



Bruxelles, le 8 juin 2022  
(OR. fr, en)

10015/22

AGRI 244  
VETER 55

**NOTE**

---

Origine:	Secrétariat général du Conseil
Destinataire:	délégations
Objet:	Peste porcine africaine (PPA): situation actuelle et voie à suivre

---

Les délégations trouveront en annexe une note d'information sur le sujet visé en objet, qui sera abordé sous le point «Divers» lors de la session du Conseil «Agriculture et pêche» du 13 juin 2022.

## African swine fever (ASF): current situation and the way forward

### State of play of the disease and economic impact.

**ASF is the most challenging animal health issue the world is facing.** The multi-sectorial impact of ASF has severe consequences for the economy and global food security, in particular in Asia. This disease has serious economic implications for the pig meat and related sectors, including indirect costs related to trade restrictions.

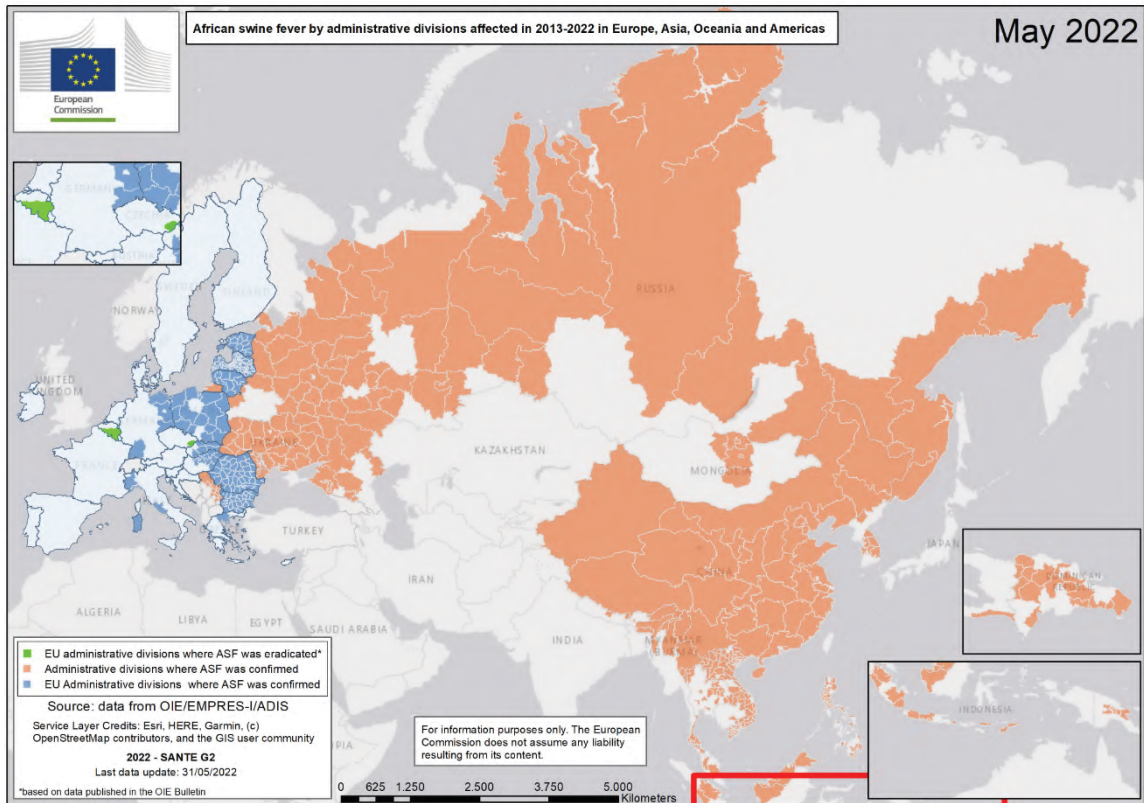
Since the outset of ASF in Europe in 2007<sup>1</sup>, the Commission has taken a series of initiatives ([ASF Chronology](#))<sup>2</sup> to enhance preparedness and to fight the spread of the disease into the Union. Thanks to those initiatives, since 2014 (when ASF appeared in the EU), the occurrences of ASF have been mostly limited geographically to the Eastern part of the EU and mainly in wild boar, apart from apparent human mediated “jumps” to the Czech Republic (2017), Belgium (2018), western part of Poland (2019) and, more recently, in Italy and Germany (2022). Ten EU Member States (EE, IT, LV, LT, HU, PL, RO, BG, SK, DE) are currently affected by ASF outbreaks, mainly in wild boar. Some Member States are also struggling to eradicate ASF from their domestic pig populations, mainly due to a particular structure of pig farming (with many small-scale farms or backyards with poor biosecurity). A permanent threat continues to exist due to the presence of the virus in the neighbouring countries to the east of the EU. The ASF situation at global level has worsened considerably since 2018 as ASF has spread and continues spreading rapidly in Asia and started spreading in the Americas region (in the Dominican Republic and Haiti) since mid-2021. In January 2022, Thailand has reported a first ASF outbreak in domestic pigs.

