

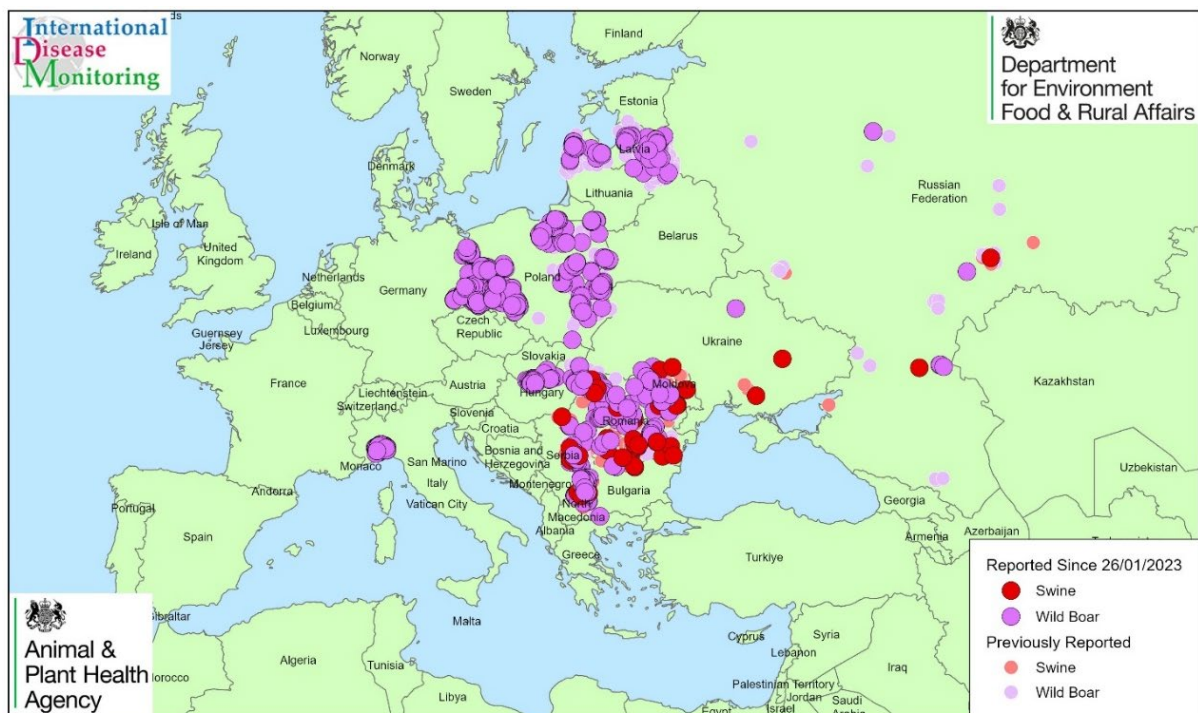
## Updated Outbreak Assessment #30

# African swine fever in Europe

17 April 2023

## Disease report

African swine fever (ASF) has continued to be reported in wild boar in eastern Europe, and in north-west Italy where there has been some spread and an expansion of the ASF restriction zones. Since our last report on 25 January 2023, ASF has been confirmed in domestic pigs on 1 premises in Germany and 1 premises in Poland. These are the first outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs in Germany since July 2022, and the first in Poland since September 2022. Elsewhere, according to WOAH reports, outbreaks in domestic pigs continue to be reported in Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Ukraine. Romania continues to report more outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs than other EU Member States although numbers have reduced compared to previous years (Figure 2). Since our last report the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Moldova, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Ukraine have all reported ASF in wild boar, according to WOAH reports (Map1). Cases of ASF in wild boar across Europe have increased in recent months and this has followed a similar pattern to that seen in the winter months of previous years (for examples, see Figure 1).



