Delegated Regulation 2021/605) prohibits the trade of wild boar between EU Member States and implements control measures on the movement of live pigs within ASF affected areas of the EU which is a risk factor for the introduction of the disease

Advice for Travellers

- The **ASF virus can survive for several months** in pork and pork products such as sausages, cured meats, smoked meats (meat/meat products can also carry other animal diseases such as Foot & Mouth Disease)
- **Do not bring meat products into Ireland** from outside the EU, and never bring home pork or pork products if travelling abroad to regions affected by ASF
- **Do not bring meat or meat products onto Irish pig farms**
- Always use a **secure bin to dispose of waste food**, so that it cannot be accessed by farm animals, wild animals, or wild birds

Advice for hunters

- **Hunters** who travel to ASF affected countries should take measures to ensure that they do not bring ASF into Ireland
- Do not bring back untreated **hunting trophies or souvenirs** of wild boar or feral pigs into Ireland
- **Do not bring pork or pork products onto Irish farms** where they may accidentally be eaten by pigs, e.g., ham sandwiches, salami, cured meat etc.
- **Clean and disinfect equipment**, clothing and shoes used during hunting in ASF affected regions:
 - Remove all traces of dirt and visible contamination prior to washing and disinfecting
 - Clothing should be washed at a high temperature (+60°C for a minimum of 30 minutes)
 - All footwear and equipment should be cleaned and treated with a disinfectant in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, e.g., Virkon S, 2% Sodium hypochlorite.

- If hunting with **dogs**:
 - Wash the dog to ensure that the coat is clean
 - Wash and disinfect equipment using an approved disinfectant according to the manufacturer's instructions, e.g., collars, leads, jackets, dog trailer etc.
- Upon your return to Ireland **avoid contact with pigs and pig farms for 72 hours** upon where applicable.

Advice for Pig Owners



NEVER FEED FOOD WASTE TO PIGS

- **Food waste (swill) including kitchen waste and catering waste must be disposed of carefully** away from livestock. Bins must be located in a secure location and sealed to ensure that vermin, birds or other animals do not carry food waste into areas where pigs are kept
- Pig owners in Ireland are advised to implement **biosecurity measures** to mitigate the risk of an outbreak of the disease in this country such as establishing disinfectant points and implementing a **pig-free period of 72 hours for anyone coming from an ASF affected region** to prevent the risk of contaminated clothing, footwear, vehicles or equipment coming into contact with pigs
- **Vigilance for any unexplained disease patterns** or unusual presentations of disease should be maintained. Any suspicions of ASF must be reported to your [Regional Veterinary Office](#) during normal office hours or the National Disease Emergency Hotline at 01 4928026 (outside of normal office hours) without delay
- A dedicated page of useful information including clinical signs of ASF and biosecurity information is available at www.gov.ie/asf

Further information on the current situation in Europe

- Since ASF first entered Lithuania in 2014, a total of 13 EU Member States have been affected by the disease
- Czech Republic and Belgium are the only two Member States who have successfully eradicated ASF from the wild boar population, although on 2 December 2022 Czech Republic reported the first confirmed case of ASF in wild boar in the country in almost 4 years. A further two cases in wild boar have been confirmed in Czech Republic in 2023 (up to 23.01.2023)

- In 2022, 537 ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs and 7442 ASF events in wild boar were confirmed by **10 EU Member States** and **several other Eastern European countries** to the European Commission's Animal Disease Information System (Table 1)
- In 2022, the EU Member States of **Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia** have reported ASF. It has also been reported in **Moldova, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine**
- During 2021, 1874 ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs and 12,147 ASF events involving wild boar were reported by 10 EU Member States (Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Italy (Sardinia), Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia) and other Eastern European countries (Moldova, Ukraine and Serbia) to the European Commission's Animal Disease Information System (ADIS)
- The EU has legislation in place to prevent the spread of ASF within and between Member States through the implementation of control measures on the movement of pigs and pig products and prohibits the movement of wild boar between Member States (Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605). Zoning measures in place to control the spread of ASF in the EU can be found in Figure 3
- ASF outbreaks in the EU must be reported to the European Commission. Member States must implement control measures for outbreaks in domestic pigs to prevent further spread, as per Commission Delegated Regulation 2020/687

