



ASF situation and the EU measures for eradication and regionalization/zoning

**International Symposium on Prevention and
Control of
African Swine Fever
Beijing China, 9th April 2019**

**Directorate G – Crisis management in food, animals and plants
DG SANTE European Commission, Brussels**

Content:

- **ASF in Europe**
- **The EU animal disease control system applied to ASF**
- **Main EU actions on ASF**
- **EU regionalization/zoning for ASF**

Historical view of ASF control in the EU

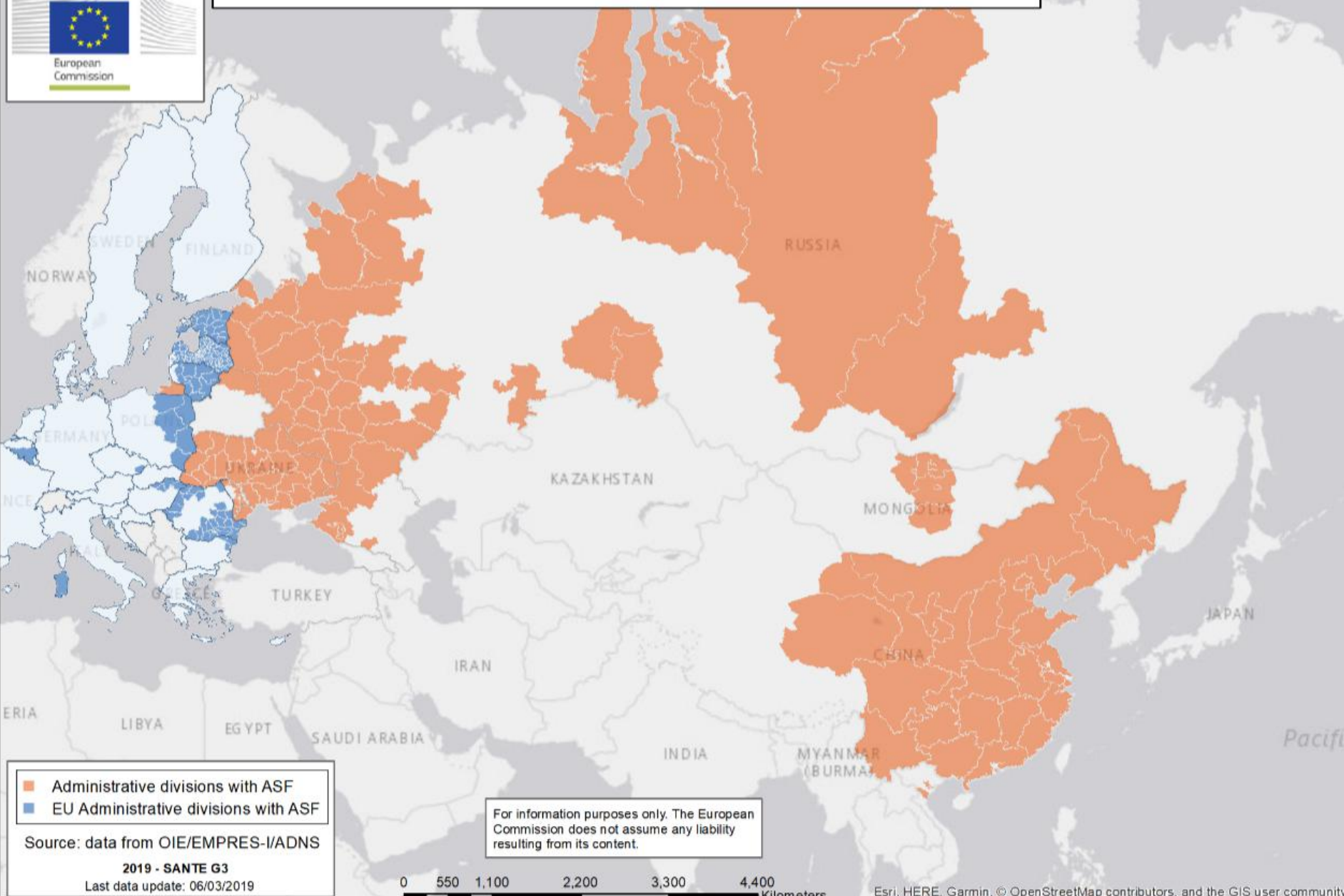
Eradicated from

- France (1974)
- Belgium (1985)
- Netherlands (1986)
- Spain (1994)
- Portugal (1999)
- Czech Republic (2019)



