



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

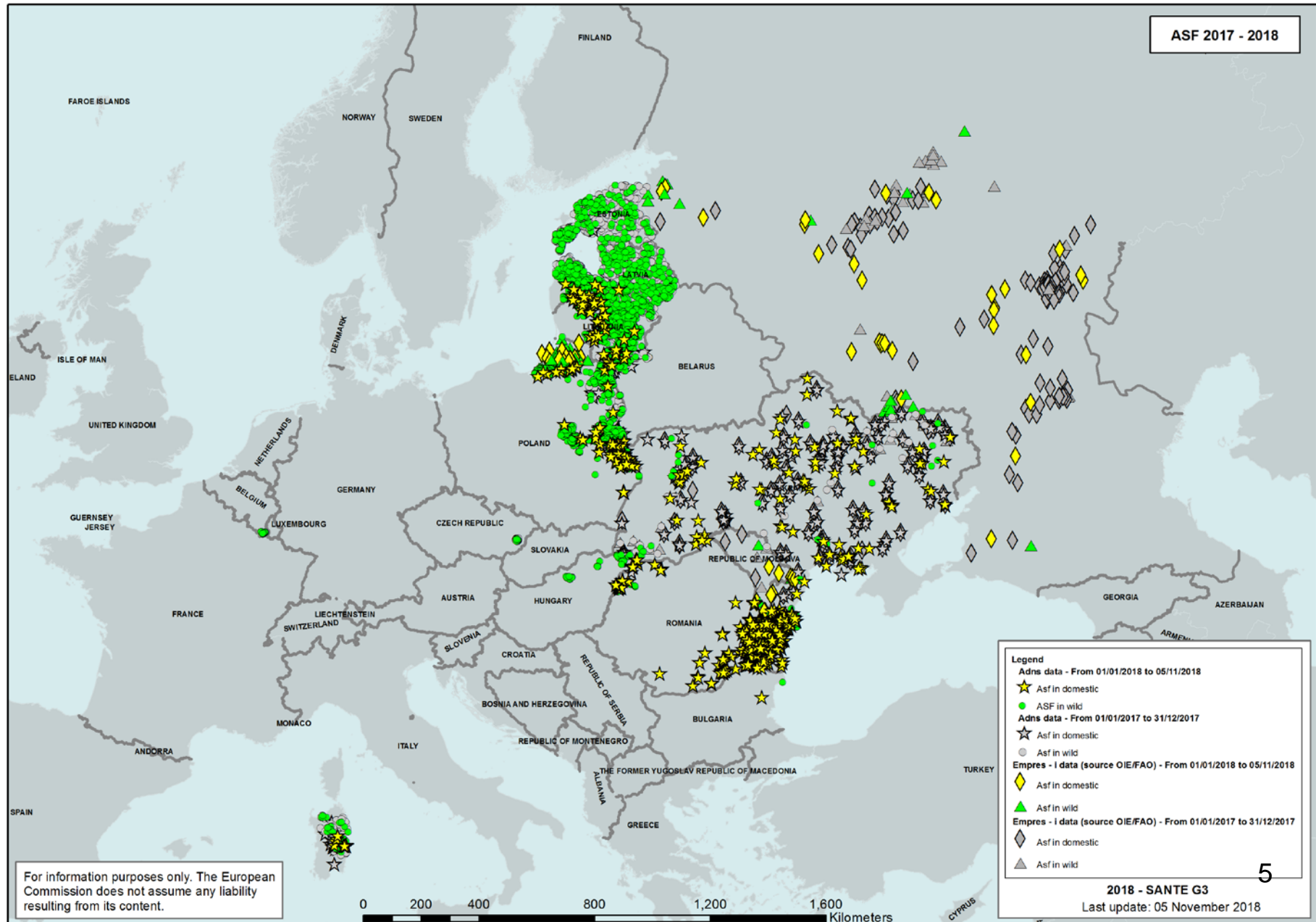
ASF in Europe

ASF: 2007 - 2018

▲ / ■ Wild boar
