

Updated Outbreak Assessment #29

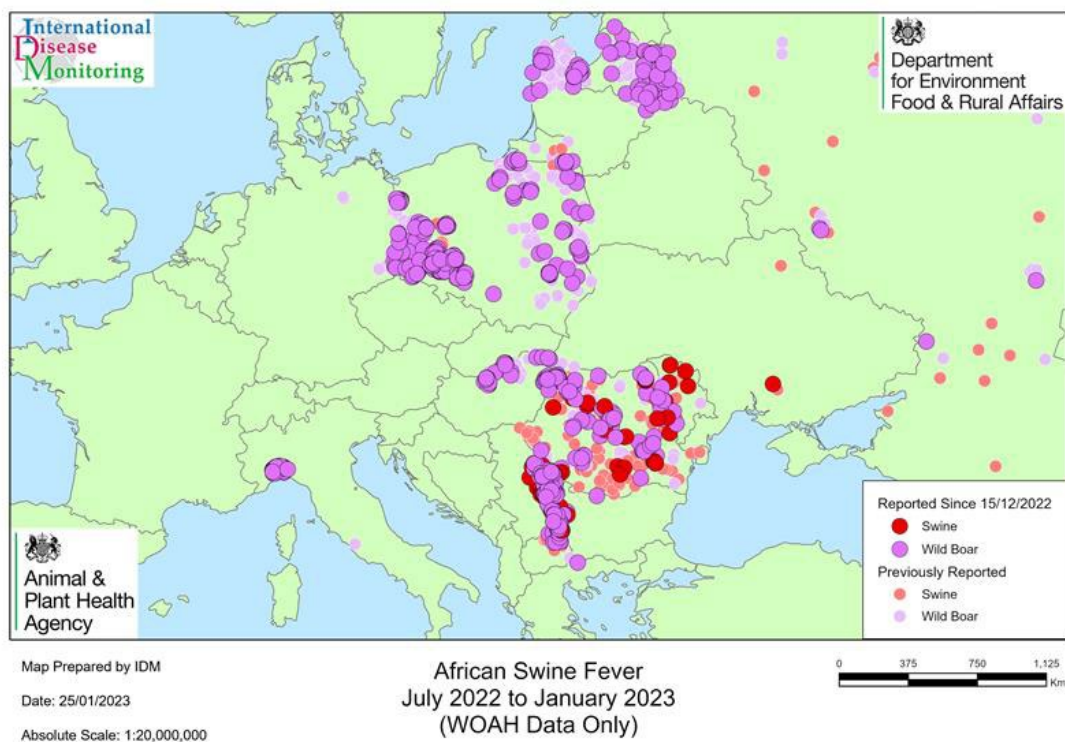
African swine fever in Europe

25 January 2023

Disease report

African swine fever (ASF) has continued to be reported in wild boar in Eastern Europe and north-west Italy. Since our last report on 15 December 2022, ASF has been confirmed in 2 wild boar carcasses in the north of Greece, in the Serres region, close to the border with North Macedonia. This is the first report of ASF in Greece since February 2020.

Elsewhere, according to WOA reports, outbreaks in domestic pigs continue to be reported in Latvia, Moldova, Poland, North Macedonia, Romania, Russia, Serbia, and Ukraine. Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Moldova, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia and Serbia have all reported ASF in wild boar, according to WOA reports.



Map 1 Shows the ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs and cases in wild boar across Europe from July 2022 to January 2023

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 (WOAH, formally OIE), unless stated otherwise. Additional information has been provided, where available, from the [EU Animal Disease Information System \(ADIS\) summary tables](#), and information from relevant PAFF presentations.

Table 1: Number of reports for domestic and wild boar from Europe, August 2022 to January 2023. Note – These are individual reports, animal numbers are not considered. WOA data only. Please note that Serbia reports to WOA every 6 months and the numbers observed in Table 1 are indicative of that. These reports will have been captured in previous reports via ADIS summaries

Country	August		September		October		November		December		January	
	Domestic	Wild	Domestic	Wild	Domestic	Wild	Domestic	Wild	Domestic	Wild	Domestic	Wild
Czech Republic										1		2
Germany		25		2		15		31		9		22
Greece												2
Hungary		34		13		15		28		30		80
Italy		11		2		3		9		22		66
Latvia	2	136	1	88		72		132		93		52
Moldova	3	1	1						3		4	-
Poland	3	64	1	102		115		175		375		190
Republic of North Macedonia	15		5		5	1	1	4	1			6
Romania	22	9	32	17	33	20	42	36	17	49	24	46
Russia	28	18	5	5	3	6	3	5	1	13	1	2
Serbia											108	159
Ukraine	1								2			

