



# EU's experience on the prevention, control and eradication of African swine fever

Global webinars on ASF – October 2020

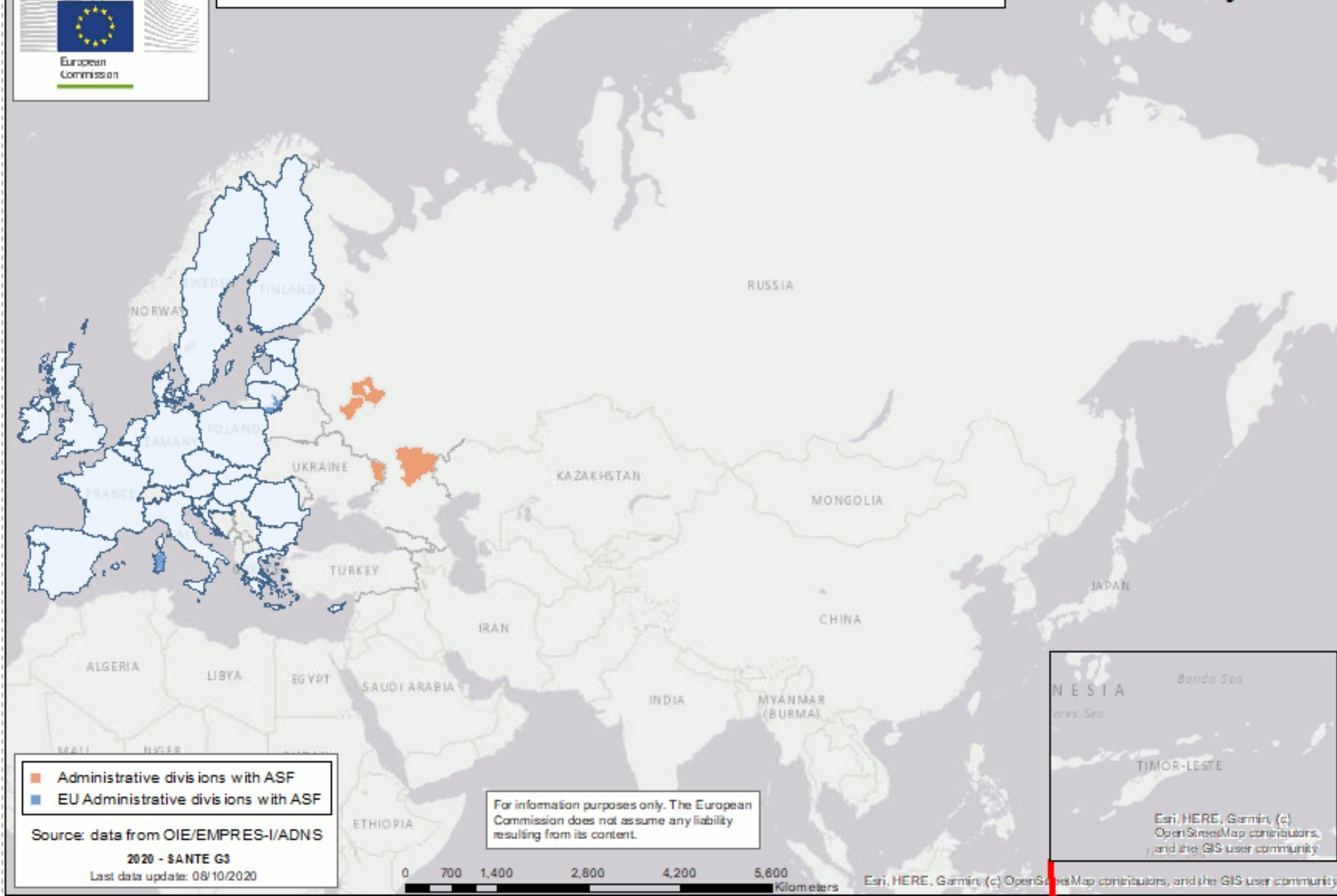
*Bernard Van Goethem*

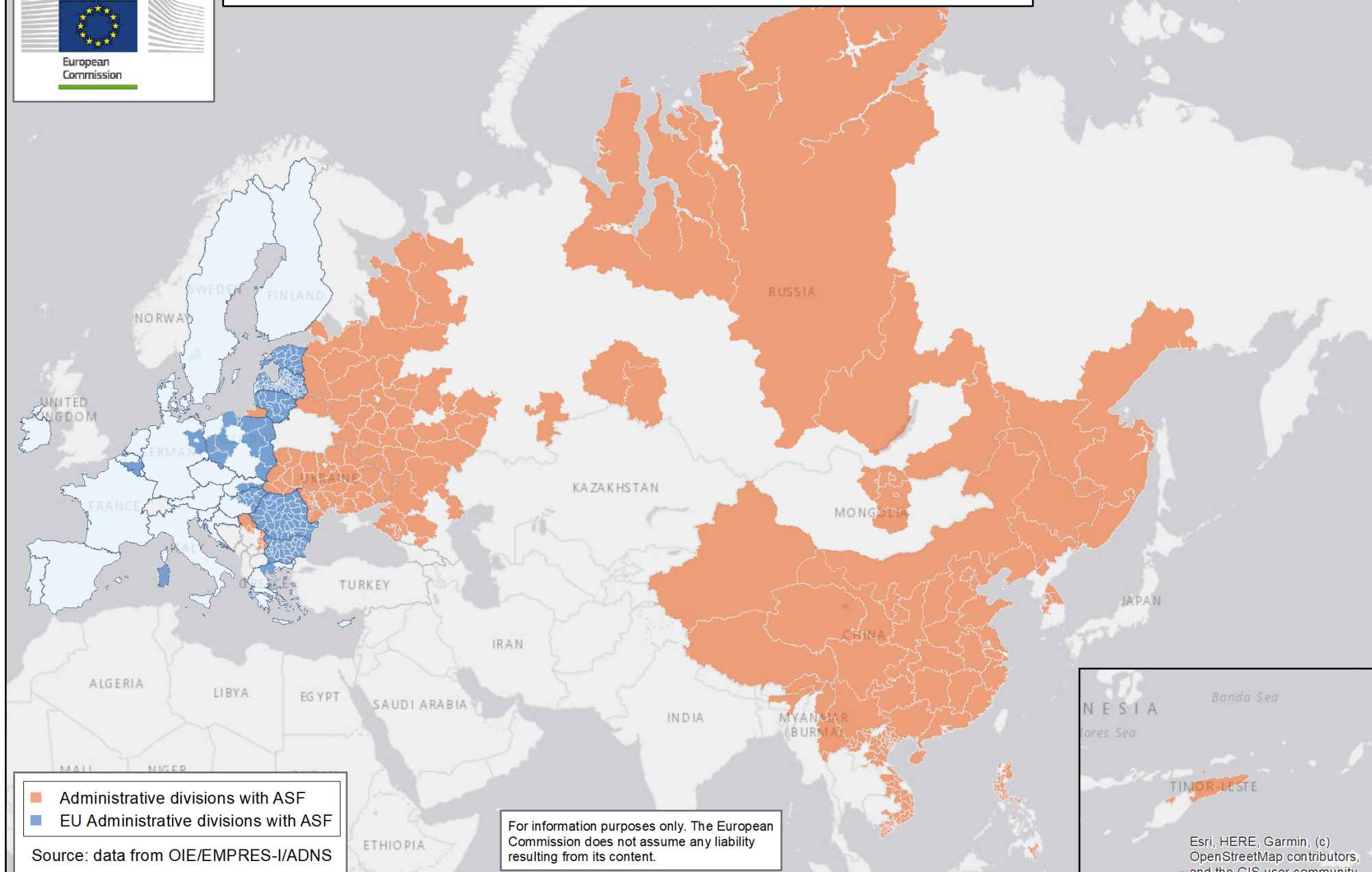
*Director of Directorate G - Crisis  
preparedness in food, animals and  
plants, DG SANTE, EU Commission*



# Outline

- Overview of **ASF situation in the EU**
- EU's initiatives - some examples:
  - Harmonised **legislation & guidelines** based on scientific advice and best practises
  - **Regionalisation (zoning)** based on international standards and principles
  - International **cooperation** - GFTADs
- EU's experience – **major challenges** for ASF prevention, control and eradication
- **Key messages**

