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AFRICAN SWINE FEVER UPDATE

National Disease Control Centre
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Greece reports first outbreak of African swine fever in domestic pigs since 2020

- On 25 April 2023, **Greece** confirmed an outbreak of **African swine fever (ASF)** in a domestic pig holding in the region of Sintiki near the country's border with Bulgaria and North Macedonia (Fig. 1)
- This is the first outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs in Greece since 2020. In January 2023, Greece confirmed its first case of ASF in wild boar
- **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 in the past six months



Fig. 1. Location of African swine fever outbreak in Sintiki, Greece. This is the first outbreak in domestic pigs in Greece since 2020 (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 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
- During 2023 (up to 4th May), 12 EU Member States have reported ASF. Details of ASF events can be found in Fig. 2 and Table 1
- In 2022, 537 ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs and 7,442 ASF events in wild boar were reported by **11 EU Member States** (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia) and **several other Eastern European countries** (Moldova, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine) to the European Commission's Animal Disease Information System
- 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



Fig 2. Location of ASF cases in wild boar (red) and outbreaks in domestic pigs (blue) in EU Member States and other European countries in 2023 (up to 4th May) (Source: ADIS).

African Swine Fever cases and outbreaks in EU Member States and other European Countries reporting to ADIS during 2023			
Country	Domestic pigs	Wild boar	Total
Poland	1	1321	1322
Germany	1	569	570
Italy	1	432	433
Slovakia		363	363
Romania	67	184	251
Hungary		209	209
Serbia	56	152	208
Latvia		143	143
Lithuania		122	122
Bulgaria		90	90
Estonia		20	20
Moldova	14	6	20
Czech Republic		13	13
North Macedonia		11	11
Ukraine	2	3	5
Greece	1	2	3
Total	143	3640	3783

Table 1. African swine fever outbreaks and cases confirmed in Europe during 2023 (up to 4 May 2023) (Source: ADIS)

