

Updated Outbreak Assessment #24

African swine fever in Europe

10 January 2022

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF in Europe

Disease report

Since our last report on 16 November 2021, a new case of ASF has been confirmed in a wild boar carcass in mainland Italy, in the north-western Municipality of Ovada in the province of Alessandria. This is the first report of ASF in mainland Italy and is approximately 800km from the nearest case in wild boar in Germany. There has also been the first confirmed outbreak of ASF in North Macedonia, in a backyard holding in Dramce, close to the Bulgarian border. Elsewhere, and according to OIE reports, frequent outbreaks in domestic pigs continue to be reported in Moldova, Romania, Russia and Ukraine. ASF has also continued to be reported in wild boar across Europe.

Since our last report, **Italy** has reported ASF genotype 2 for the first time (Map 1). The case was confirmed in a wild boar carcass in northern Italy in the Municipality of Ovada in the province of Alessandria (Piedmont Region) in mainland Italy. As there is no system yet for requiring certificates for products of animal origin from previously free areas, there is no information on whether there have been any recent imports, nevertheless, given there have been cases reported in domestic pigs in the region, we have confidence that the new restrictions under Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605 will prevent any further imports from this infected region. The same regulation covers the prohibitions, derogations and requirement for certification from any region affected by ASF for consigning live pigs or products of porcine origin or associated animal by-products to EU MSs and third countries.

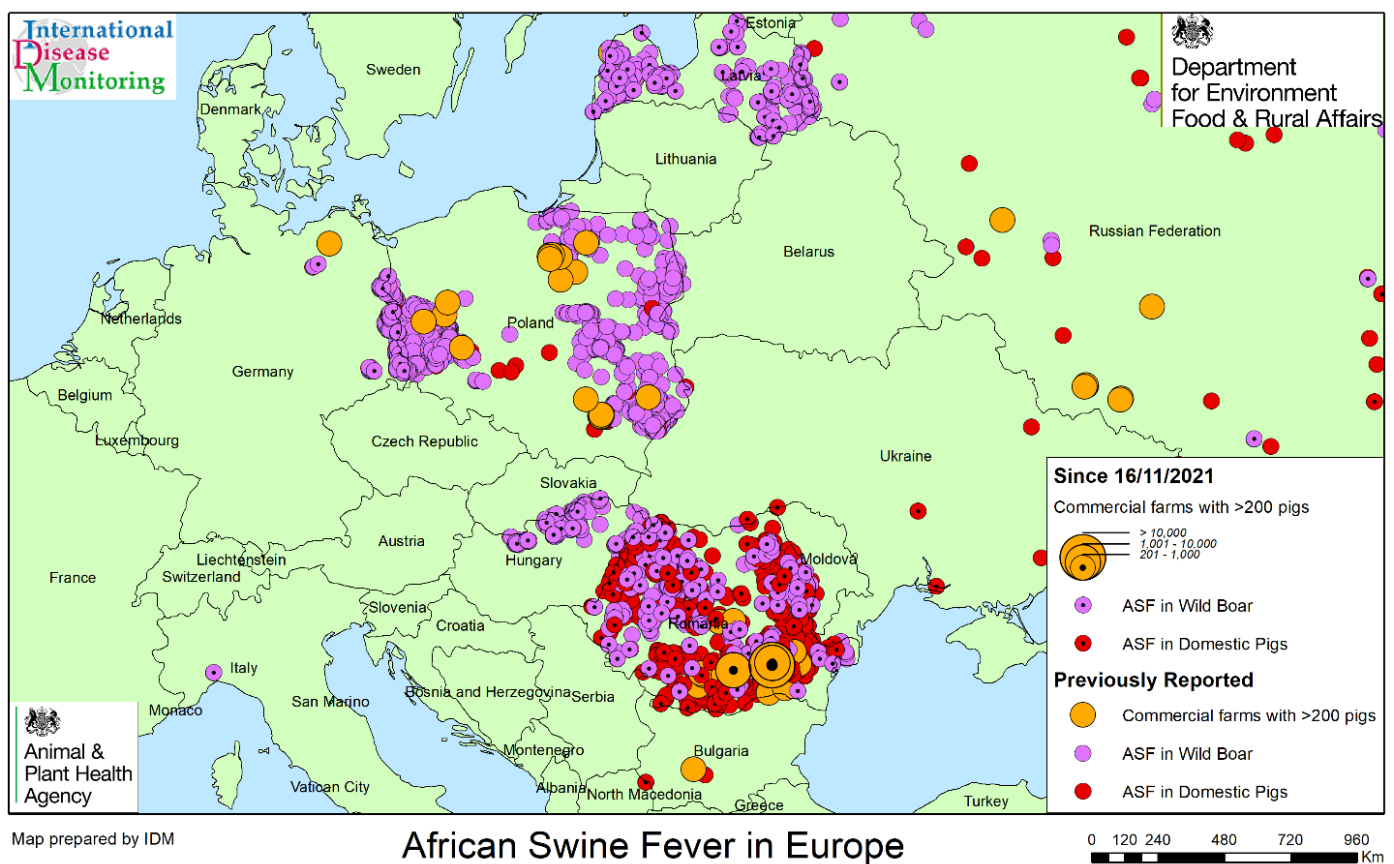
The case is over 800 km from the nearest outbreak location in Eastern Germany and over 1,000 km from the nearest wild boar case in Hungary and Slovakia. It has also been reported in two further wild boar carcasses that were found in Piedmont and in Isola del Cantone in the province of Genoa, with samples sent for testing for ASF (Pig World 2022). Human mediated spread is currently considered to be the most likely source.