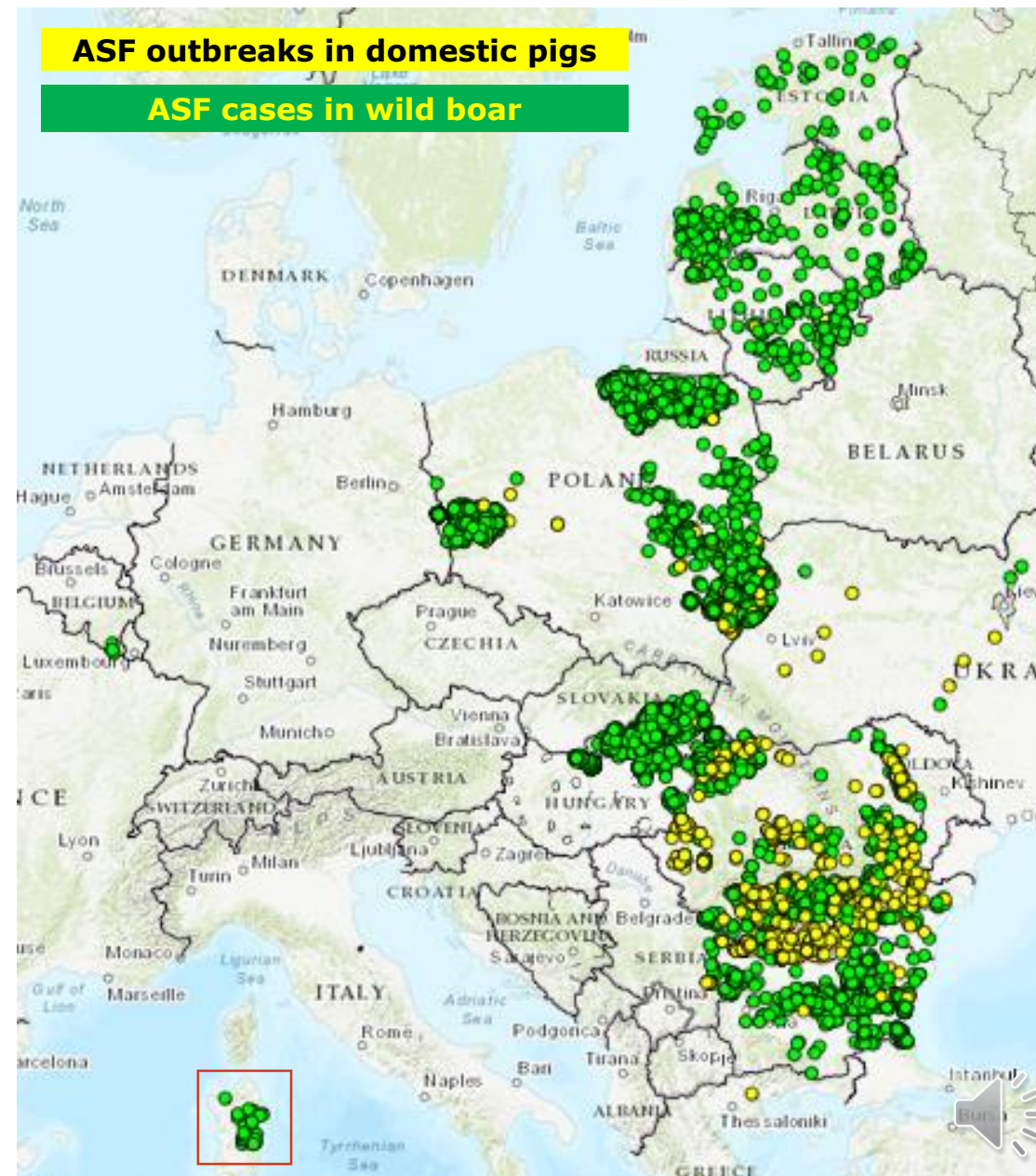




# ASF in the EU in 2014-2020

1. Lithuania (1/2014)
2. Poland (1/2014)
3. Latvia (6/2014)
4. Estonia (7/2015) – last ASF outbreak in pigs 9/2017
5. Romania (7/2017)
6. Hungary (4/2018) – only in wild boar
7. Bulgaria (6/2018)
8. Belgium (9/2018) – only in wild boar, no new cases since 08/2019
9. Slovakia (7/2019)
10. Greece (2/2020) – one outbreak in pigs
11. Germany (9/2020) – only in wild boar, close to PL border
12. Sardinia, IT - from 1978, genotype I

Czechia – 6/2017, free from ASF since 02/2019



Map. ASF in the EU in 2020 (05/10/2020)