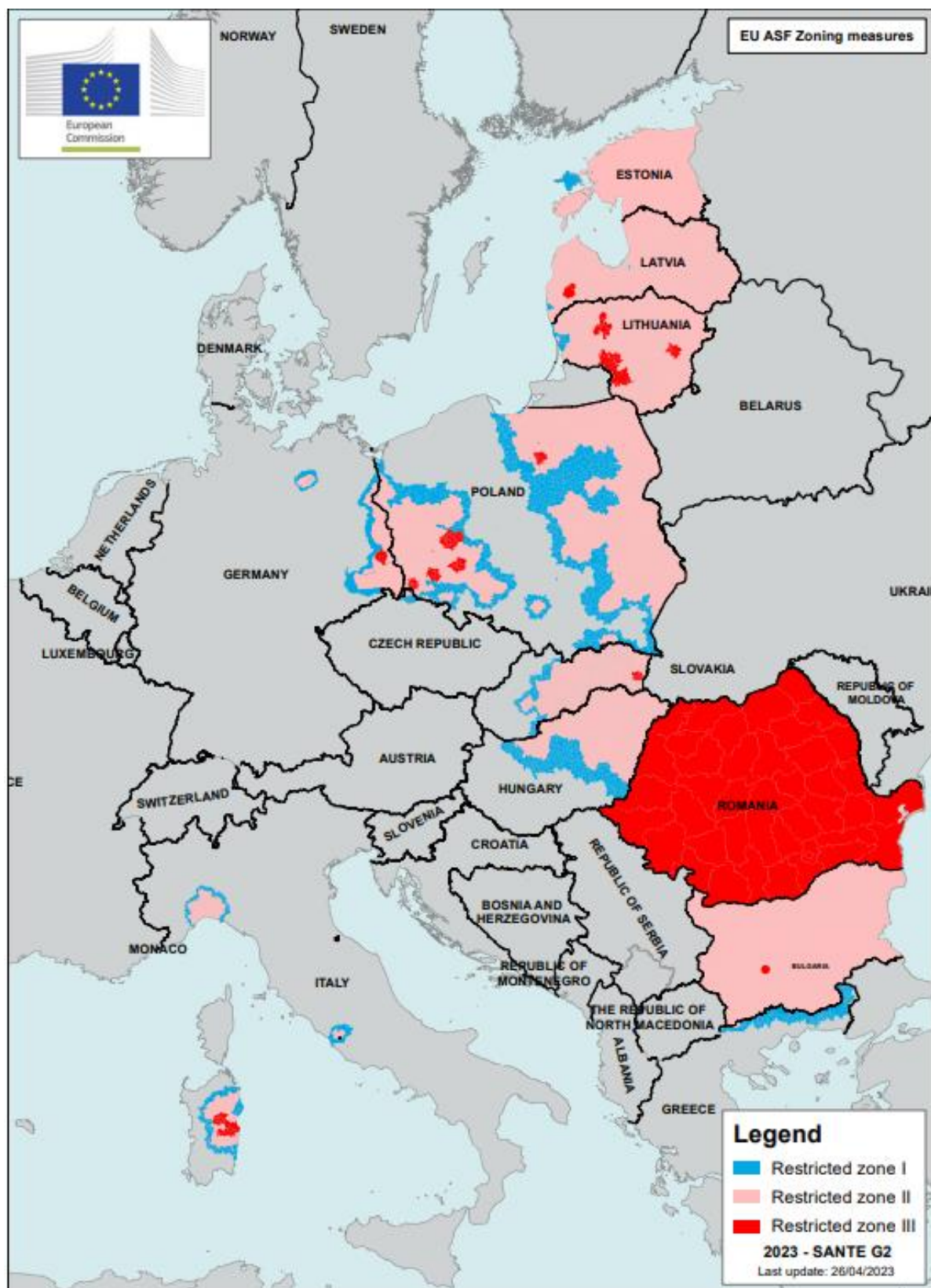


Figure 3. Map summarising ASF zoning measures in the EU (Source: [European Commission](#)).

