

## Updated Outbreak Assessment #03

# African Swine fever in Europe (Eastern Europe & Belgium)

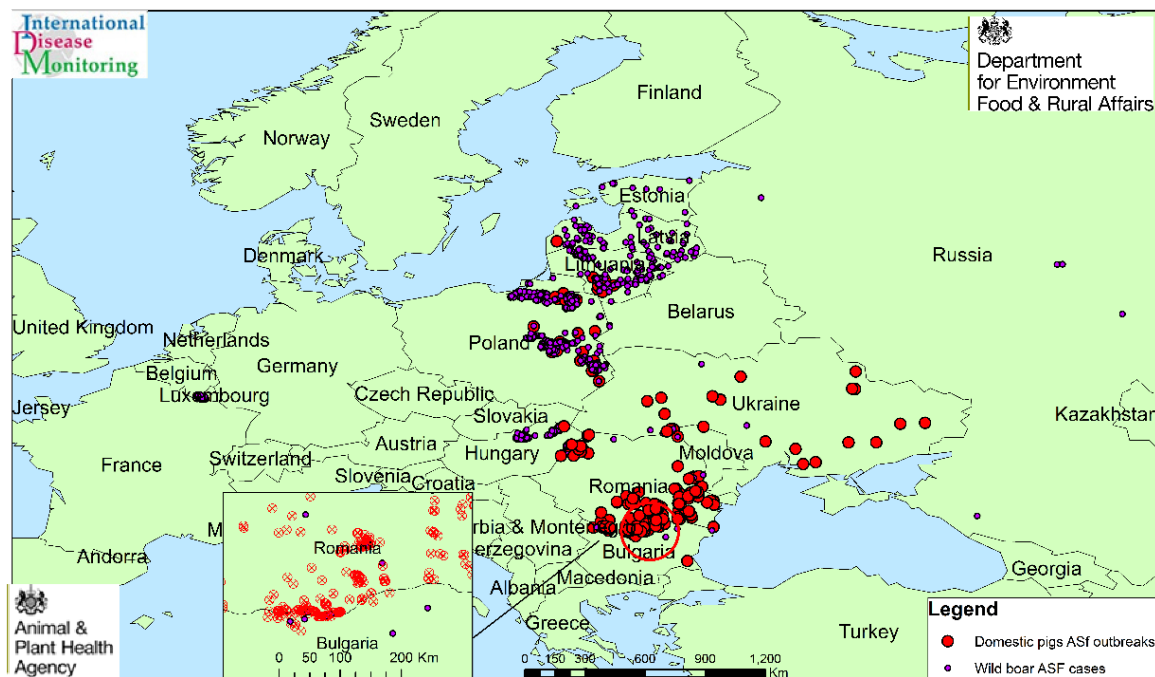
25 July 2019

Ref: VITT/1200 ASF in Europe (Eastern Europe & Belgium)

## Disease report

Since our last report on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019, a new member state has now reported ASF. Slovakia confirmed ASF in a backyard pig holding, just a few kilometres from the border with Hungary where ASF has been found in wild boar (OIE, 2019; see map below). In addition, there have been three outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs in large commercial holdings in Bulgaria and Romania.

There has been a distinct increase in the number of cases in domestic pigs in Eastern Europe, the majority in Romania in the backyard sector, as we observed in the summer season in 2018 (see Table below). This points to a likely similar scenario of risk factors involved in the rapid transmission between farms, which may include vector spread, human mediated routes, common feeding of local contaminated crops and contact with wild boar which are particularly mobile when harvesting is happening. The largest number of outbreaks in domestic pigs each month continues to be in Romania, mainly in backyard pig small-holdings, and since our last report on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July, there have been an additional 94 outbreaks in small commercial holdings.



Actual Scale 1:20,000,000  
Map prepared by EDC

Date prepared 26/07/2019

## ASF in domestic pigs and wild boar since May 2019 [Insets: Belgium, Kaliningrad, Poland & Hungary]

The map shows the ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs and cases in wild boar since May 2019.

Table of numbers of ASF outbreaks reported in domestic pigs (backyard and commercial) between January 2019 and July 2019 to date.