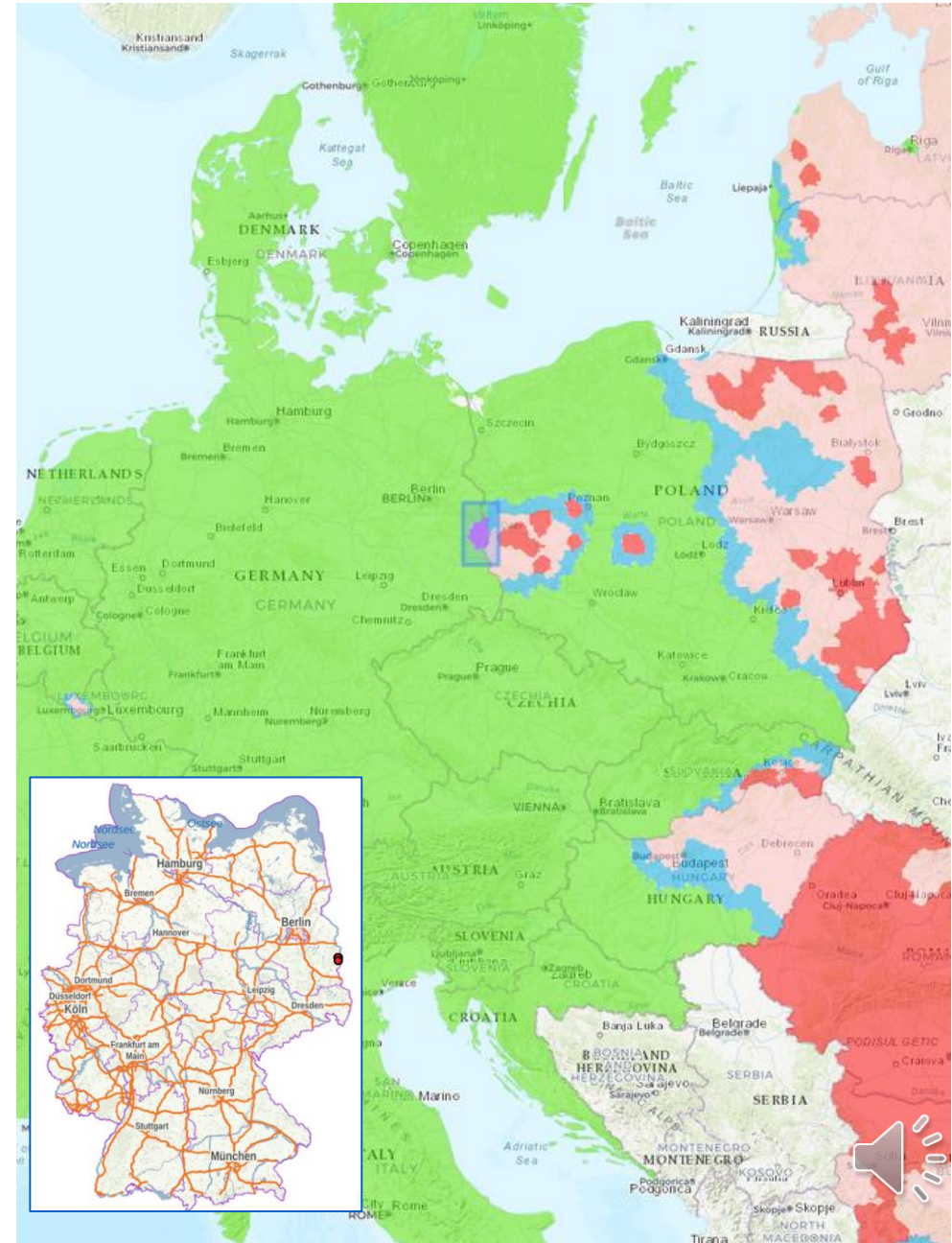


European  
Commission

# ASF in wild boar in Germany (1)

- **Confirmed on 10 Sept 2020**, 7 km from PL border
- Urgent interim safeguard Decision 2020/1270 of 11 Sept 2020
- **EUVET\*** mission to Germany 22-24 Sept 2020
- Measures in place as per **EU legislation**

- 2 years old female, advanced stage of decomposition (2-4 weeks)

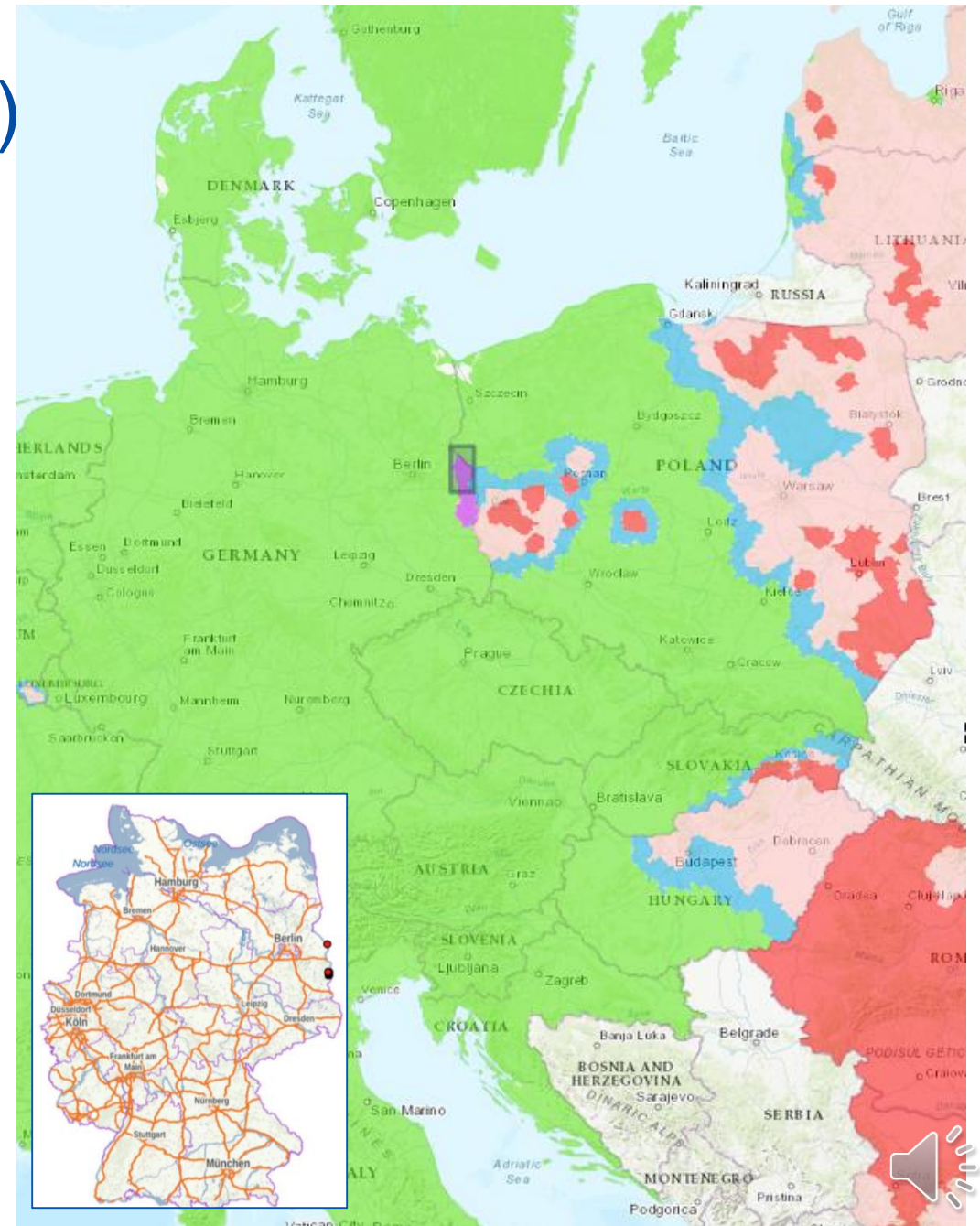


\* EU Veterinary emergency team: [https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/emergency-team\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/emergency-team_en)