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

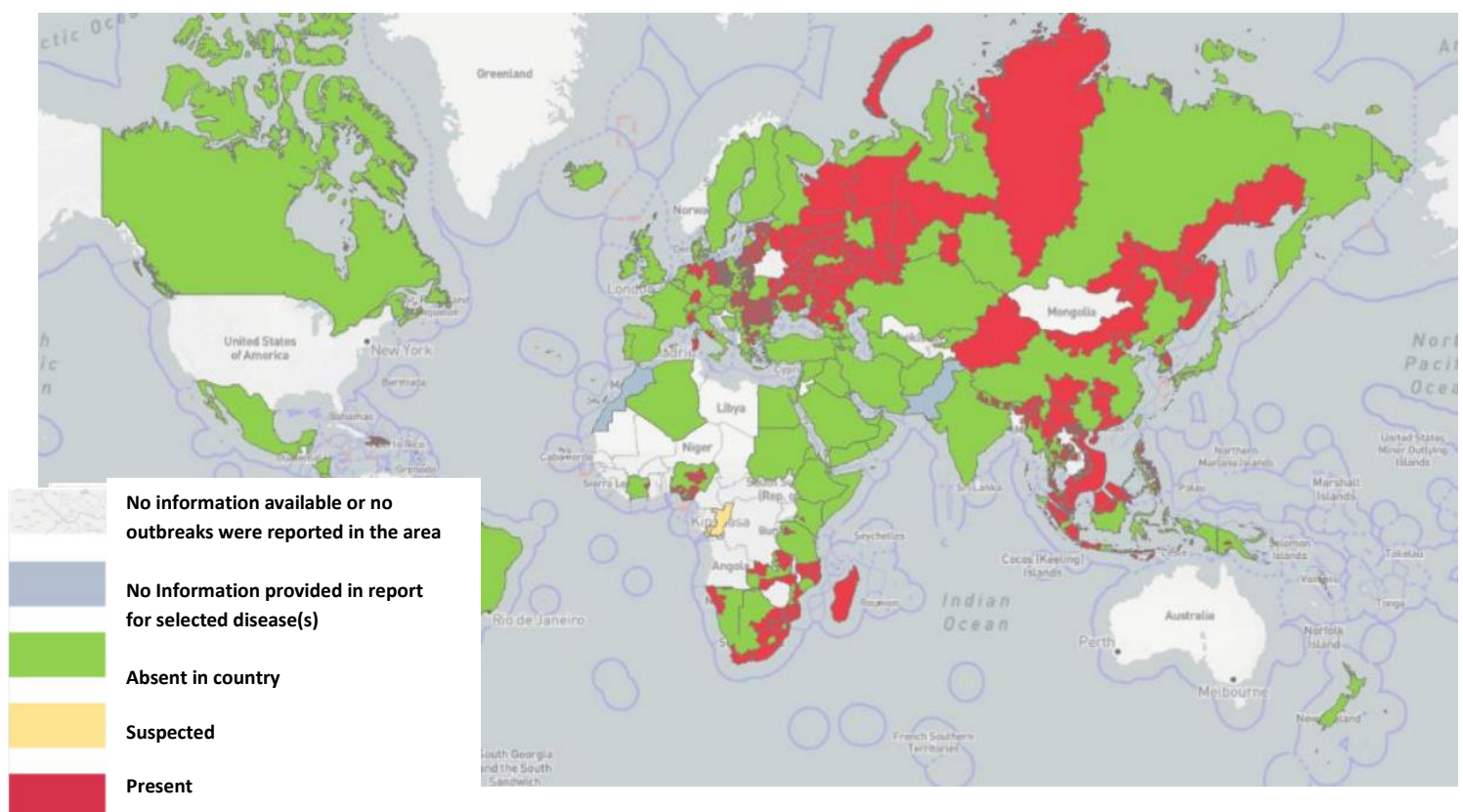


Fig. 4. Global distribution of ASF since 2021 (Source [WOAH](#)).

Asia & Pacific

- Since ASF first entered China in August 2018, ASF has been confirmed in a total of 16 countries in East and Southeast Asia: 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, Singapore (Fig. 5)
- In February 2023, Singapore reported its first case of ASF in a wild boar
- More than 60% of the world's domestic pig population is located in East and Southeast Asia.

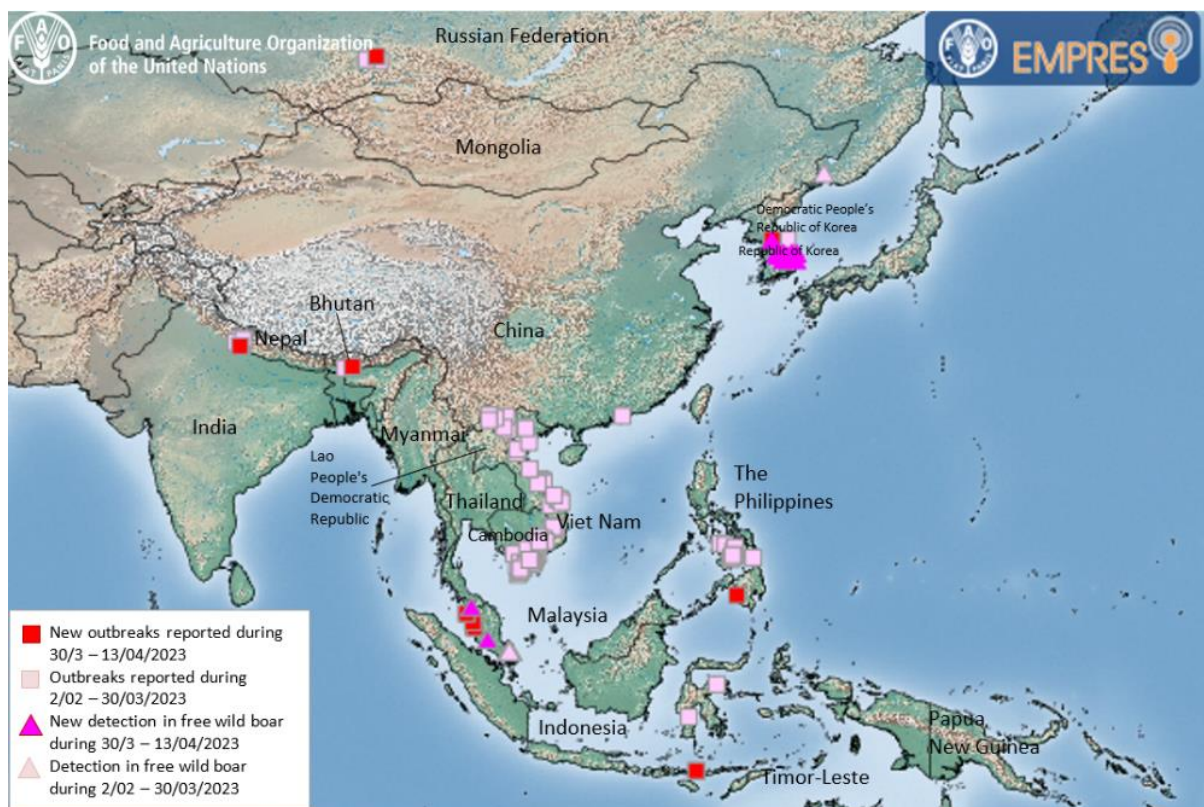


Fig. 5. ASF situation in Asia during the period 2nd February 2023- 13th April 2023. In February 2023, Singapore reported its first case of ASF (Source: [FAO](#)).

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

National Disease Control Centre

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