Situation assessment

Greece

Greece have reported ASF in wild boar for the first time, in two found-dead wild boar in the Serres region, close to the border with North Macedonia. The region was already in Restriction Zone I given the ongoing ASF situation in neighbouring North Macedonia. Greek authorities will be amending the zones accordingly, and the local disease control centre has been activated to arrange the search for further carcasses, checks on pig farms in the affected area, and manage hunting activity.

Czech Republic

In December 2022, [the Czech Republic reported the first case of ASF since April 2018](#). The Czech Republic have reported 2 more cases of ASF in wild boar since our last assessment. Both cases were in Liberecký, close to the Poland border and within the established Restriction Zone where surveillance is currently taking place as part of disease control measures. A ban on hunting, implemented after detection of the first wild boar case in December, was lifted on 20 January 2023 and hunters will receive a fee for each wild boar caught in the area (SVS 2023).

Germany

There have been no further reports of ASF in domestic pigs in Germany since our last outbreak assessment in December 2022.

In wild boar, since 15 December 2022, there have been 22 reports comprising of a total of 130 animals. There is no significant reporting of large distance spread since our previous update, all cases have continued to be reported in the Saxony and Brandenburg regions. Core areas and restriction zones remain in place. The cases reported since our last assessment are still very close to the border with Poland, with the most westerly case in Spree-Neisse, approximately 2 kilometres west of the border.

Hungary

Since 15 December 2022, there have been a further 102 reports comprising a total of 114 animals in Hungary. Many of these were in the east of the country close to the border with Romania, and there were also a high number of reports west of Budapest.

Italy

Since our last report on 15 December, there have been 81 more cases in wild boar in the north-west near Genoa, all of which have been within the Restriction Zones. All found dead wild boar in this region are being tested, with 610 and 253 samples taken in Liguria and Piedmont respectively.

There have been ASF reports outside of constructed fences in Italy (PAFF January 2023 Italy). As such, next steps have been identified as widening the west and east line of fences, enlargement of Restriction Zones I and II in the west, revision of their strategic

approach, finding funding to install new fences, and pay for the active search for carcasses.

There have been no reports of ASF near Rome since our last assessment and the area is considered stable ([PAFF January 2023 Italy](#)).

On 16 December 2022, the ban on exports of pigs and porcine products from Sardinia to Member States was lifted for some regions of the island ([Annex I to Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/605](#)). Since its introduction in 1978, ASF genotype I has continued to circulate on Sardinia. Sardinia had not been able to export pigs, whether live or slaughtered, since November 2011 due to ongoing cases of ASF genotype I in free-living pigs, wild boar and on pig farms. Sardinia has implemented a disease control strategy since 2015 (Loi et al. 2019). Parts of Sardinia remain under RZIII, RZII and RZ1 restrictions.

Latvia

Since our last report, Latvia has reported no outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs.

Latvia continues to report ASF in wild boar, with 97 reports to WOAHA since our last update, comprising of 149 animals.

Moldova

Moldova has reported 5 outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs to WOAHA since our last assessment. These were all backyard premises, with between 2 and 140 pigs.

There have been no further reports of ASF in wild boar in Moldova since our last assessment.

Poland

In Poland, since 15 December 2022, there have been a further 395 reports of ASF in wild boar comprising a total of 460 animals. Of these, 51 were first identified in November 2022

Republic of North Macedonia

Since the last outbreak assessment, the Republic of North Macedonia has reported no cases of ASF in domestic pigs.

North Macedonia has continued to report ASF in wild boar, with 6 cases since our last report, comprising of 8 total animals in the northeast of the country.

Romania

Romania has reported 34 outbreaks in domestic pigs across the whole of the country since our last assessment, 33 of these were in backyard premises with between 1 and 77 animals. The remaining premises was a farm with 388 pigs. Romania also reported 75 cases of ASF in wild boar, comprising of 86 animals.