## ASF in wild boar in **Germany** (2)

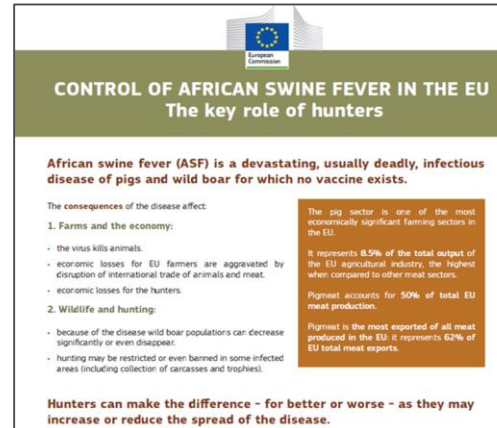
- **New ASF occurrence**, confirmed **30 Sept 2020**
- **60 km north** of the initial core area, 2 km from PL border
- Urgent **safeguard** Decision 2020/1391 of 2 **Oct 2020**
- Measures in place as per **EU legislation**

Regionalisation (zoning) is in place!  
Only a very limited area of Germany is affected!  
No outbreaks in domestic pigs!



# Main EU initiatives on ASF

- Preparedness
- Scientific advice
- Research
- Legislation
- Regionalization
- Border controls
- Audits
- Financial support
- Guidance to MSs
- Public awareness
- Urgent intervention
  - EUVET
- International cooperation
  - GFTADS



<https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/video/I-192783>

# Legal framework for a harmonised ASF control measures in the EU

## Status quo

- Directives 90/425/EEC, 89/662/EEC
- Directives 2002/60 & 2002/99
- Safeguard Decisions (under Directives 2002/99, 90/425, 89/662)
- **Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2014/709 (zoning)**

## From 21 April 2021

- Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (*Animal Health Law*)
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 as regards rules for the prevention and control of certain listed diseases
- Commission emergency measures (*Art. 259 of AHL*)
- **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) under Art 71(3) of AHL (zoning)**

Immediately available on the internet in all EU languages in the Official Journal of the EU and via info notes (adoption, publication, amendments)



# Ongoing review of legal framework for a harmonised ASF control measures in the EU

- Alignment with a **new legal basis** (AHL)
- Continuous alignment with the **international standard** on ASF (OIE)
- **Continuity** of the current ASF control rules
  - Preservation of the successful approach of main measures
  - Review of the rules based on new scientific developments and best experiences
  - Simplification, streamlining and modernisation

# Special ASF control measures

## Main principles

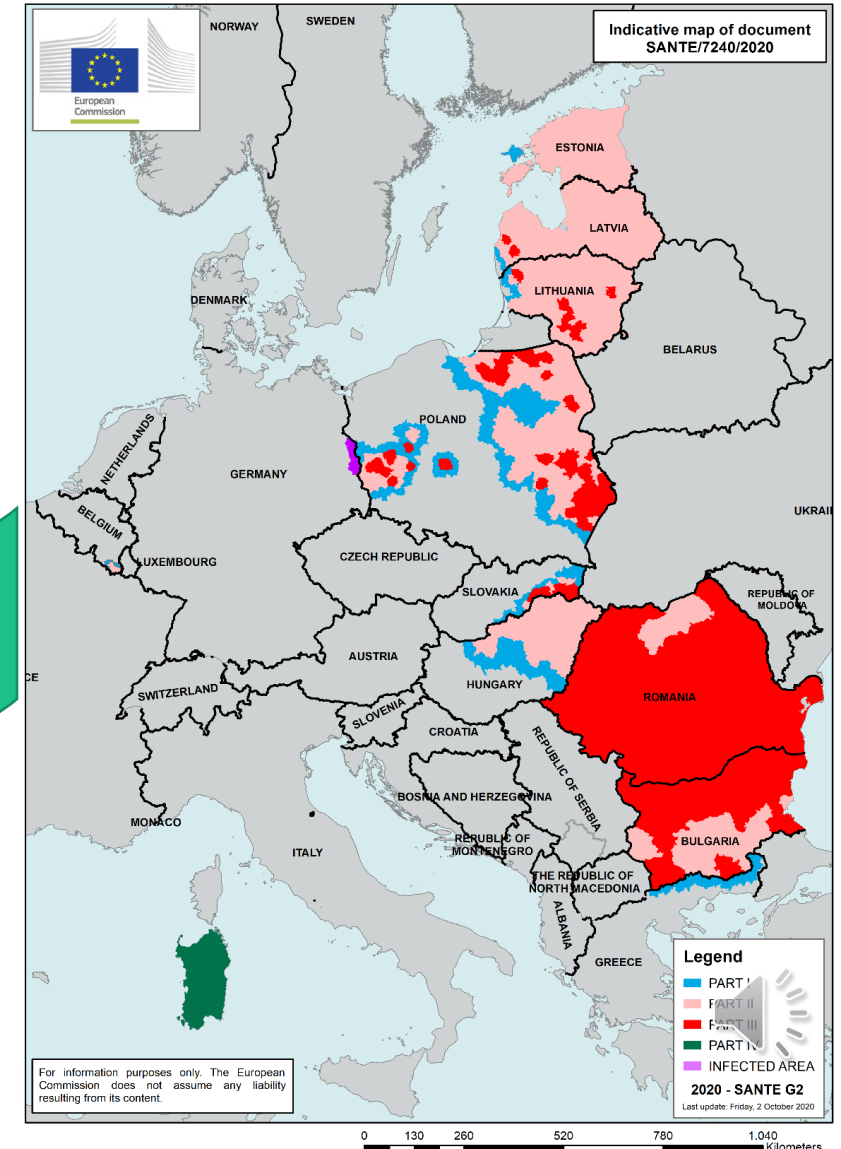
- **Special ASF control measures in place**
  - **Prohibitions** in relation to the dispatch of kept and wild porcine animals, germinal products, meat and meat products, animal by-products, etc.
  - Safe **derogations** from prohibitions (e.g. channelling procedure) under certain strict **conditions** (passive surveillance in place, supervision of competent authorities, implementation of biosecurity rules, etc.).
  - Special **approval** of establishments and **requirements**:
    - Farms: biosecurity, official control, surveillance
    - Meat establishments: segregation, official control
  - Lists of **zones categorised by the epidemiological situation (regionalisation / zoning)**
  - **Information obligations** and **public awareness**