◆ / ☆ Domestic pigs

Sources: A DNS
OIE-FAO

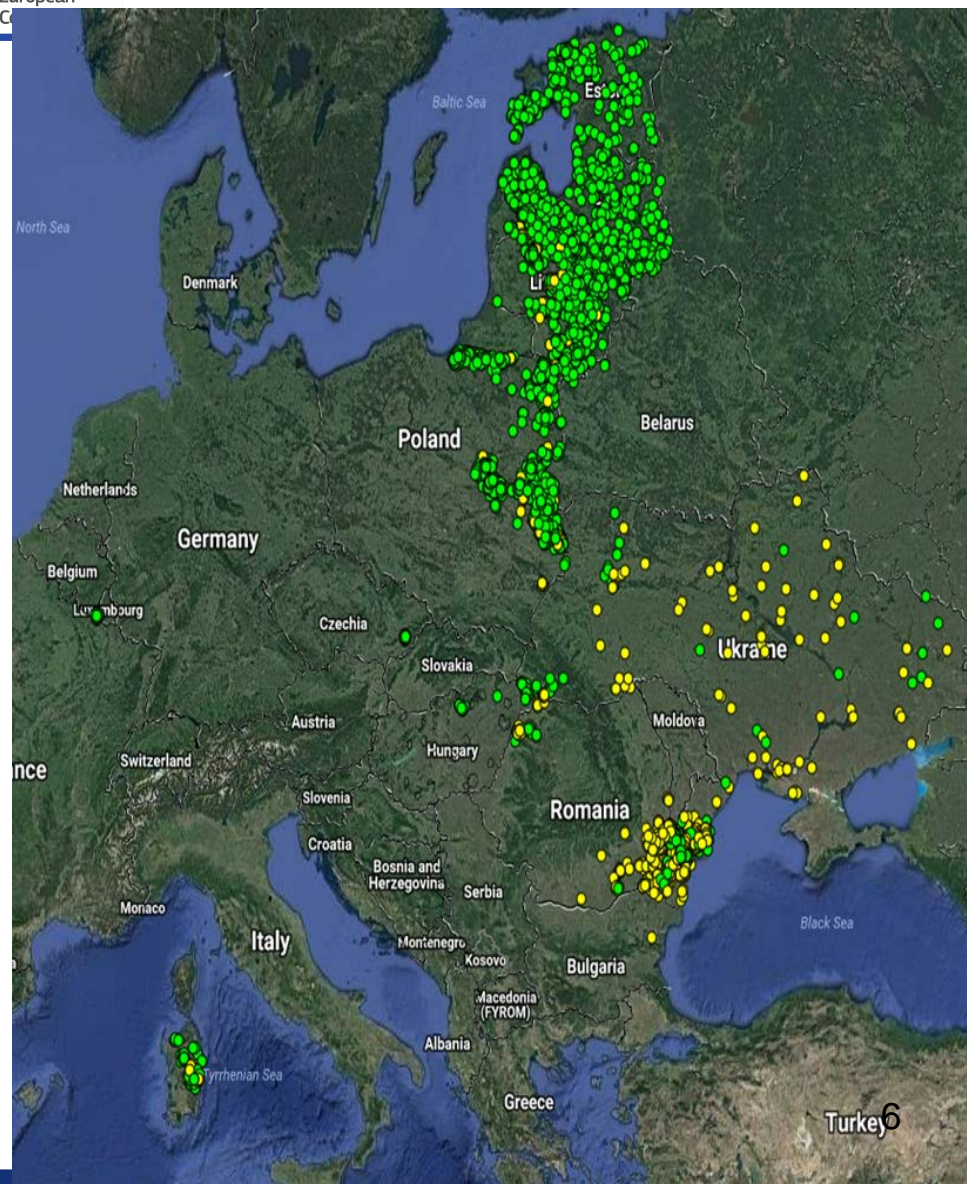
Current situation of ASF in Europe: 2017-2018