Map Prepared by IDM  
Date: 17/04/2023  
Absolute Scale: 1:30,592,000

African Swine Fever  
October 2022 to April 2023  
(WOAH Data Only)

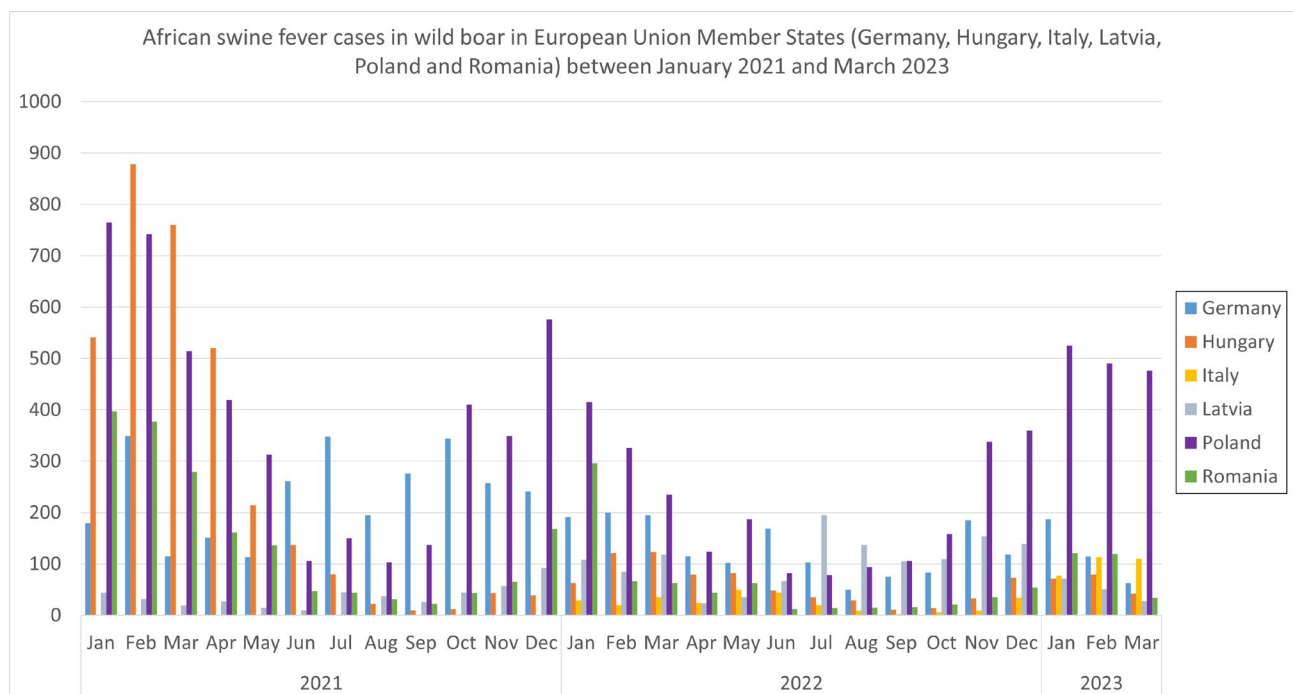
0 575 1,150 1,725  
Km

## Map 1 Showing ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs and cases in wild boar across Europe from October 2022 to April 2023