# EU regionalisation (zoning) measures on ASF

- Last amendment: October 2020
- EU regionalisation **based on risk assessment**:
  - **Part I**: ASF not present. High risk, buffer zone.
  - **Part II**: ASF only in wild boar.
  - **Part III**: ASF in domestic pigs and wild boar.
  - **Part IV**: specific endemic situation in Sardinia
- Principles and criteria available online:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/ad\\_control-measures\\_asf\\_wrk-doc-sante-2015-7112.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/ad_control-measures_asf_wrk-doc-sante-2015-7112.pdf)
- Online interactive map:  
<https://santegis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=45cdd657542a437c84bfc9cf1846ae8c>
- Urgent information to trading partners:
  - ASF Info Notes

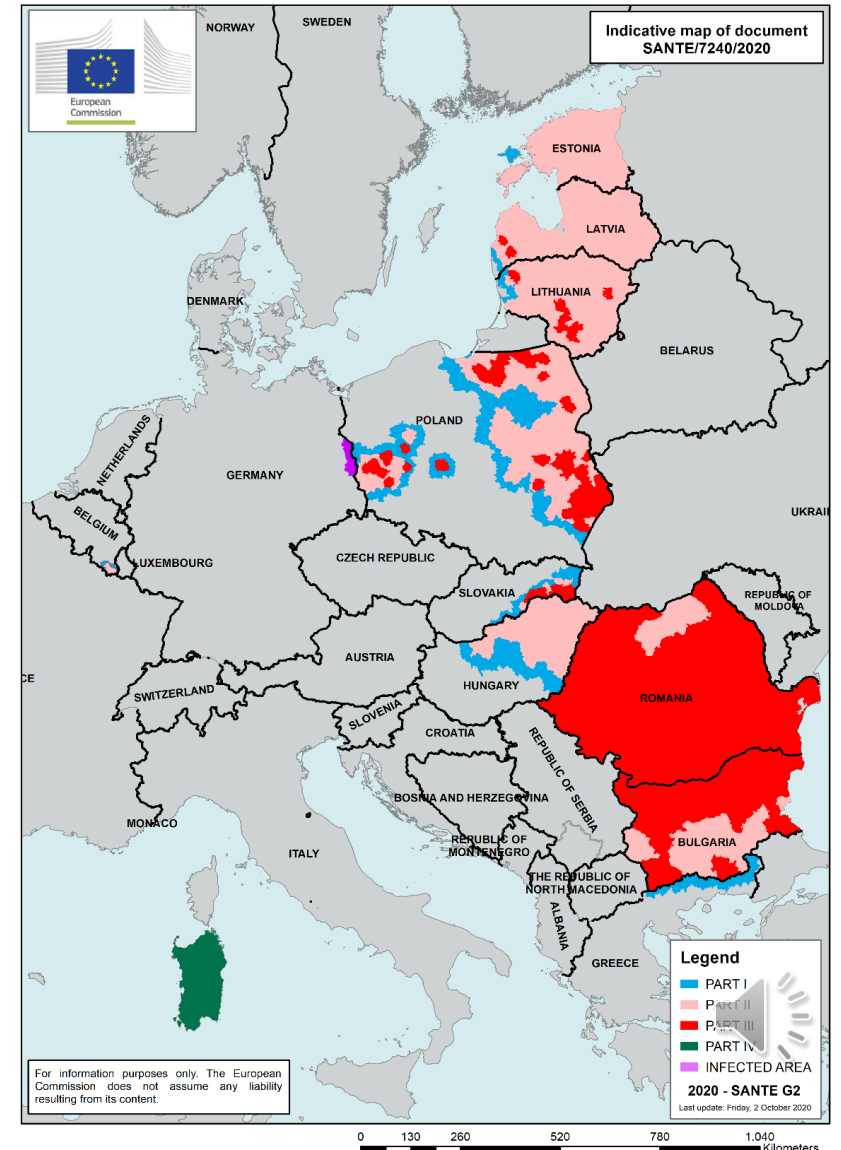
In line with  
OIE!