ASF in 2018: EU

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

European
C



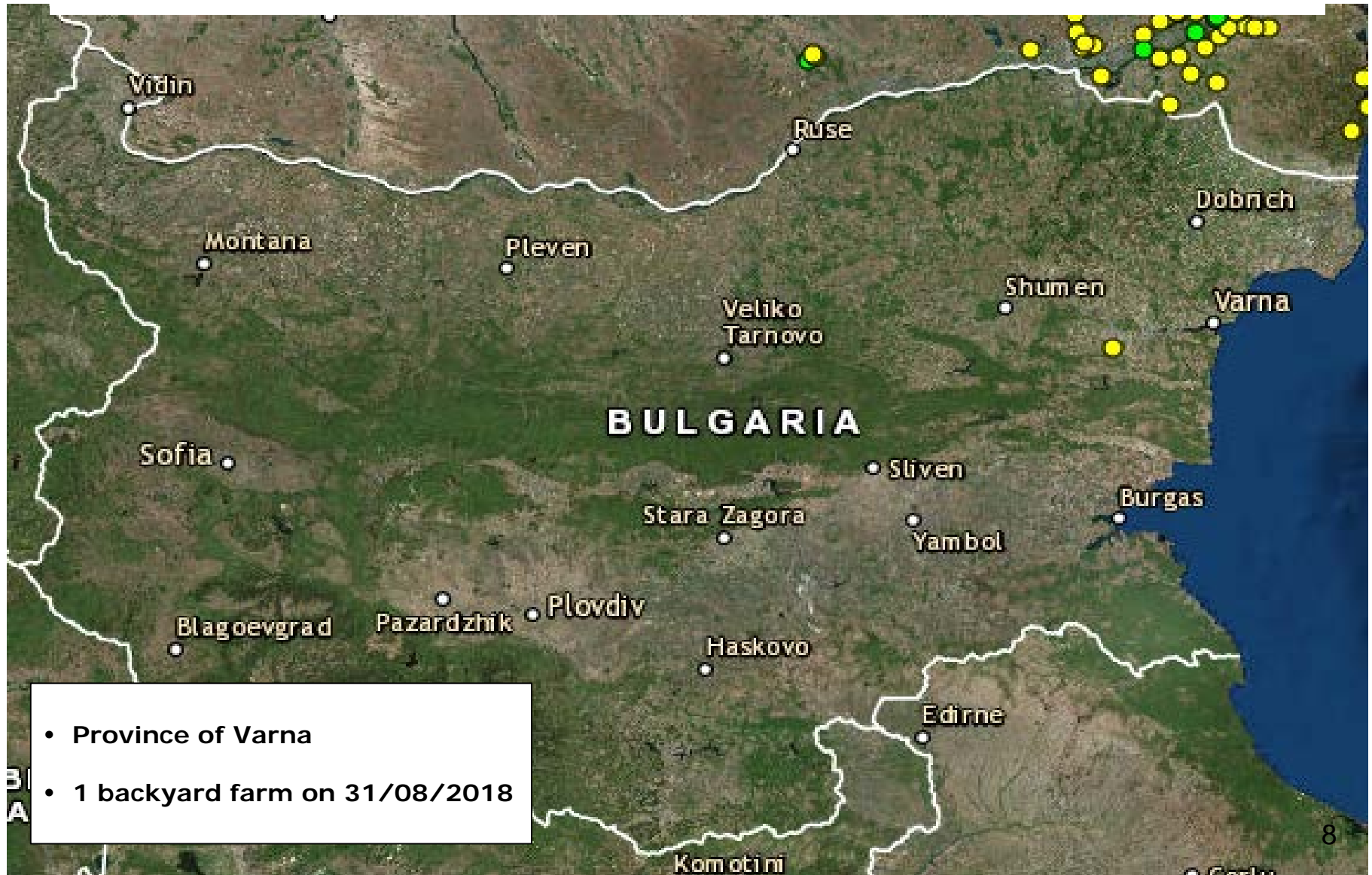
A closer look to the last events

Bulgaria

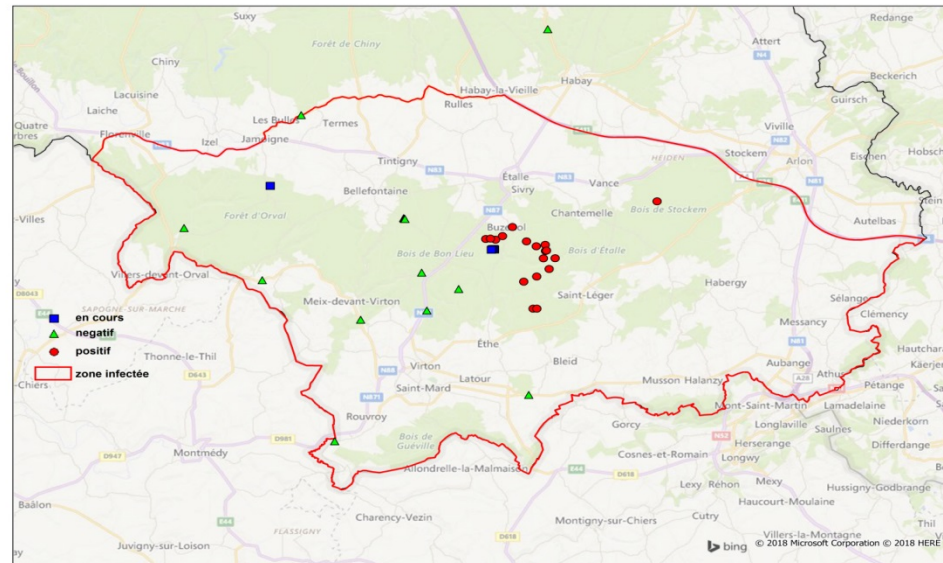
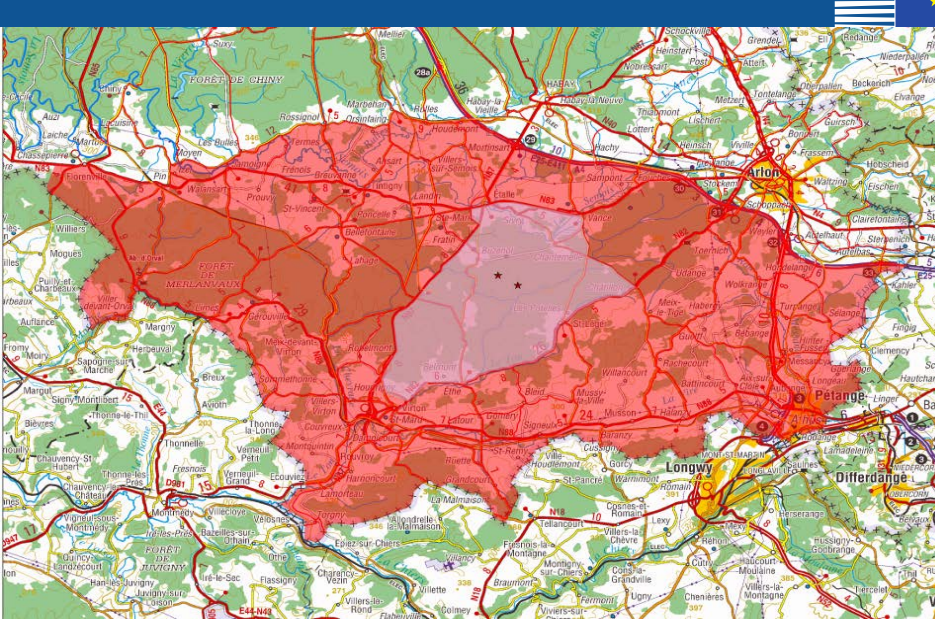
Belgium