Crisis units are being set up at the local, regional and national level, while meetings are being held with authorities in veterinary services, forest management and wildlife and hunting (Pig Progress, 2022).

A separate strain of ASF (genotype 1) has been endemic on the Italian island of Sardinia since 1978.

North Macedonia has reported its first outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs. Clinical signs were observed by the owner on 29 December 2021, and the first dead cases were reported on 01 January 2022 in a small backyard farm located in East part of country in Dramce, close to the Bulgarian border. On 5 January 2022 blood samples, swabs and organs were taken for laboratory testing for ASF, with positive results obtained on 6 January. The affected holding was considered at medium risk regarding ASF due to the biosecurity measures in place at the premises. Initial epidemiological investigations suspect contact with infected wild boar as the most likely source of infection. A 3km protection zone and 10km surveillance zone were established on 7 January 2022, and a stamping out policy was carried out among all pig holdings in the 3 km area on 10 January.

Map 1 showing outbreaks and cases of ASF in Europe



**African Swine Fever in Europe
 August 2021 - January 2022
 (OIE Data Only)**

Map prepared by IDM
 Date: 11/01/2022
 Absolute scale: 1:17,402,799

Outbreak data

Details of all outbreaks and cases provided in the tables and map in this report were taken from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), unless stated otherwise. Additional information has been provided, where available, from the EU Animal Disease Information

System (ADIS) summary tables (ADIS, 2021 and ADIS, 2022), and information from relevant PAFF presentations (PAFF, 2021).

Situation assessment

ASF in **Bulgaria** has not been reported by the OIE since our last report, however, recent ADIS summary tables (ADIS, 2021; ADIS, 2022), show that Bulgaria have reported a further 197 cases of ASF in wild boar between 18 November and 7 January 2022. No outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs in Bulgaria have been reported by OIE or ADIS since our last report on 16 November 2021.

ASF in **Estonia** has not been reported by the OIE, however, recent ADIS summary tables (ADIS, 2021), show that Estonia have reported a further 8 cases of ASF in wild boar between 12 November and 15 December 2021, bringing the total to 60 in 2021. No ADIS summary data is available from 16 December to 29 December 2021, but a further four cases of ASF in wild boar were reported in January 2022. No outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs in Estonia have been reported by OIE or ADIS since our last report on 16 November 2021.

Germany has reported no further ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs since our last report. The disease control zones around the isolated backyard case in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania have now been lifted following successful disease control measures. Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/2021 will be repealed as of 15 January 2022.

A purchasing programme for backyard holdings is ongoing (where the State offers to buy pigs from farmers with less than 10 pigs, for €200 each, if they agree to not to keep pigs on the premises for a period of two years). There has been a prohibition of events/exhibitions with pigs, and further work to identify pig owners that are also hunters with increased controls on their holdings.

Reports have continued of ASF in wild boar in Germany via OIE. Since our last report on 16 November 2021, there have been 71 reports of ASF in wild boar consisting of 554 individual wild boar cases. The majority of these were in Saxony and Brandenburg, with three cases in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. Thorough surveillance and measures continue to be implemented; there is an obligation for hunters to search for carcasses using canine teams in infected areas, places have been set up to allow for the safe disposal of carcasses, an increased hunting allowance, and prohibition of movement of all wild boar meat from the infected zone. All shot and found dead wild boar are being sampled and a bonus is paid of €100 for wild boar shot in restricted zones (PAFF 2021a).

Wild boar fencing is ongoing in Germany, with over 1,300km of permanent fencing established in Brandenburg (160km), Saxony (250km) and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (63km).

Since the first reported case of ASF in wild boar (in September 2020) there have been 2789 cases reported in Germany by OIE.

Hungary has yet to report any outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs. Since our last report on 16 November, there have been 52 reports of ASF (by OIE) in wild boar. These reports in wild boar consist of a total of 60 animals (up from 17) since our last report. There has been a steady decrease in reports of ASF in wild boar in Hungary throughout the year down from 615 to 12 between January and October 2021, followed by an increase in November and December (Table 2). A similar trend was observed in 2020.