# EU regionalisation (zoning) measures on ASF

- Internationally recognised (e.g. WTO)
- Recognized by certain trading partners
- Since 2014 proven to be **effective to prevent/control/slow down the spread of ASF** (eradication in certain situations: CZ! BE?)
- In the areas affected by ASF - **risk mitigation measures**
- **Business continuity:** the negative impact of ASF is reduced (safe trade from non-restricted areas, safe derogations for affected areas, etc.)

**Urgent information - Transparency**



# EU regionalisation (zoning) = guaranty for safe trade

- **EU regionalisation for ASF** ensures that:
  - stringent control measures are implemented to contain ASF in the affected areas,
  - safe trade can continue to take place from the non-affected areas or for a number of products, under well-defined and safe risk mitigating conditions
- **The EU legislation** foresees strict measures to apply regionalisation:
  - based on science and
  - fully in line with the OIE international standards.
- **Country-wide bans are disproportionate and not justified and go against the WTO SPS Agreement principles**

# EU Strategic approach to the management of ASF for the EU (guidelines in addition to EU legislation):

## Wild boar

- Long-term national **action plans**
- **Tailor made hunting (+ biosecurity)** in different areas
- Active patrolling and search, disposal of **carcasses**
- Containment and isolation (e.g. **fencing, trapping**)
- **Ban** on the sustained **feeding**

## Domestic pigs

- Minimum **biosecurity** requirements
- **Inspection** and investigation regime
- **Recurrent awareness** campaigns
- **Sampling** and **laboratory testing**

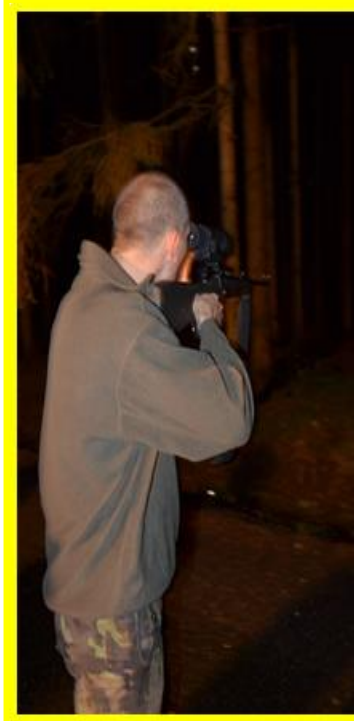
- Main **measures for ASF prevention** and **early detection** in non-affected MS
  - Passive **surveillance**
  - **Awareness and cooperation**

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/ad\\_control-measures\\_asf\\_wrk-doc-sante-2015-7113.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/ad_control-measures_asf_wrk-doc-sante-2015-7113.pdf)