Russia

Since our last assessment, Russia have reported one outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs on a backyard premises with 48 animals, and 4 cases in wild boar, affecting 10 animals. All of these reports were in the west of the country,

Serbia

Serbia has reported 107 outbreaks in domestic pigs since our last assessment according to WOAHA reports. However, Serbia reports every 6 months to WOAHA and 103 of these had a start date of before 15 December 2022 (date of our last assessment) and will have been included in previous ADIS summaries. The remaining 4 were all backyard premises with between 2 and 16 pigs.

Cases in wild boar that were detected throughout 2022 in Serbia were also reported to WOAHA since our last assessment. There were 159 reports in total, 33 of which were detected since our last assessment and affected 37 animals.

Ukraine

Ukraine has reported 1 outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs since our last update, on a backyard premises in the south of the country, with 18 pigs. No cases of ASF in wild boar have been reported.

ADIS outbreaks

Some Eastern European countries including Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, and Slovakia have reported ASF outbreaks and cases via ADIS only (to date), which are available via ADIS summaries (ADIS 2023). Since 1 January 2023 to 21 January for wild boar cases, Bulgaria has reported 67, Estonia 7, Lithuania 26, and Slovakia 69.

Conclusion

ASF is still circulating in wild boar across much of eastern Europe and has been reported in northern Greece for the first time in almost 3 years, the last being an outbreak in a domestic small holding in 2020. Greece was identified as one of 9 Balkan countries having a very high chance (66% to 100%) of disease spread within a year of introduction to the region ([EFSA, 2019](#)). Greece has been, with the other south-east Europe countries identified as of concern, involved with EFSA's 'Stop African swine fever' campaign since 2020. The campaign works with local authorities in 18 countries with an aim to raise awareness about how to prevent the spread of ASF across working areas, addressing farmers, veterinarians and hunters ([EFSA ASF campaign](#)).

This was not unexpected and most likely represents natural spread through movement of infected wild boar south of the border with Bulgaria. The detection of ASF in wild boar in Greece is notable following their continued efforts at remaining disease-free after successfully eradicating the incursion into a small holding in 2020.

Although no large geographical jumps have been reported in Europe since our update on 05 July 2022, when ASF was reported in domestic pigs in western Germany 15km from the border with the Netherlands, this is the second time in recent weeks that ASF has entered previously ASF-free countries via movement of wild boar. ASF cases also continue sporadically in domestic pigs in several countries in eastern Europe, with many pig outbreaks in Romania and Serbia.

Given the above, we consider that the risk of entry of ASF virus in live animals and products of animal origin (POAO) from affected countries, remains at medium (occurs regularly).

The potential high risk for non-commercial imports of pork products from ASF affected areas remains of high concern. Evidence from inspections at Great Britain ports suggest that there are several vehicles illegally bringing pork meat into Great Britain from some regions of the EU affected by ASF. Some of these instances involved large quantities of porcine POAO, some of which appear to be home-slaughtered and arrive in Great Britain from an undisclosed origin as a non-commercial import, with poor levels of biosecurity and food hygiene.

Therefore, the risk of ASF entering Great Britain, from the human-mediated pathway and moving porcine POAO, is considered to remain at high (occurs very often), though there is considerable uncertainty around this until data is fully collated and analysed, and we will reassess as further information becomes available.

It remains a critical time for the spread of the virus throughout Europe as well as into other regions through human-mediated routes such as introduction from non-commercial imports (including illegal imports) or fomites.

On 1 September 2022, strict new controls were introduced restricting the movement of pork and pork products into Great Britain from the European Union (EU) and European Free Trade Association states. It is no longer legal to personally bring in pork or pork products weighing over 2 kilograms unless they are produced to the EU's commercial standards.

This does not apply to commercial imports, which remain unaffected by the control, but Great Britain will be bringing in further controls in late 2023. Although this legislation does not currently apply to non-commercial imports of pork products less than 2kg from the EU, all travelers are strongly advised to avoid bringing, buying, ordering on the internet, or requesting any pork products – for example, fresh or frozen meat, dried or cured meats, sausages, salamis, or pâté – back to the UK from affected parts of Europe. It remains illegal for travelers to import meat or dairy products from Asia and other non-EU country areas.

Swill feeding any animal, whether pigs, poultry, ruminants, or wildlife is illegal and has the potential to cause substantial harm. We would like to emphasise to all pig keepers, pig producers, smallholders, and the 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 activities in the affected regions in Europe or other affected parts of the world. As with all biosecurity, these 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. You can find out more information in our [African swine fever guidance](#) on GOV.UK.

We will continue to monitor the situation.

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