(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/950374/asf-eastern-europe_update_18.pdf). However, the numbers of cases reported throughout autumn and in to winter this year, are much lower than those reported at the same time last year, suggestive of effective disease management measures.

Latvia has not reported any outbreaks in domestic pigs since our last assessment.

There have been 102 reports of ASF in wild boar by OIE since 16 November 2021, comprising 132 animals in total. This represents a decrease in the number of wild boar cases since our last report.

Lithuania has not reported any incidents of ASF, according to OIE, since our last report. However, the latest ADIS summary confirmed 57 cases of ASF in wild boar between 17 November 2021 and 10 January 2022 (ADIS, 2021; ADIS 2022). Lithuania's last reported case via ADIS was on 7 January 2022.

Moldova has reported one outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs to OIE since our last report. The outbreak occurred in a backyard premises in the north of the country close to the borders with Ukraine and Romania, and affected 72 pigs. No ASF cases in wild boar have been reported via OIE, PAFF or ADIS since our last report.

Poland

Since our last report on 16 November 2021, there have been four ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs reported via ADIS summaries. Three of these affected between 34 and 135 pigs (PAFF 2021b). In the same period, according to OIE, there have been no reports of ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs.

There have been no OIE reports of ASF cases in wild boar in Poland since our last report on 16 November 2021. According to ADIS summaries in the same period, there were 537 wild boar events. There has previously been backdated OIE reporting of ASF in wild boar. From 12 August 2021 over 3,100 occurrences of ASF were reported by OIE, totalling over 4,900 wild boar deaths. None of these reports have start dates after our last report on 16 November 2021 and would have been captured in data from ADIS summaries and PAFF presentations. The Polish General Veterinary Inspectorate are continuing to use trained dogs in the search for dead wild boar.

Romania has reported 173 new outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs since 16 November 2021 according to OIE. Four of the reports were in commercial premises, with between 2,951 and 13,091 animals (totalling 25,686 animals as numbers only reported for three of the four premises). Smaller premises with between 50 and 150 animals, accounted for 17 of the total outbreaks. There were six reports of ASF in pigs in national parks and other non-premises with nine pigs affected. The remainder were in premises with <50 pigs (comprising a total of 122 farms with 1166 animals). There were 179 reports of ASF in wild boar by OIE in the same timeframe, comprising 265 individual wild boar.

The whole of Romania is currently in [Zone III](#) and hence there are strict measures in place regarding the exportation of live pigs and pork products from the region, as per [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/605](#) (Europa, 2022). Pig holding inspections are to be performed at least once per year, with advice being offered to small farmers by veterinarians on biosecurity measures and the obligation to notify of health issues (PAFF, 2021c).

Since our last report on 16 November 2021, **Russia** has reported 14 outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs to OIE, of which three were larger premises with >100 pigs (the largest containing 10,150 pigs). There were also 11 reports of ASF in wild boar, comprising 18 animals.

Serbia has had no reported outbreaks of ASF according to OIE since September 2020. The latest ADIS summary however, confirmed 33 outbreaks in domestic pigs and 71 cases in wild boar between 2 January 2021 and 8 January 2022 (ADIS, 2021; ADIS, 2022). This is unchanged since our last report.

Slovakia has had no reported outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs according OIE, since August 2019. However, ADIS summaries have confirmed two outbreaks in domestic pigs since our last report on 16 November 2021, bringing the total to 11 outbreaks (ADIS, 2021). According to PAFF presentations (PAFF, 2021d) these were confirmed in early December and affected two large commercial premises (24,000 and 19,5000 pigs). Movements of pigs is prohibited in the regions in accordance with the relevant legislation.

There have been no cases of ASF in wild boar reported by OIE in Slovakia (since April 2020), but ADIS reports that between 17 November 2021 and 5 January 2022 there have been 106 cases of ASF in wild boar (ADIS, 2021; ADIS 2022). The most recent is dated 5 January 2022.

Ukraine has reported three outbreaks of ASF since our last report on 16 November 2021 (via OIE and ADIS). The largest was on a farm premises containing 29 pigs. The other two were on a backyard farm and other premises containing less than 5 pigs. There have been no reported cases in wild boar in Ukraine since our last report.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
 Animal and Plant Health Agency
 Advice Services - International Disease Monitoring

Table 1: Domestic pig outbreaks from February 2021 to January 2022 in Europe (OIE only)

Country	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Total
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	3
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Moldova	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
North Macedonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Poland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	106	8	3	0	0	117
Romania	86	79	117	51	57	208	311	281	201	102	85	12	1590
Russia	4	3	3	5	6	44	33	36	32	8	6	0	180
Serbia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ukraine	0	1	2	0	0	3	2	1	0	2	2	0	13
Total	90	83	122	56	63	259	350	424	241	117	94	13	1912