# Success stories: Czechia

**06.2017-04.2018**

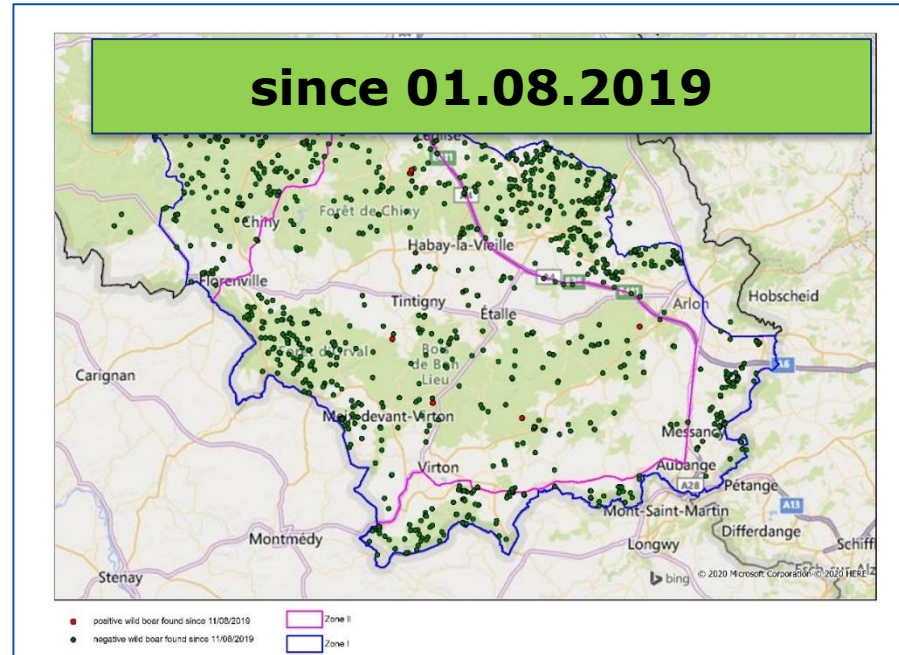
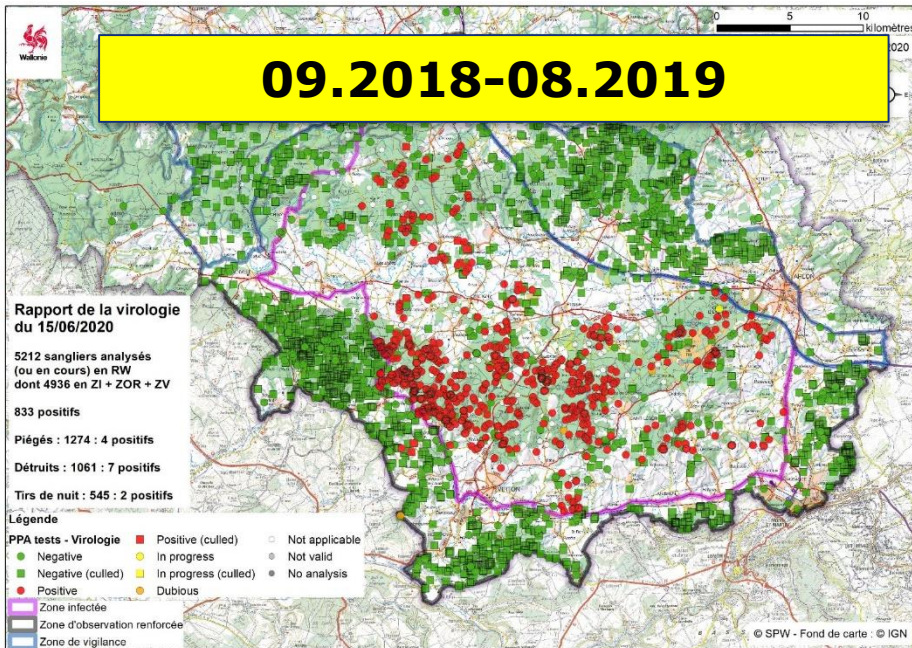


- Urgent response
- Tailor made hunting wild boar management
- Active search of carcasses
- Fencing
- Coordination and close cooperation at all levels
- No outbreaks in pigs

**04.2018-02.2019**



# Success stories: Belgium



- Urgent response
- Tailor made hunting wild boar management
- Active search of carcasses
- Fencing
- Coordination and close cooperation at all levels
- No outbreaks in pigs



# Standing Group of Experts on ASF in Europe (**SGE ASF**)



- **15 meetings of the SGE ASF in Europe since 2014**
  - The most recent (remote) meeting: May 2020 (***Update on the countries' situation and ASF management in the framework of the Covid-19 crisis***)
  - The next (remote) meeting: October 2020
- **12 field visits** by experts in Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, the Czech Republic, Romania, Bulgaria and Belgium.



Trust – transparency – technical guidance – improved preparedness and control capacity of countries  
best practises – sharing of knowledge, success stories and exchanges with other regions worldwide

# Main challenges

- **Sustainability of pig farming** in the EU and globally
  - Backyard/small-scale farms
- **Wild boar management** (appropriate reduction)
  - High density in certain areas
- Absence of the **vaccine against ASF** and certain other scientific / research gaps
- Risk of ASF introduction by **international travelers** and **human mediated 'jumps'**
- Recognition of **international principles of regionalisation (zoning)** by some trading partners

# 17 January 2020, Berlin (Germany)

## International Green Week

### HIGH-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL PORK PRODUCTION UNDER THE THREAT OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/high-level-international-conference-2020-jan-17\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/high-level-international-conference-2020-jan-17_en)



#ASFconfBerlin



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# Outcome of the conference: Chair's conclusions (1)

- The prevention, control and eradication of ASF, is a matter of high **global priority**
- Further **global action** and **effective collaboration** and communication is needed
- In the absence of a vaccine, global eradication of the disease in domestic and feral pigs has limited prospects and therefore **prevention and control require important resources** and a **long-term global strategy**
- It is essential to **share experiences** and **best practices** regarding preparedness, prevention and control of ASF and apply a common approach in line with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) standards to limit its global consequences while allowing **safe trade** and the **sustainability of pig farming**.



# Outcome of the conference: Chair's conclusions (2)

- **Preparedness** and control of ASF is of paramount importance and requires the development of a common strategy at global level.
- **Global allocation of the necessary resources** is needed to ensure
  - **Enhanced coordination and cooperation between all** relevant stakeholders in the agricultural, and environmental side
  - Enhanced coordination and cooperation on **regionalization/zoning**
  - Significantly raising the level of **awareness on ASF**
  - Scientific and technical collaboration in the **research area at global level**
  - Enhanced **transparency, trust and sharing of information** on ASF between countries
  - **Mutual assistance** when dealing with ASF



# Thank you

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/control-measures/asf\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/control-measures/asf_en)

<https://rr-europe.oie.int/en/Projects/gf-tads-europe/standing-groups-of-experts-on-african-swine-fever-in-europe/>



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