African Swine Fever by administrative divisions affected in the period 2014-2019

March 2019



ASF in Europe: 2007-2018

SANTE G3

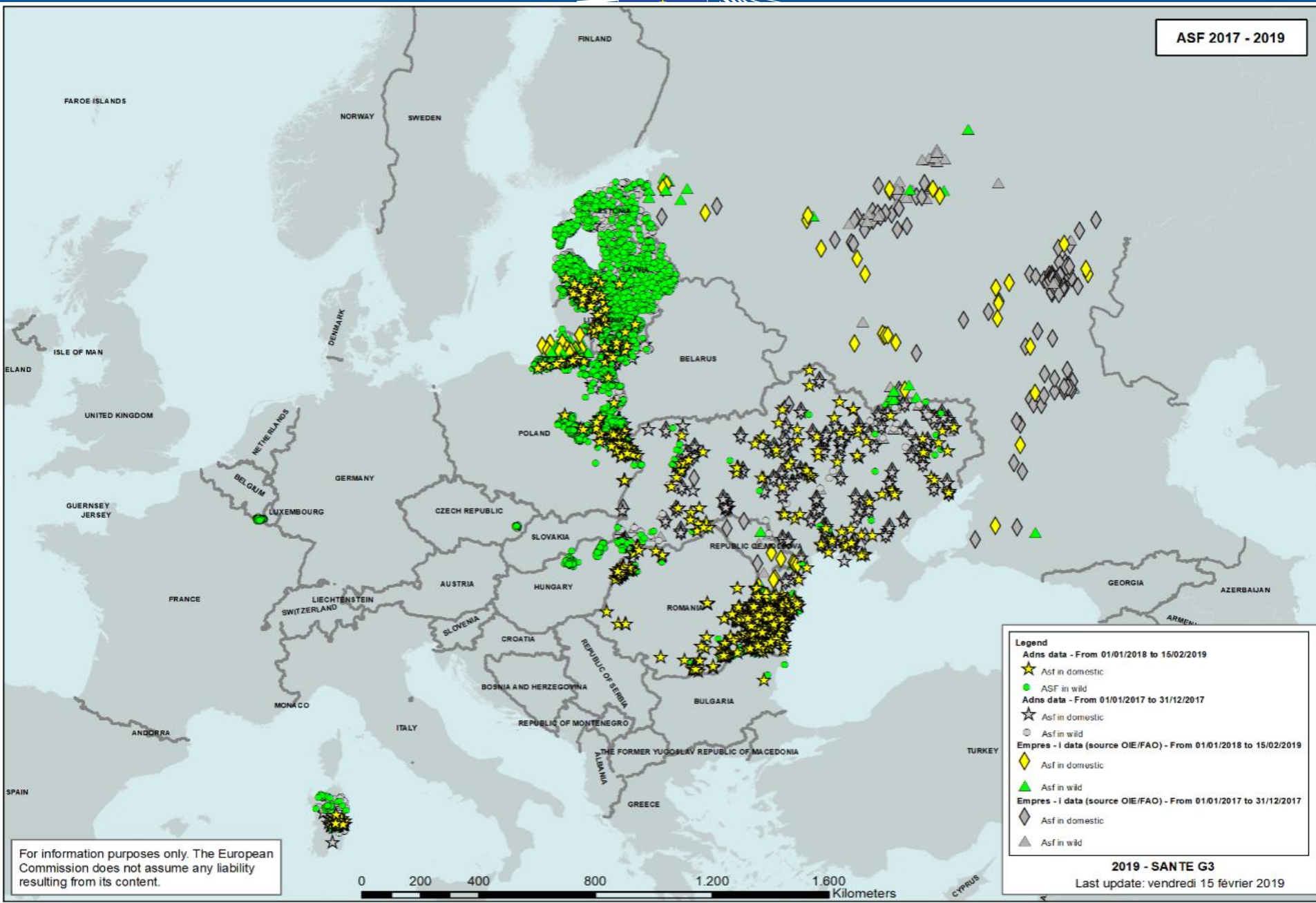
ASF: Mar 2007 to Apr 2007

▲ / ● Wild boar
◆ / ☆ Domestic pigs

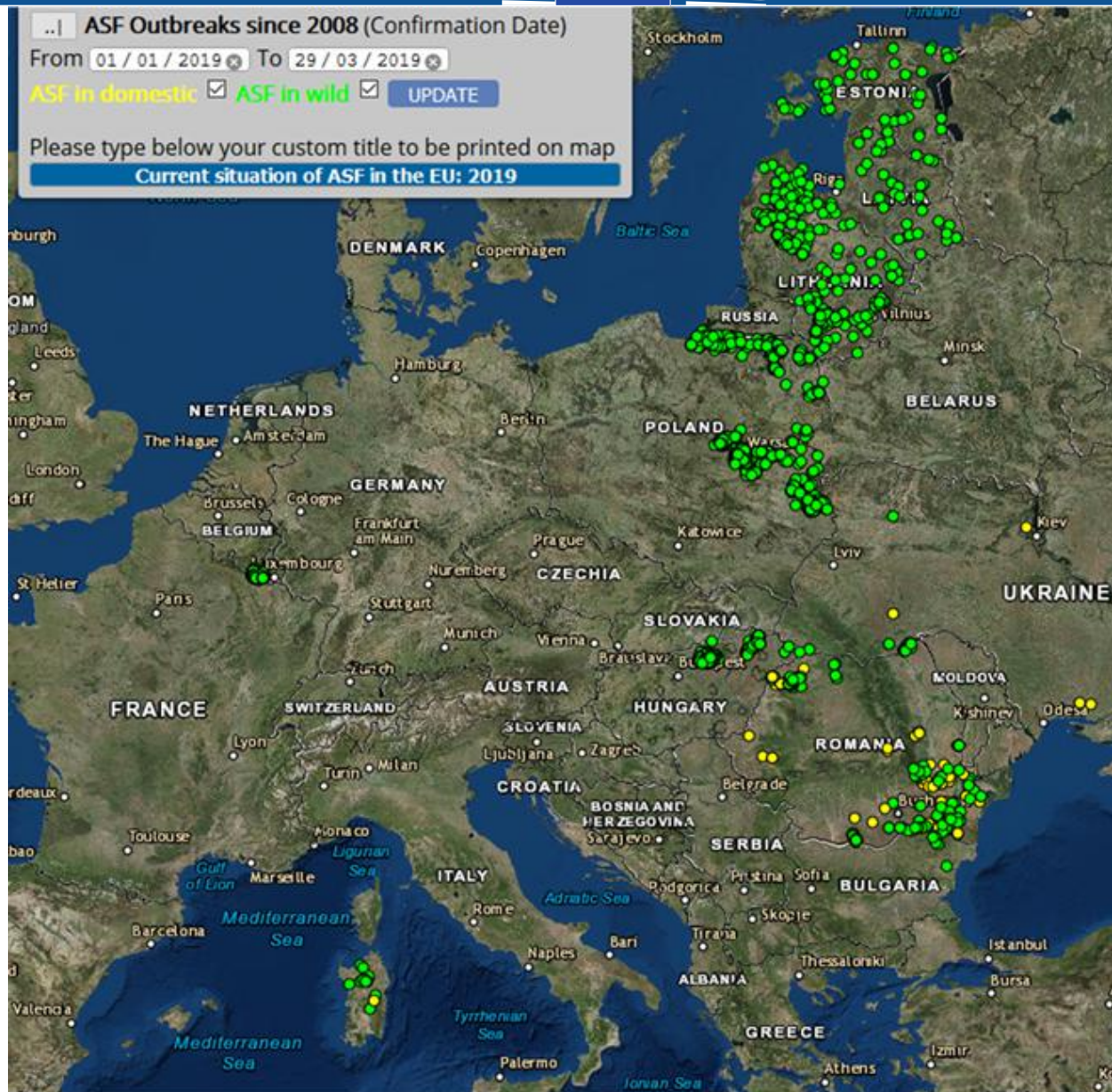


Sources: ADNS

Current situation of ASF in Europe: 2017-2019



ASF in the EU in 2019





The EU animal disease control system applied to ASF



EU Veterinary Control System

Prevention

Biosecurity

Animal identification

Veterinary certification and movement control for intra-EU trade of livestock

Veterinary certification and border controls for animals and products imported.

Detection

Surveillance

Reference laboratories

Health monitoring in high risk areas

Animal Disease Notification System.

Control

Contingency planning

Animal Disease Notification System

Isolation of infected holdings

Eradication

EU support: Emergency team, vaccine banks, compensation, training.

Transparency

EU audits of Member State veterinary services

Public information systems (RASFF, ADNS)

Scientific consultations

Notification.

EU main activities for disease control

EU-fully harmonized veterinary legislation

Specific disease control Directives

Regionalization/zoning policy

Contingency plans

