

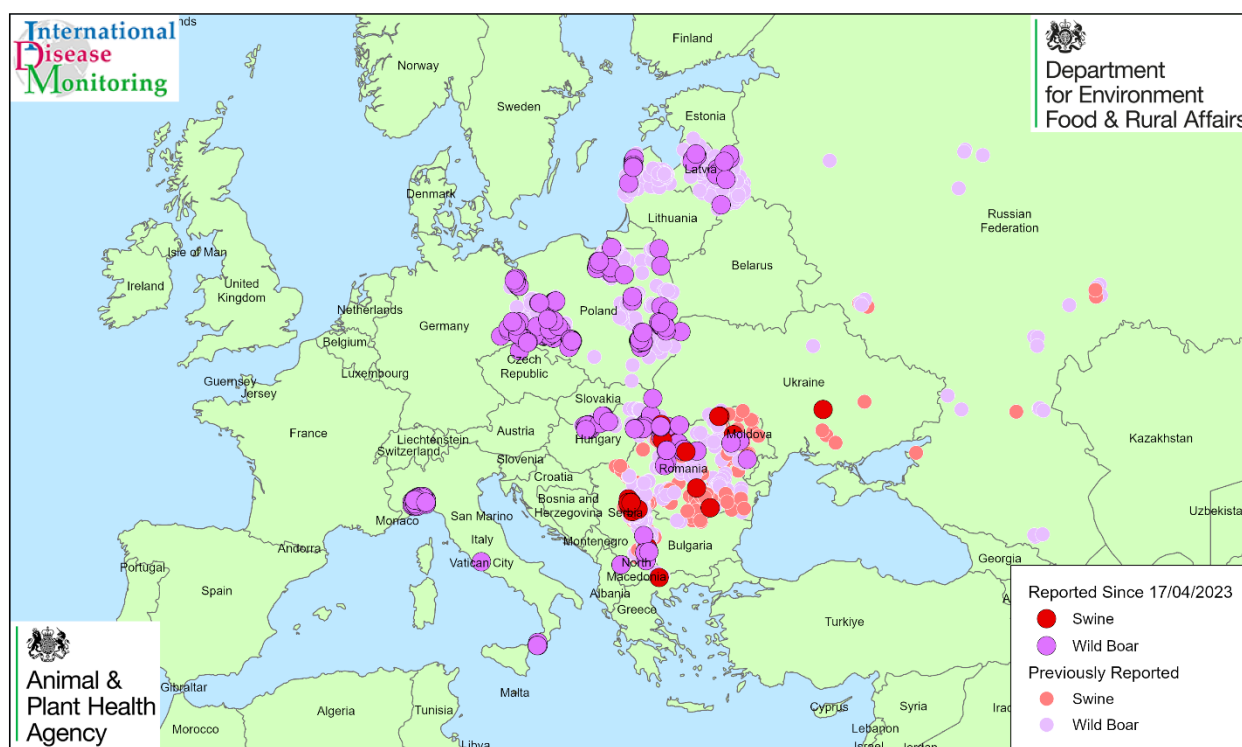
## Updated Outbreak Assessment #31

# African swine fever in Europe

16 May 2023

## Disease report

African swine fever (ASF) has continued to be reported in domestic pigs and wild boar in Europe. Since our last report on 17 April 2023, ASF has been confirmed on a domestic pig farm and in four wild boar in a newly affected region of southern Italy, in Calabria. This is the third region to be affected since the first incursion in January 2022, with previous incursions into Piedmonte and Lazio. In the Czech Republic, ASF has been detected in a wild boar outside of the existing restriction zones. Furthermore, ASF has been confirmed in domestic pigs on 1 premises in Greece. This was the first outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs in Greece since a single incursion in February 2020.



Map Prepared by IDM

Date: 16/05/2023

Absolute Scale: 1:28,800,000

African Swine Fever  
November 2022 to May 2023  
(WOAH Data Only)

0 540 1,080 1,620 Km

**Map 1 Showing ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs and cases in wild boar across Europe from November 2022 to May 2023**

Elsewhere, according to WOAH reports, outbreaks in domestic pigs continue to be reported in Romania, Serbia and Ukraine. Since our last report the Czech Republic,

Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Moldova, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine have all reported ASF in wild boar, according to WOAAH reports (Map1).

## **Outbreak data**

Details of all outbreaks and cases provided in the 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.

## **Situation assessment**

Our last report on 17 April 2023 provided a full situation assessment on ASF in Europe. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the epidemiologically significant change noted in Italy, and report on the situation in other affected countries in Europe that have reported ASF since the last assessment

### **Italy**

In May 2023, ASF cases in wild boar were detected for the first time in Calabria, southern Italy. Three cases were near the south-west edge of Aspromonte National Park, and the fourth case was over 10km to the north, close to the coast. Subsequently, ASF was also confirmed on a breeding pig farm in Africo, Calabria which contained around 70 pigs. This outbreak has yet to be reported to WOAAH and so does not appear in Map 1. Control and surveillance measures in accordance with Regulations (EU) 2020/687/ and 2023/594 have been applied. Protection and surveillance zones have been implemented around the farm premises and the wild boar cases. There is currently no evidence of an epidemiological link between these cases and disease clusters in northern or central Italy. It is suspected that disease has been introduced via human-mediated routes, since there is a major road trade route through the area.

Since our last report on 17 April 2023, there have been 153 more cases in wild boar in the north-west near Genoa, the majority of which have been within the Restriction Zones (RZs). As previously reported, the detection of an infected wild boar in the RZ I region near Savona resulted in an expansion of the RZ II westwards, and 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 has also been 1 report of ASF in Lazio, near Rome since our last assessment, although the ASF situation in the area was previously considered stable ([PAFF March 2023 Italy](#)).