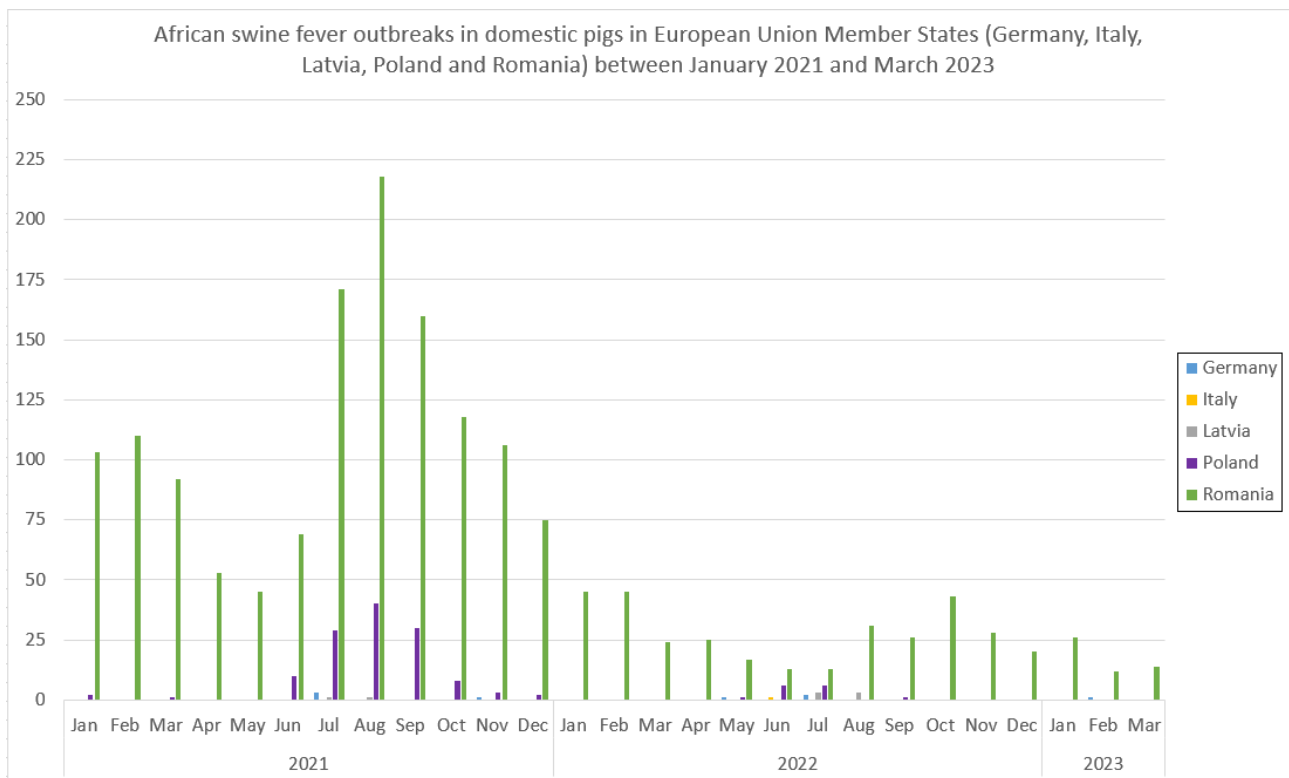
### Outbreak data

Details of all outbreaks and cases provided in the figures and map in this report were taken from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, formerly 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 (the EU Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed) presentations.

**Figure 1: Number of ASF detections in individual wild boar in some European Member States from January 2021 to March 2023, based on outbreak 'start date'. The countries included are Member States which have frequently reported large numbers of wild boar cases to WOAH. WOAH data only. Reports to ADIS are not captured here.**



**Figure 2: Number of ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs in some European Union Member States from January 2021 to March 2023. The countries included are Member States which have routinely reported outbreaks to WOAAH. WOAAH data only. Reports to ADIS are not captured here.**



## Situation assessment

### Italy

Since our last report on 25 January 2023, there have been 253 more cases in wild boar in the north-west near Genoa, the majority of which have been within the Restriction Zones (RZs). All found dead wild boar in this region are being tested, with 663 samples taken in Liguria and Piedmont since January 2023 ([PAFF March 2023 Italy](#)).

There have been ASF reports in wild boar outside of constructed fences in the east and west of the affected region, within the Restriction Zone II ([PAFF March 2023 Italy](#)). As such, next steps were 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 to pay for the active search for carcasses.

Subsequently, the detection of an infected wild boar in the RZ I region near Savona resulted in an expansion of the RZ II westwards. The detection of infected wild boar close to the highway in the north of the affected region resulted in an expansion of the RZ II in this area.

There have been no reports of ASF near Rome since our last assessment and the area is considered stable ([PAFF March 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](#)). Parts of Sardinia remain under RZ III, RZ II and RZ I restrictions. There have been no seropositive cases in wild boar in the RZ II regions of Sardinia since November 2021.

## **Germany**

There has been one further outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs in Germany since our last assessment in January 2023. The outbreak was on a smallholding of 11 animals in Brandenburg, in an area where ASF virus had been circulating in wild boar. Early epidemiological investigations showed a close relationship between the virus found in the outbreak and virus found in wild boar nearby ([PAFF March 2023 Germany](#)). This was the eighth outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs since the virus was first detected in Germany in 2020.