Romania

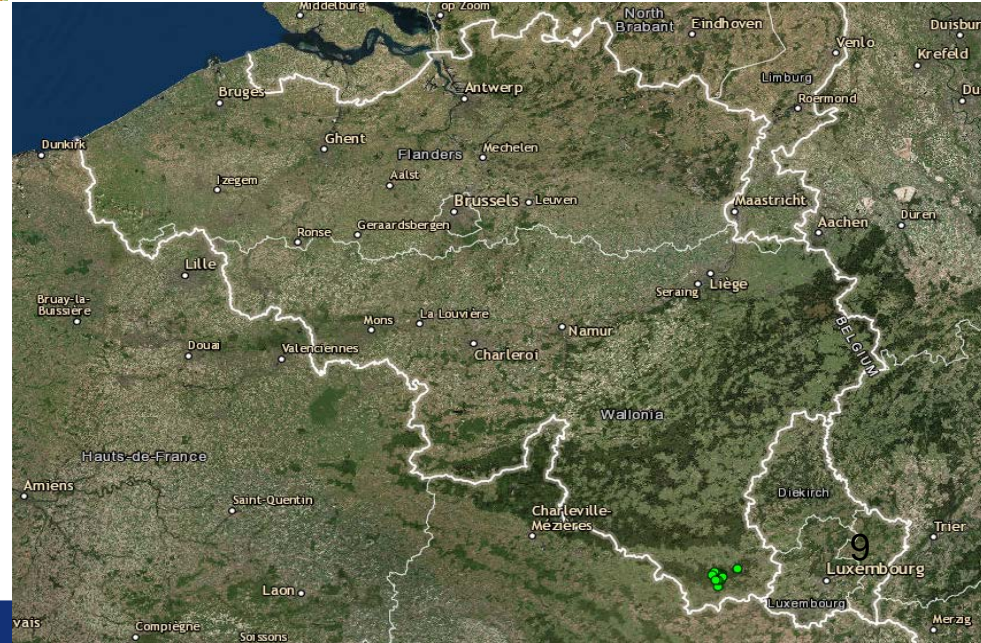
ASF in backyard in Bulgaria: from 31/08/2018