The EU Reference Laboratory network and diagnostic manuals

The EU Financial support co-financed eradication

Enforcement – audits

Training: Better training for safer food – BTSF

Scientific advice: European Food Safety Authority - EFSA

International cooperation – OIE/FAO GF-TADSs

EU research projects – Horizon 2020

EU principles for disease control

Animal identification, registration and traceability

Means of identification of animals (ear tag, tattoo, eID)

Movement documents or passports

Up-to-date movement data records in holding registers

Computer databases

For pigs

All holdings (even with one pigs registered)

All animals identified before leaving the holding (eartag, tattoo)

Movement document accompany each consignment moved

Each movement registered in central computer database



Main EU actions on ASF

Legislation

Regionalization/zoning

Scientific advice (EFSA)

Urgent intervention (EU Emergency Veterinary Team)

Guidance to action (guidelines, strategic approach)

Audits

International cooperation (GF-TADS Europe)

Public awareness (high level meetings)

Financial support

Further initiatives (wild life)

Research

ASF main legal provisions in the EU

- National measures / **contingency plans** based on EU Directives on individual diseases
- Disease control measures are applied in the **protection and surveillance zone**
- **Stamping-out** of animals in the infected farms and dangerous contact / neighboring farms
- **Flexible approach** necessary:
 - Disease specific approach (wild boar)
 - geographical factors
 - environmental factors



ASF legislation in the EU

- ✓ **Council Directive 2002/60/EC**: which lays down *specific provisions for the control of ASF* (including those on contingency plans, lab requirements)
- ✓ **Commission Decision 2003/422/EC**: *diagnostic manual* for ASF
- ✓ **Commission Decision 2013/426/EU**: on measures to prevent the *introduction of ASF* from certain third countries
- ✓ **Commission Decision 2014/709/EU**: concerning *animal health protection measures against ASF* in certain Member States

EU regionalization/zoning for ASF

Regionalization/zoning in the EU context

- Regionalization is applied in the EU by the European Commission in line with OIE and as an integral element of the EU comprehensive strategy aimed at:
 - **ensuring the best possible disease control**
 - **minimize the negative impact of disease outbreaks on the EU single market (intra-EU trade) and on exports** (*without lowering the level of safety of the commodities that are traded/exported - SPS agreement principles*)