Since 25 January 2023, there have been 58 reports of ASF in wild boar comprising of a total of 409 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, close to the border with Poland. The permanent border fence between Brandenburg and Poland is close to completion.

## **Poland**

In April 2023, the first ASF outbreak in domestic pigs since September 2022 was reported in Poland. This outbreak has yet to be reported by WOA. The outbreak was on a farm with 16 pigs in Lower Silesia province, 13km from the border with the Czech Republic (Pig Progress, 2023).

In Poland, since 25 January 2023, there have been a further 893 reports of ASF in wild boar comprising a total of 1,462 animals. Since November 2019, the majority of cases in Poland have been in Lubusz province, adjacent to Brandenburg state in Germany.

## **Czech Republic**

In December 2022, [the Czech Republic reported the first case of ASF since April 2018](#). The Czech Republic have reported 6 more cases of ASF in wild boar since our last assessment in January 2023 involving seven animals. All cases were in northern Liberec, close to the Poland border and within the established Restriction Zone where surveillance is currently taking place as part of disease control measures.

## **Greece**

Our last assessment reported in the re-emergence of ASF in two wild boar in Greece. Surveillance continues in the area, with 431 wild boar tested for ASF to date ([PAFF March 2023 Greece](#)) and no new cases have been detected to date.

## **Hungary**

Since 25 January 2023, there have been a further 140 reports of ASF in wild boar comprising a total of 153 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, within the RZ II.

## **Latvia**

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

Latvia continues to report ASF in wild boar, with 86 reports to WOAHA since our last update, comprising of 103 animals.

## **Moldova**

Moldova has reported 11 outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs to WOAHA since our last assessment. One outbreak was on a farm premises with 147 pigs. The remainder were all backyard premises, with between 1 and 37 pigs.

There were also 3 reports of ASF in wild boar in Moldova, comprising 14 animals, since our last assessment.

## **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 10 cases since our last report, comprising of 43 animals.

## **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 71 animals. The remaining premises was a farm with over 16,000 pigs. Romania also reported 125 cases of ASF in wild boar, comprising of 219 animals. The whole of Romania remains under RZ III restrictions.

## **Russia**

Since our last assessment, Russia have reported 7 outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs. Two of these were in the west of the country on backyard premises with 12 and 51 animals, respectively. Russia also reported 6 cases of ASF in wild boar, 5 of which were in the west of the country affecting 13 animals.

## **Serbia**

Serbia has reported 26 outbreaks in domestic pigs since our last assessment according to WOAHA reports. These were all on backyard premises with between one and 39 pigs.

There were also 130 cases of ASF in wild boar in Serbia which affected 154 animals.

## Ukraine

Ukraine has reported 2 outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs since our last update, 1 on a premises in the south of the country near the border with Romania and 1 west of Kiev. Both outbreaks were on backyard premises with 2 and 14 pigs, respectively. 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 28 January 2023 to 14 April 2023 for wild boar cases, Bulgaria has reported 47, Estonia 11, Lithuania 79, and Slovakia 224.

## Conclusion

ASF is still circulating in wild boar across much of eastern Europe and has spread within the restriction zones that were implemented in northern Italy in 2022. While cases of ASF in wild boar across Europe have increased in recent months this has followed a similar pattern to that seen in winter months of previous years (Figure 1) (EFSA, 2022). With the exception of northern Italy, the number of cases remain low in areas where the disease has been recently introduced such as Czech Republic, Greece and Lazio, Italy.

There remain no large geographical jumps reported in Europe since our update on 05 July 2022, when ASF was reported in domestic pigs in western Germany 15 km from the border with the Netherlands. However, the first detections of ASF in 2023 in domestic pigs in Germany and Poland are concerning. 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. Although this legislation does not currently apply to non-commercial imports of pork products less than 2 kg 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. Please see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/african-swine-fever> for more information.

We will continue to monitor the situation.

## **Authors**

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