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

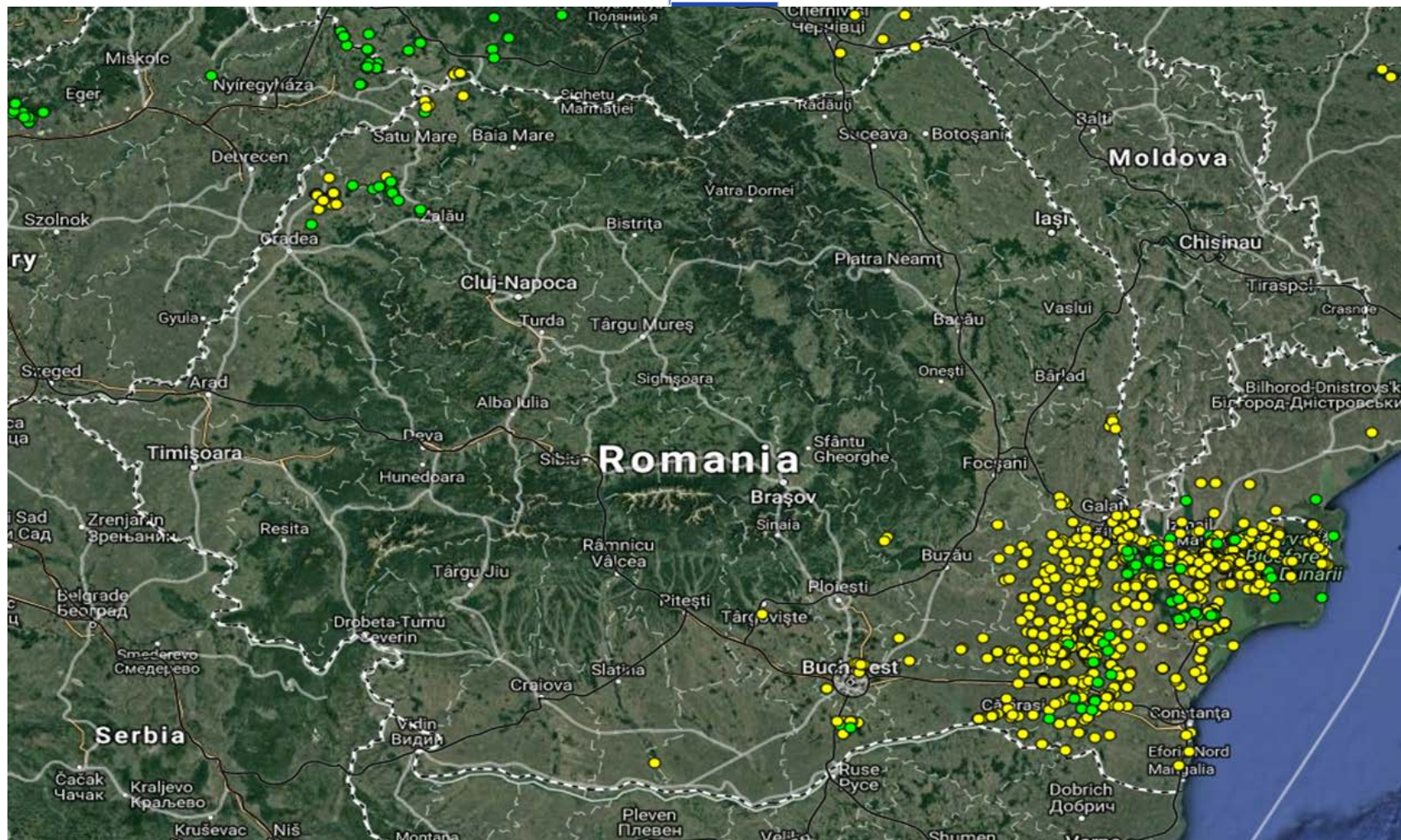


- **Etalle** region (Luxembourg province): ASF confirmed in 2 wild boar on 13/09/2018
- **2 EUVET** missions on the spot: 14-17/09/2018 and 11-12/10/2018
- Up to 05/11/2018 - **85 ADNS notifications** (159 wild boar)



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:

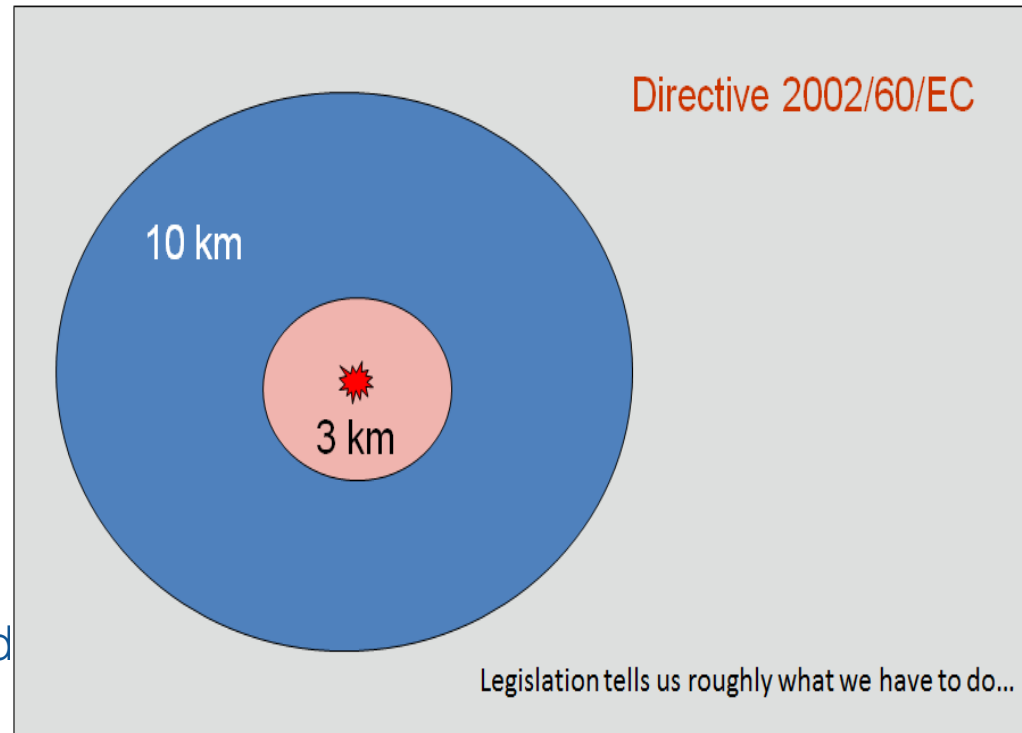
- Flexibility / predictability
- Transparency
- Risk based / proportionality
- Rapidity