Figure 3. Map summarising ASF zoning measures in the EU (Source: [European Commission](#))

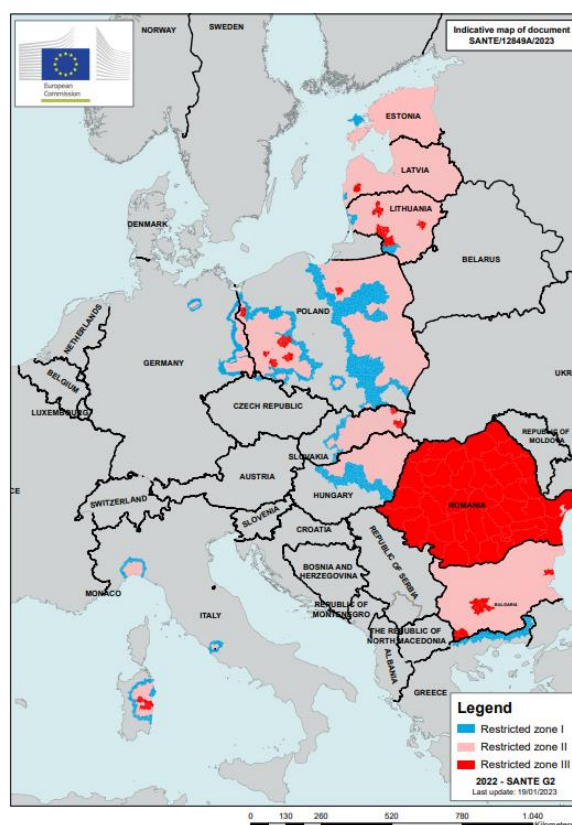


Table 1. African swine fever outbreaks and cases confirmed in Europe during 2022 (Source: ADIS)

Country	Swine	Wild boar	Total
Bulgaria	2	387	389
Czech Republic		1	1
Estonia		57	57
Germany	3	1628	1631
Hungary		550	550
Italy	4	277	281
Latvia	6	913	919
Lithuania	16	302	318
Moldova	14	3	17
North Macedonia	30	9	39
Poland	14	2152	2166
Romania	329	465	794
Serbia	107	146	253
Slovakia	5	550	555
Ukraine	7	2	9
Total	537	7442	7979

Table 2. African swine fever outbreaks and cases confirmed in Europe during 2023 (up to 23 January 2023) (Source: ADIS)

Country	Swine	Wild boar	Total
Bulgaria		67	67
Czech Republic		2	2
Estonia		5	5
Germany		63	63
Hungary		45	45
Italy		20	20
Latvia		20	20
Lithuania		13	13
Moldova	2		2
Poland		152	152
Romania	23	27	50
Slovakia		55	55
Total	25	469	494

Current Situation - Worldwide

- Since 2005, 74 countries reported ASF
- Since January 2020, ASF has been reported in five different world regions in 45 countries; ten of these countries reported ASF for the first time and 13 countries reported spread of ASF to new regions (Source: [WOAH](#)). The global distribution of reports of ASF can be found in Figure 4

Americas

- ASF was confirmed during 2021 in both the Dominican Republic and in Haiti, which share a land border. It is understood that cases of ASF are still occurring on the island.
- This was the first confirmation of ASF in the Americas since an outbreak in Haiti in 1982

Fig. 4. Global distribution of ASF since 2020 (Source [WOAH](#)).



Asia & Pacific

- Since ASF first entered China in August 2018, ASF has been confirmed in a total of 16 countries: China, Mongolia, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, The Philippines, Republic of Korea, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, India, Malaysia, Bhutan, Thailand, Nepal. (Figure 3).
- In 2022, Thailand and Nepal reported their first cases of ASF. In May, Hong Kong reported a recurrence of ASF
- More than 60% of the world's domestic pig population is located in East and Southeast Asia.

Further Information

Further biosecurity advice, ASF videos, posters and disease updates can be found at:

www.gov.ie/asf

[African swine fever \(europa.eu\)](http://african swine fever (europa.eu))

[World Organisation for Animal Health \(formerly OIE\)](http://World Organisation for Animal Health (formerly OIE))

European Food Safety Authority

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