EU overall policy on animal disease regionalization/zoning

Characteristics of EU regionalization/zoning

- Fulfilling of OIE standards
- Clear criteria to define infected/free- regions
- Measures to maintain/regain free-status of regions
- Surveillance in and outside the infected regions

Key elements for EU regionalisation/zoning:

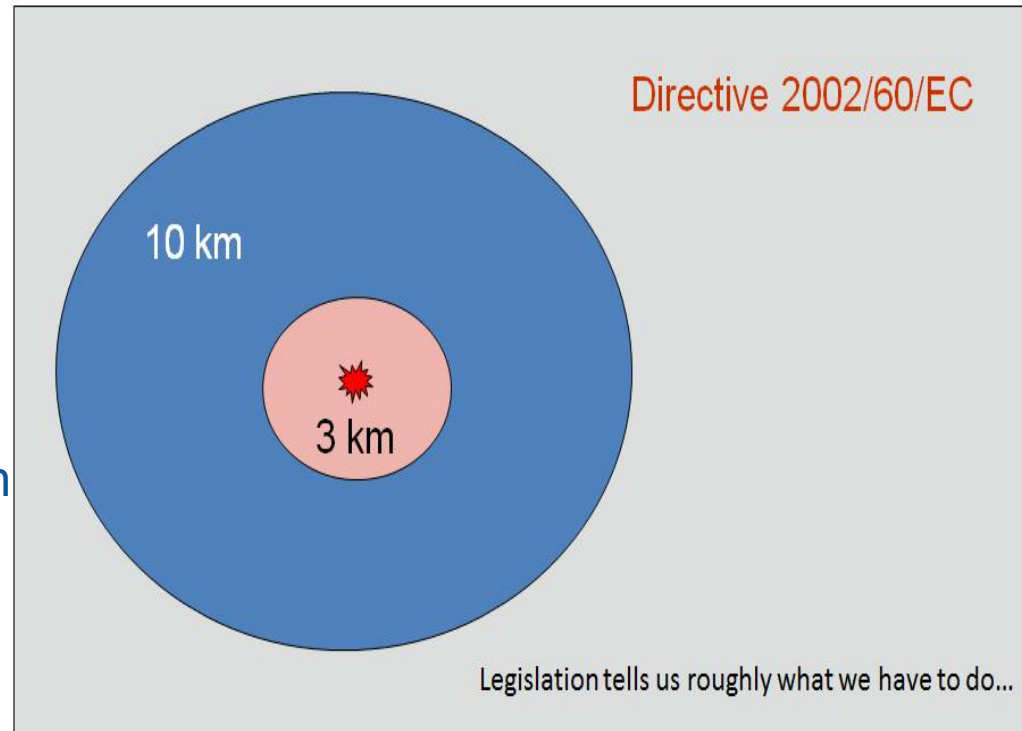
- Flexibility / predictability
- Transparency
- Risk based / proportionality
- Rapidity

EU ASF regionalization/zoning

- When necessary: by **European Commission**
- **Bigger areas** can be restricted (e.g. based on administrative / geographical borders)
- **Low risk commodities** may be traded under certain additional health conditions (risk mitigation)
- **Enhanced surveillance** inside and outside the infected region (e.g. serological tests)