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)

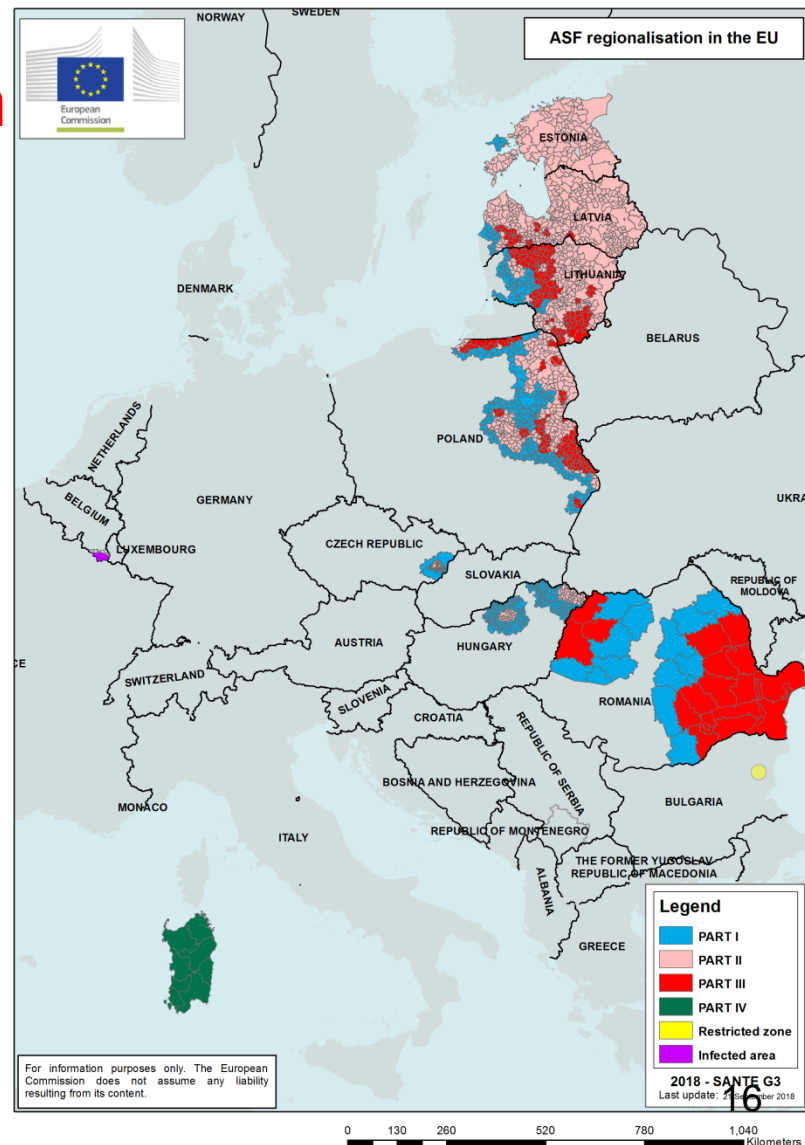
Basic baseline

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 Fever¹

EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW)^{2, 3}

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 boar¹

European Food Safety Authority^{2, 3}

SCIENTIFIC OPINION

Scientific Opinion on African swine fever¹

EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW)^{2, 3}

EFSA Journal 2014;12(4):3628

SCIENTIFIC OPINION

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

African swine fever

EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW)

PUBLISHED: 14 July 2015

SCIENTIFIC REPORT

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

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

SCIENTIFIC REPORT

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

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

(Update September 2016-September 2017)

efsa
European Food Safety Authority

Calendar English (en) Search site

About News Discover Science Publications Applications Engage

African swine fever: sharing best practices is critical to stop spread

Sharing best practices in fighting African swine fever is critical to halt the spread of the disease. These include early detection methods and rigorous emergency measures.

News story Topic

Highlights all news EVENTS go to calendar

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|

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**.