---

<sup>1</sup> Except Sardinia (IT), where a different genotype of ASFV is present since 1978.

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/food/document/download/0bb2567d-ca7c-4238-9700-e76913416ab9\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/document/download/0bb2567d-ca7c-4238-9700-e76913416ab9_en)

An indicative map of the global ASF situation



## Strategy to fight ASF

### a. Relaunch the vaccination efforts

There is still no vaccine against ASF in the world despite some positive signals from the ongoing EU funded projects (e.g. VACDIVA<sup>3</sup>). The current development methods appear to have certain limitations in addressing such a complex virus and ensuring the level of safety, efficacy and genetic stability needed for any candidate ASF vaccine. Therefore, the Commission is **exploring new, modern techniques to develop ASF vaccines** in particular through Horizon Europe, including with international partners, to address the growing ASF challenge.

### b. Long term management of the wild boar population

It is not currently possible to eradicate ASF when it is present in wild boar in a large area. Only when it is detected early and relevant measures are swiftly taken in an efficient manner, can eradication be envisaged. This was the case in the Czech Republic and Belgium where ASF has been eradicated within less than two years. Therefore, to ensure ASF preparedness, **long-term management of wild boar populations** is crucial in all Member States. To address this issue the Commission is proposing to shift from the current EU guidelines on National action plans for wild boar management in the context of ASF prevention, control and eradication to a legally binding approach. Regulation (EU) 2021/605<sup>4</sup> (ASF Regulation) is to be amended to require the Member States to have in place National action plans for wild boar management in the context of ASF prevention, control and eradication.

The Commission is currently discussing this new approach with Member States and is seeking to foster the relevant political support to: (i) ensure commitment and cooperation between competent authorities, (ii) overcome the resistance found from some actors in Member States to act on the appropriate reduction of wild boar in the EU, and (iii) address specific environmental concerns related to disease prevention, control or eradication measures (such as fencing).

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://vacdiva.eu/>

<sup>4</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605 of 7 April 2021 laying down special control measures for African swine fever (OJ L 129, 15.4.2021, p. 1).

### c. Awareness raising

When the disease is widespread, the main goals are: (i) to avoid its further spread or at least slow down the spread of ASF as much as possible, (ii) to prevent ASF spill over to establishments of domestic pigs, and (iii) to avoid long-distance “jumps” of the disease to non-affected areas due to the ‘human factor’. **Public awareness remains crucial** to address these challenges targeting human populations and behaviours not sufficiently tackled. The Commission has been financially supporting public awareness campaigns on ASF in all Member States and in neighbouring third countries (such as Ukraine, Moldova and Western Balkan countries). To manage the risks of ASF spreading through the ‘human factor’, the Commission will boost and widen the group of its awareness campaigns targeting in particular the risky behaviour of certain people through animal welfare associations and addressing seasonal workers travelling from infected areas.

