

Updated Outbreak Assessment #09

African swine fever in Europe (Eastern Europe & Belgium)

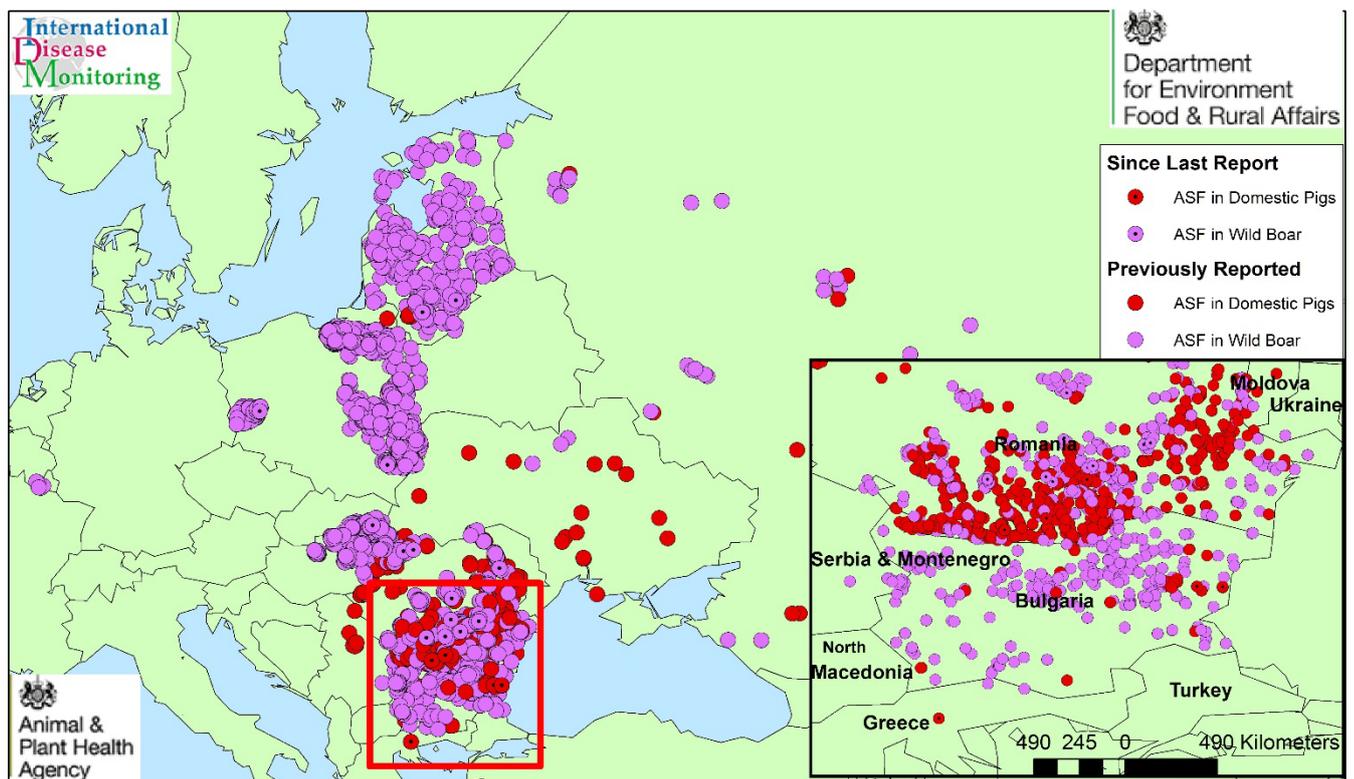
6 February 2020

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

Disease report

Since our last report on the 31 January 2020

[\[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/863212/asf-europe-update8.pdf\]](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/863212/asf-europe-update8.pdf), Greece has reported ASF in domestic pigs for the first time, in a small-holding of 32 pigs. There have also been new outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs, and more cases in wild boar, in Eastern Europe.