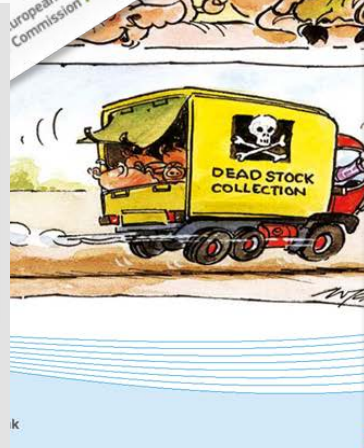
Public awareness

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



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

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

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



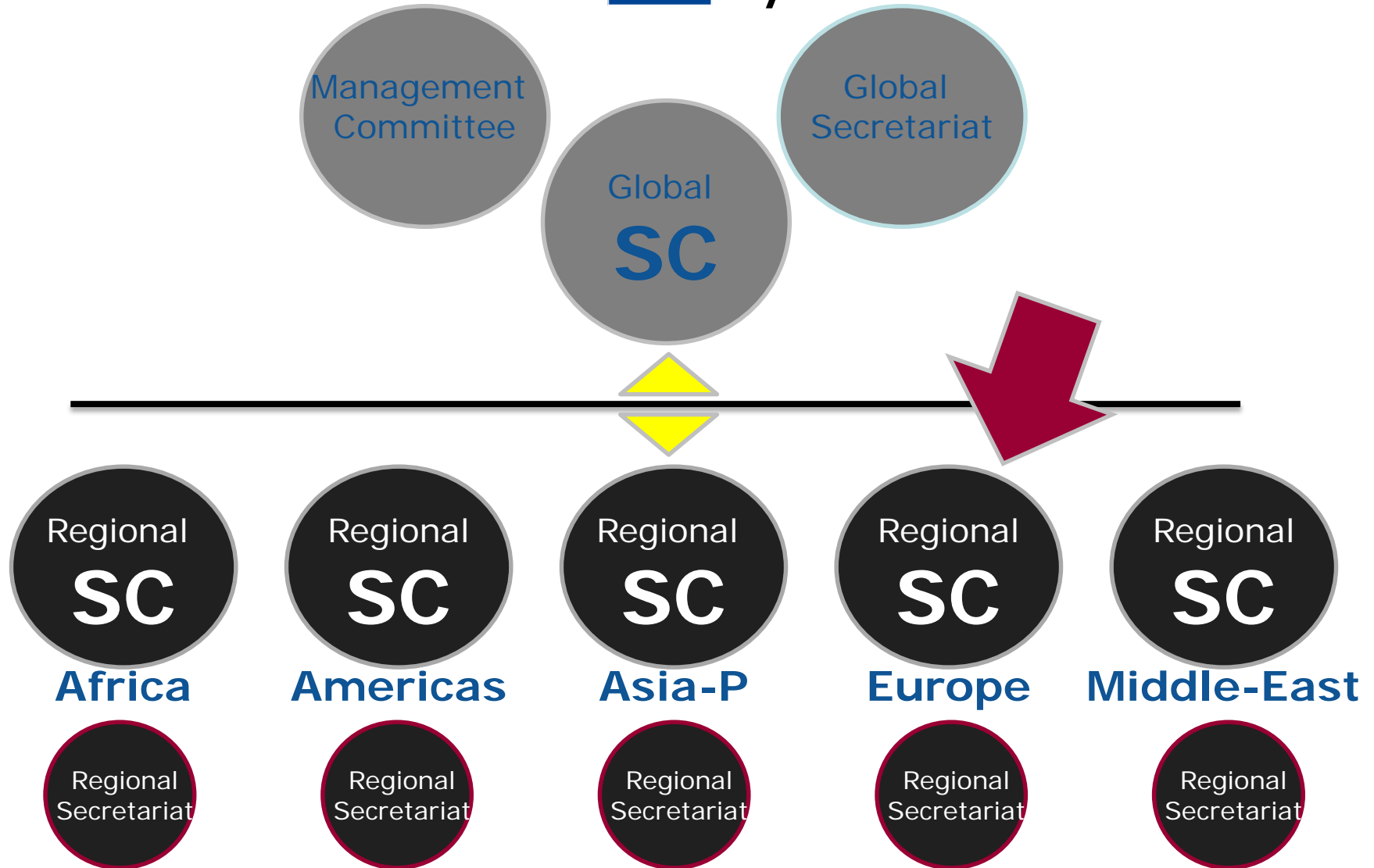


Policy coordination in Europe through GFTAs Europe

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

26th OIE Conf.
Europe (Bern,
Sept 2014)

*Presidency
and
Secretariat*

*Affected and
at-risk
countries*

2-Year
anniversary

27th 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)

LSD2
(Sept 2016)

LSD3
(Dec 2016)

TC
(Feb 2017)