In Sardinia, where ASF genotype I has been present since the 1970s, there have been no seropositive cases in wild boar in the RZ II regions of Sardinia since November 2021, and the last positive PCR test was in 2019.

## **Greece**

In January 2023, we reported on the re-emergence of ASF in two wild boar in the Serres region of Greece. Surveillance continues in the area, with 431 wild boar tested for ASF to date ([PAFF March 2023 Greece](#)) and no new cases in wild boar have been detected to date. However, Greece reported 1 outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs on a breeding farm with 675 animals, in the Livadia district of the Serres region. This is the first report of ASF in domestic pigs in the country since a single outbreak on a backyard farm in the same region of Serres in February 2020.

## **Czech Republic**

In December 2022, [the Czech Republic reported the first case of ASF since April 2018](#). The Czech Republic have reported 7 more cases of ASF in wild boar since our last assessment in April 2023, one of which was in Mimoň, around 60km from the nearest confirmed case and outside the current restriction zones. All cases were in the Liberec region, close to the Poland border.

## **Germany**

Since 17 April 2023, there have been 20 reports of ASF in wild boar comprising of a total of 84 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 double fences between Brandenburg and Poland, and between Saxony and Brandenburg are now completed ([PAFF March 2022 Germany](#)). Construction of a double fence between Saxony and western Germany is ongoing.

## **Hungary**

Since 17 April 2023, there have been a further 45 reports of ASF in wild boar comprising a total of 48 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 27 reports to WOAHA since our last update, comprising of 41 animals.

## **Moldova**

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

Moldova continues to report ASF in wild boar, with 1 report to WOAHA since our last update.

## **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 3 cases since our last report, comprising of 8 animals.

## **Poland**

In Poland, since 17 April 2023, there have been a further 141 reports of ASF in wild boar comprising a total of 263 animals. Since November 2019, the majority of cases in Poland have been in Lubusz province, adjacent to Brandenburg state in Germany.

## **Romania**

Romania has reported 11 outbreaks in domestic pigs across the whole of the country since our last assessment, all of which were in backyard premises. The largest of these was on a premises in the north-east of the country near the border with Ukraine and Moldova, which contained 288 pigs. The remaining premises contained between 2 and 18 animals. The whole of Romania remains under RZ III restrictions.

Romania also reported 24 cases of ASF in wild boar, comprising of 29 animals.

## **Serbia**

Serbia has reported 28 outbreaks in domestic pigs since our last assessment according to WOAHA reports. These were all on backyard premises with between 1 and 15 pigs.

There were also 6 cases of ASF in wild boar in Serbia which affected 7 animals.

## **Ukraine**

Ukraine has reported 1 outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs since our last update, on a farm premises with 8 pigs. Ukraine also reported 2 cases of ASF in wild boar.

## **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).

## **Conclusion**

ASF is still circulating in wild boar across much of eastern Europe and has spread within, and outside of, the restriction zones that were implemented in northern Italy and northern Czech Republic 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 (EFSA, 2022). The recent detection of 4 cases of ASF in wild boar in the Calabria region in southern Italy is concerning. One case was found over 10km away from the

others, and could indicate that the disease is present and widespread in the region. This is the third area in Italy affected by ASF, following introduction into Piedmonte and Lazio in 2022. It is currently unclear whether there is an epidemiological link to other affected areas within Italy, or if this is a new incursion from outside the country.

These latest cases in southern Italy represent a new “jump” in disease distribution which is the sixth such event in Europe since January 2022. The last jump was into western Germany in July 2022. This is concerning as it would appear that these cases have arisen as a result of the movement of infected pigs or wild boar. Instead, the other likely pathways are human mediated transport of infected products or contaminated equipment / products (fomites) with subsequent exposure of susceptible animals.

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

Dr Sonny Bacigalupo

Anthony Pacey

Dr Lauren Perrin

## References

ADIS (2023) Animal Disease Information System. Available from: [https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/animal-disease-information-system-adis\\_en](https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/animal-disease-information-system-adis_en). Accessed 18 April 2023

EFSA (2022), Baños, J.V., Boklund, A., Gogin, A., Gortázar, C., Guberti, V., Helyes, G., Kantere, M., Korytarova, D., Linden, A. and Masiulis, M.. Epidemiological analyses of African swine fever in the European Union: (September 2020 to August 2021). EFSA Journal, 20(5), p.e07290.

PAFF (2023a) African swine fever in Germany, March 2023. Available from: [https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-03/reg-com\\_ahw\\_20230323\\_pres-05.pdf](https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-03/reg-com_ahw_20230323_pres-05.pdf). Accessed 18 April 2023.

PAFF (2023b) ASF situation in Italy, March 2023. Available from: [https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-03/reg-com\\_ahw\\_20230323\\_pres-07.pdf](https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-03/reg-com_ahw_20230323_pres-07.pdf). Accessed 18 April 2023.

PAFF (2023c) ASF situation in Greece, March 2023. Available from: [https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-03/reg-com\\_ahw\\_20230323\\_pres-06.pdf](https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-03/reg-com_ahw_20230323_pres-06.pdf). Accessed 18 April 2023

Pig Progress (2023) ASF Poland: 1<sup>st</sup> farm in 2023 falls victim to virus. Available from: <https://www.pigprogress.net/health-nutrition/health/asf-poland-1st-farm-in-2023-falls-victim-to-virus/>. Accessed 18 April 2023.