African swine fever in Europe since August 2019

Situation assessment

Our last report on 31 January 2020 provided a full situation assessment on ASF in Eastern Europe and Belgium. The purpose of this report is to provide an update in light of the epidemiologically significant change noted in Greece; and more generally to update on the current situation for ASF in other affected countries in Europe.

Greece reported ASF in domestic pigs on 05 February 2020 via the EU online reporting system ADNS. To date there has only been one small-holding affected with a total of 32 pigs, all of which have been culled. Control measures such as cleansing and disinfecting, movement restrictions and tracings have been implemented.

The confirmation of ASF in Greece is disappointing, though not surprising, as ASF has been circulating in wild boar and domestic pigs in close proximity to the Greece: Bulgaria border for several months (see map above and our previous reports). Additionally, Greece was one of 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).

It is of note that the initial outbreak has been reported in domestic pigs, albeit a smallholding, rather than wild boar, and approximately 50km from the Bulgarian border. Greece has been conducting ASF surveillance, although the number of wild boar tested is quite low (33, (PAFF, January 2020)). A recent EFSA report predicted that the natural median spread of ASF due to wild boar movements was between 2.9-11.7 km/year, but that human mediated translocation of ASF remains an important contributing factor to disease spread. Further outbreaks are expected following this initial report.

There continues to be a general increase in cases in wild boar and outbreaks in domestic pigs in the Baltic countries (see tables below), as part of a seasonal trend which has been observed in previous years

(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/787711/asf-update20.pdf) and statistically confirmed by EFSA (2020)).

Table 1: Numbers of ASF outbreaks reported in domestic pigs (backyard and commercial) since June 2019. All data from ADNS and OIE.

Country	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Total
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bulgaria	28	7	3	3	0	3	6	3	53
Czech Republic	0	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	0
Greece	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Latvia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

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Lithuania	8	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	14
Moldova	3	16	4	0	0	0	1	0	24
Poland	23	12	1	2	0	0	0	0	38
Slovakia	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Serbia	1	16	1	0	0	0	0	0	18
Romania	530	550	199	103	103	65	92	4	1646
Russia	4	24	40	7	2	1	2	0	80
Ukraine	8	7	3	2	3	0	1	0	24
Total	608	643	253	119	108	69	102	8	1910

Table 2: Numbers of ASF cases reported in wild boar since June 2019. All data from ADNS and OIE.

Country	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Total
Belgium	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	7
Bulgaria	13	29	11	18	44	38	105	0	258
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Estonia	5	5	5	8	4	3	7	0	37
Hungary	64	122	165	191	156	175	425	32	1330
Latvia	41	28	20	41	52	27	45	7	261
Lithuania	48	23	22	41	23	29	38	3	227
Moldova	0	4	0	1	0	8	25	2	40
Poland	148	177	97	174	210	345	472	21	1644
Romania	59	90	56	51	57	84	174	19	590
Russia	8	9	6	4	2	15	14	0	58
Serbia	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	16
Slovakia	0	6	5	4	3	9	12	0	39
Ukraine	2	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	6
Total	390	495	387	534	553	734	1336	84	4513

Conclusion

The risk remains at **medium** for the entry of contaminated or infected products into UK at present.

Border checks on passengers are paramount, as are publicity campaigns aimed at reaching the travelling public and reminding them 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, for which the origins of the pork used are unclear, are a particular concern.

Travellers from an affected area in the EU or anywhere in Asia and Africa must not bring back products of pig origin – including ham, sausages or pâté – or any equipment or other goods which could potentially be contaminated with ASF virus, to the UK. Travellers from Asia and other third country areas who bring meat or dairy products can also face

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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 livestock. It is illegal to do so.

The risk of exposure to the pig population in the UK is highly dependent on the level of biosecurity on individual pig premises but is still considered to be **low**.

We will continue to monitor the situation.

Authors

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References

All disease reports are available from the OIE WAHIS database.

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

EFSA (2020) <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/j.efsa.2020.5996>

Plant, Animal Food & Feed (PAFF) Committee (2020)
https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/health/regulatory_committee/presentations_en



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