LSD4
May 2017)



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

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:

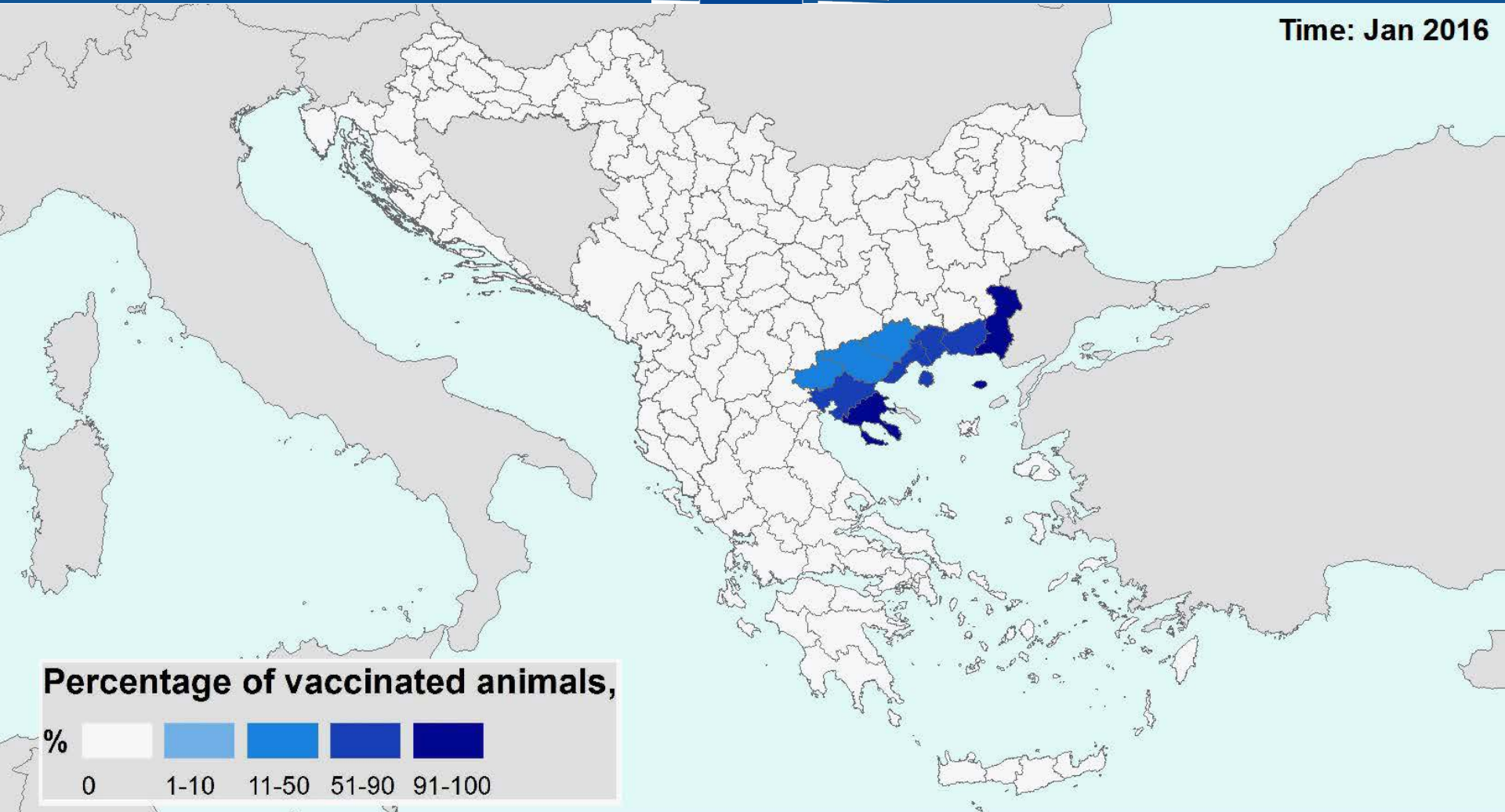
- the seasonality of the disease ;
- in a sufficiently large area (for example at least 50 km radius from an outbreak, including in the case of an outbreak occurring in a neighbouring country, taking into account the epidemiological circumstances);
- using preferably live homologous vaccines; possible 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 Expertise LSD builds on the successful experience of a similar mechanism for African swine fever in the

http://www.m-europe.oie.int/
Copyright © 2010 OIE
World Organisation for Animal Health
Illustrations provided by Pasteur Museum
Copyright © 2010 Pasteur Museum
Editorial Director: Dr Belov

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:

http://www.m-europe.oie.int/
Copyright © 2010 OIE
World Organisation for Animal Health
Illustrations provided by Pasteur Museum
Copyright © 2010 Pasteur Museum
Editorial Director: Dr Belov



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)