### d. International

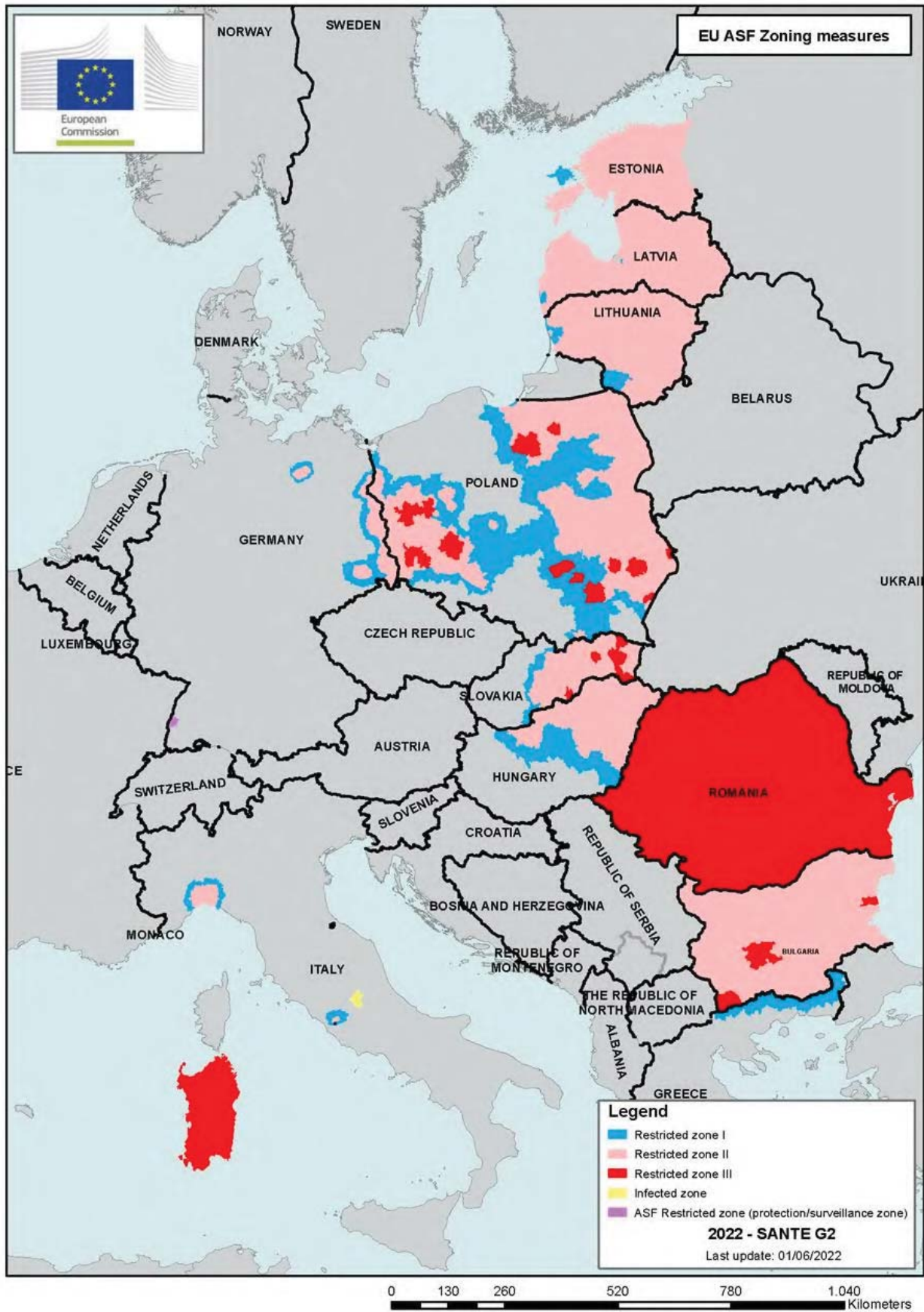
Finally, **international partnerships and continuous dialogue with EU trading partners** remain crucial. For many years the Commission has been actively engaged in regional and global, multilateral and bilateral discussions with third countries and international organisations (OIE, GF-TADs) on ASF. The Commission will continue promoting such discussions, which should strengthen the promotion of EU “regionalisation” policy, as well as also target potential synergies and cooperation fostering research & innovation investments concerning vaccine candidates against ASF.

### e. Impact of the Russian aggression against Ukraine on African swine fever spread

ASF has been present for years in domestic pigs and wild boar in Eastern Europe, notably in Russia, Ukraine and Moldova. The ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine could increase the risks of disease spread in Ukraine and to neighbouring countries undermining joint European efforts to prevent, control and eradicate ASF in the region. The Commission constantly monitors risks of animal disease incursion into the EU. The veterinary surveillance and notification to the EU Animal Disease Information System provides early detection and warning of animal diseases in the EU and certain neighbouring countries, such as Ukraine and Moldova. The information generated, which is complemented by notifications to the World Organisation for Animal Health notification system (WAHIS), gives scientific evidence for EU institutions and Member States to rapidly react to control and manage any risks linked to the occurrence and spread of animal diseases in the EU. **The EU is actively supporting several neighbouring third countries, including Ukraine to ensure the control of ASF.**