Country	Number of Outbreaks in domestic pigs (Jan-July 25 <sup>th</sup> 2019)							Total
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	18
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hungary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	12
Moldova	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Poland	1	0	0	0	2	7	18	28
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Romania	29	32	12	9	22	76	299	479
Russia	0	0	1	0	0	1	4	6
Ukraine	3	3	1	5	3	4	8	27
Total	33	35	15	14	27	93	357	574

## Situation assessment

### Belgium and bordering countries:

Since the first reported case of ASF in Belgium, there have been 827 further cases reported in wild boar. However Belgium remains officially disease free in the domestic pigs. The reporting rate of cases in wild boar continues to decrease, which likely reflects the significant investment in their eradication programme.

France is undertaking surveillance sampling of wild boar carcasses across the country; the highest numbers of samples have been collected from wild boar carcasses along the border with Belgium, with all 337 samples negative to 04/07/2019 (Cauchard, 2019). In Luxemburg, active surveillance and prevention measures have been implemented, including testing wild boar carcasses and fencing built between Luxemburg and Belgium (PAFF, 2019; Cauchard, 2019).

### Bulgaria:

In July 2019, Bulgaria reported ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs in two large commercial premises close to the Romanian border, resulting in the culling of over 17,000 pigs in one and over 36,000 pigs at another. A third outbreak in a pig farm of 28,000 animals was also reported in late July near to the Romanian border. To date 18 outbreaks have been reported in backyard pigs, the majority of which are in close proximity to the Romanian border (see map above), and where there has been a recent increase in the number of reported outbreaks on both sides of the border. It was originally proposed that the original two outbreaks were as a result of reintroduction via mechanical routes e.g. contaminated vehicles, but it remains to be seen if the same is true for the large commercial premises which would have higher biosecurity protocols. Control measures remain in place (PAFF, July 2019).

## Romania:

There has been a significant increase in the number of outbreaks in domestic pigs reported by Romania, with 299 reported in July to date (see Table above – all data from ADNS), and by far the largest number of outbreaks observed across Europe. The majority of these outbreaks have been reported in backyard small holdings, though there have been a few cases in small commercial premises (defined as having more than 60 animals) and most recently in a large commercial farm in Ilfov region in a farm of nearly 20,000 pigs.

While the Romanian Authorities perform controls on holdings that pose a high risk for ASF, results of the official control campaign uptake to June 2019, demonstrated that almost 22% percent of holdings were non-compliant in the Part III area (European Commission, July 2019), including the feeding of pigs with household waste (PAFF, July 2019). Following these results, legislative changes are being drafted on minimum biosecurity conditions, animal movements and the establishment of sanctions for contraventions.

Though the identification of these non-compliant holdings may explain in part the epidemiological situation regarding ASF in Romania, this cannot alone explain the sudden, significant increase in the number of outbreaks. Favourable weather conditions for potential arthropod vectors across the region could have accentuated the rapid dissemination of the virus over the summer (EFSA, 2019). Human mediated routes around harvesting, contact with wild boar which are moving around in the summer could also be implicated.

## Conclusion

The risk remains at **medium** for the entry of contaminated or infected products into UK for now. However, this is a critical time for the spread of virus throughout Europe as well as into other regions, through human mediated routes. Most concerning is the repeated finding of contaminated products in passenger luggage, not only in other countries outside the EU but also within the EU. Border checks on passengers are paramount, as are publicity campaigns aimed at reaching the travelling public that bringing back products of animal origin from outside the EU or from a region in the EU under disease restrictions is not allowed. Commercially produced products which can be safely traded in the EU will be labelled as such. Home produced products are a particular concern.

All travellers are strongly advised to avoid bringing any pork products – including ham, sausages 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. Disease can be spread by pig keepers and members of the public feeding catering waste, kitchen scraps or pork products to their animals. It is illegal to do so.

The risk of exposure to the pig population in the UK is still highly dependent on the level of biosecurity on individual pig premises but is still considered to be **low**, although the situation is being kept under review.

We will continue to monitor the situation.

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## References

All disease reports are available from the OIE WAHIS database.

Cauchard (2019) <https://www.pplateforme-esa.fr/article/peste-porcine-africaine-situation-en-belgique-et-surveillance-en-france-point-au-15-07-2019>

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OIE (2019) African swine fever in Slovakia. Immediate Notification  
(25/07/2019) [http://www.oie.int/wahis\\_2/temp/reports/en\\_imm\\_0000031199\\_20190725\\_164621.pdf](http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/temp/reports/en_imm_0000031199_20190725_164621.pdf)

PAFF (July, 2019) [https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/health/regulatory\\_committee/presentations\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/health/regulatory_committee/presentations_en)



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