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
 Animal and Plant Health Agency
 Advice Services - International Disease Monitoring

Table 2: Wild boar cases in February 2021 to January 2022 in Europe (OIE only)

Row Labels	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Total
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Germany	24	0	28	42	35	29	59	31	43	39	49	0	379
Hungary	315	575	453	430	173	66	42	8	12	20	35	9	2138
Italy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Latvia	25	22	16	11	16	32	44	20	31	48	74	0	339
Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poland	103	0	141	0	0	0	4072	134	109	110	0	0	4669
Romania	158	100	165	89	51	44	22	33	21	55	103	32	873
Russia	6	3	5	5	2	21	13	3	19	5	6	0	88
Serbia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ukraine	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Grand Total	631	700	809	577	277	193	4252	229	235	278	267	42	8490

Conclusion

ASF in domestic pigs has been confirmed for the first time in North Macedonia, and in wild boar in mainland Italy for the first time, as reported by OIE. These developments are concerning given Italy's status as the European Union's seventh largest pork producer with a \$9.1 billion industry, and serve as a reminder of the ability of ASF to spread long distances to a previously unaffected region, often via human-mediated routes.

As intensive surveillance will be implemented around the new outbreak areas, it is likely that further outbreaks within North Macedonia and the Piemonte Region will be reported over the coming months.

North Macedonia has been previously identified as one of the nine Balkan countries identified by EFSA as having a very high chance (66- 100%) of disease spread inside their borders, within a year of introduction (EFSA, 2019). Greece was also one of the countries identified by EFSA, although there have been no reports of ASF in Greece since February 2020.

ASF continues to be present in domestic pigs across eastern Europe. While the outbreak and case numbers of ASF in domestic pigs in Romania have declined since our last report, wild boar cases have increased and Romania continues to be considered under Zone III restrictions and unable to export pork products. ASF is still circulating in wild boar across much of Eastern Europe, therefore the risk of entry of ASF virus in products of animal origin from affected countries, including from illegal imports, remains at **medium**.

Although the UK has now left the European Union, as part of our ongoing commitment to ease the burden felt by businesses and travellers and allow ports of entry longer to prepare, there has been no change to the rules for passengers travelling into GB from the EU with products of an animal origin from January 2021, but Great Britain will be bringing in controls in July 2022. Nevertheless, all travellers are strongly advised to avoid bringing, ordering, or requesting any pork products – for example, dried or cured meats, sausages, salamis, or pâté – back to the UK from affected parts of Europe. Travellers from Asia and other third country areas who bring meat or dairy products can also face prosecution and a large fine.

We would like to emphasise to all pig keepers, pig producers, smallholders, and general public to ensure pigs are not fed catering waste, kitchen scraps or pork products, thereby observing the swill feeding ban.

All pig keepers, whether commercial holdings or not, should remain vigilant and ensure that any visitors or seasonal workers have not had any recent contact with pigs, pig products, pig premises, wild boar (including hunting) or equipment associated with such

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Animal and Plant Health Agency
Advice Services - International Disease Monitoring

activities in the affected regions in Europe or other affected parts of the world. As with all biosecurity, measures are only as effective as the people using them so proper training should be provided.

Pig keepers and veterinarians should remind themselves of the clinical signs for ASF. Any suspect cases must be reported promptly. Please see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/african-swine-fever> for more information.

We will continue to monitor the situation.

Authors

Dr Sonny Bacigalupo
Anthony Pacey
Dr Helen Roberts
Dr Lauren Perrin

References

All OIE disease reports are available from the OIE WAHIS database.

ADIS (2021) [ad_adns_outbreaks-per-disease_0.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

[ADIS \(2022\) ad_adns_outbreaks-per-disease.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

EFSA (2019) <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/news/african-swine-fever-early-detection-key-controlling-spread>

Europa (2022) [Indicative map of EU ASF zoning as per Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/605 \(as last amended by Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/2308\) and as laid down in implementing Decision\(EU\) 2022/28 \(arcgis.com\)](#)

PAFF (2021a) [reg-com_ahw_20211215_asf_deu.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

PAFF (2021b) [Prezentacja programu PowerPoint \(europa.eu\)](#)

PAFF (2021c) [epidemiological situation - ASF \(europa.eu\)](#)

PAFF (2021d) [Africký mor ošípaných na Slovensku \(europa.eu\)](#)

PigProgress (2022) [PigProgress - ASF Italy: First case detected in Piedmont region](#)

[Pig World \(2022\) https://www.pig-world.co.uk/news/african-swine-fever-found-in-northern-italy.html](#)

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Animal and Plant Health Agency
Advice Services - International Disease Monitoring



© Crown copyright 2021

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v.2. To view this licence visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/2/ or email PSI@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/animal-diseases-international-monitoring>

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at iadm@apha.gov.uk