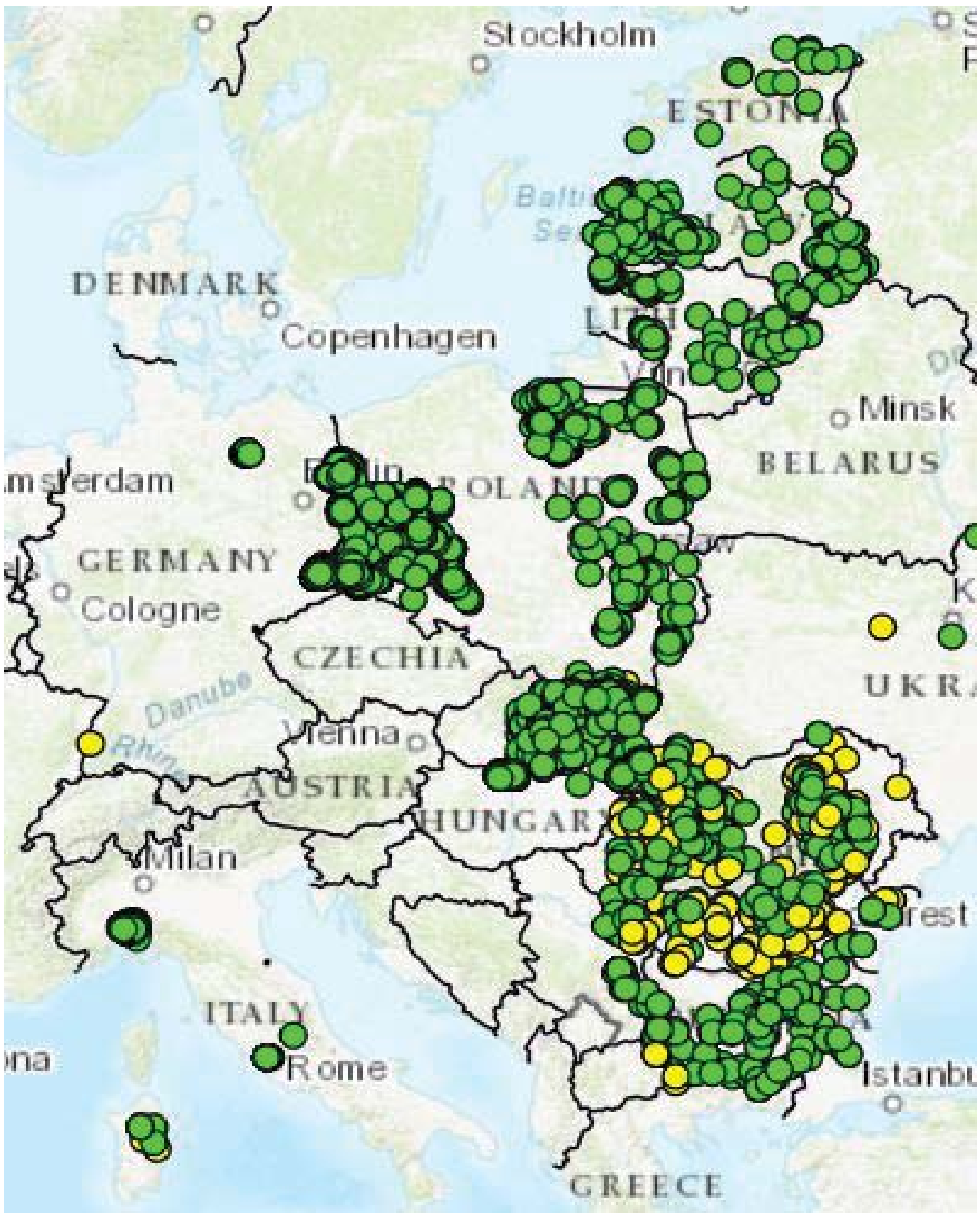
ANNEXES

**EU REGIONALISATION MEASURES FOR AFRICAN SWINE FEVER**



### ASF SITUATION IN THE EU IN 2022\*

(ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs are shown in yellow and cases in wild boar - in green)



\* up to 7 June 2022