Basic baseline

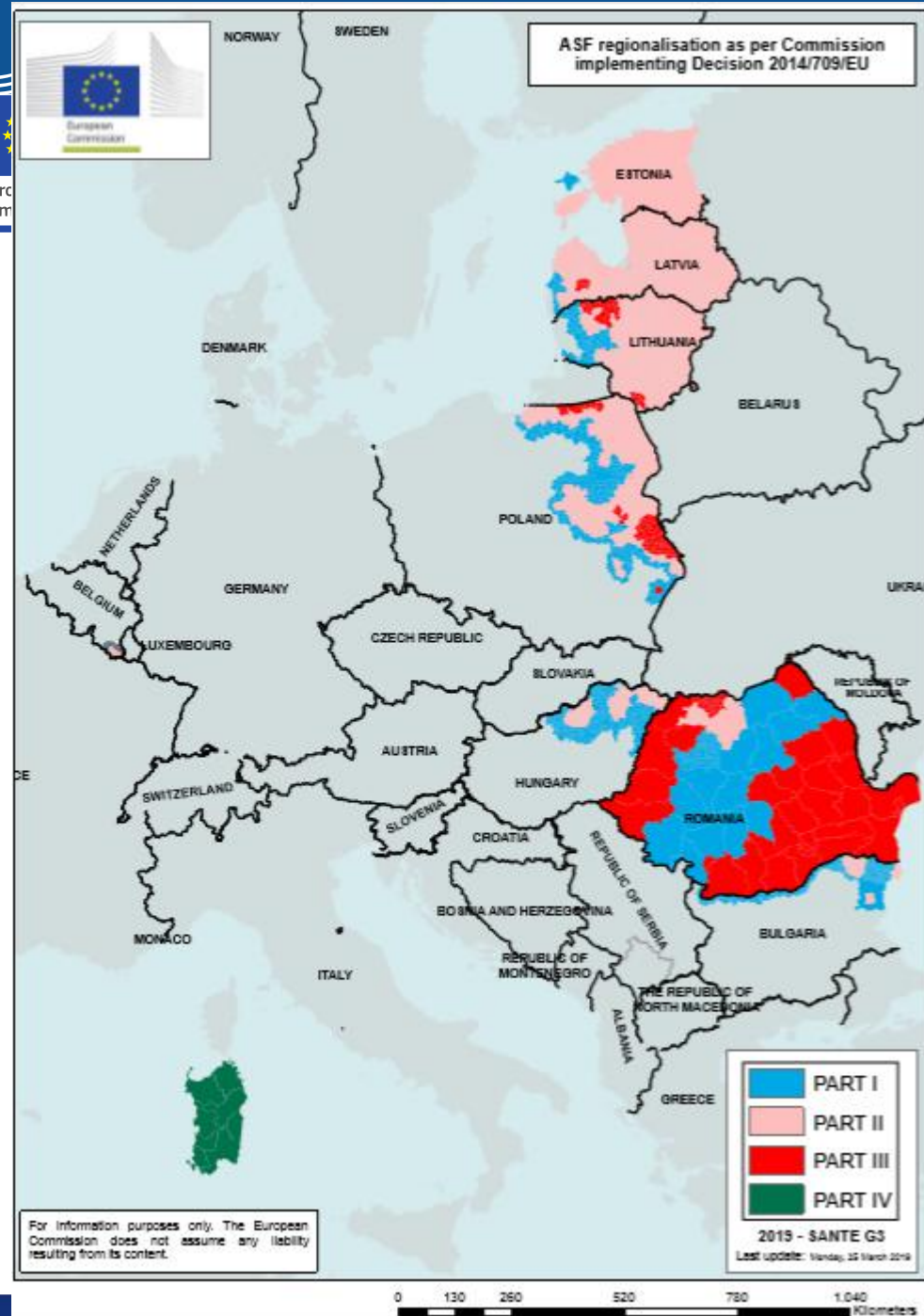
Outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs



EU ASF regionalisation/ zoning measures

Based on Decision 2014/709/EU

- Clearly defined roles for Member States and Commission
- Rapid flow of information
- Urgent adoption of emergency measures
- Agreed with Member States
- Immediately applicable
- Decisions published in the Official Journal of the European Union in 23 languages



Regionalization/zoning for ASF in a nutshell

The 4 parts demarcated correspond with 4 level of risk

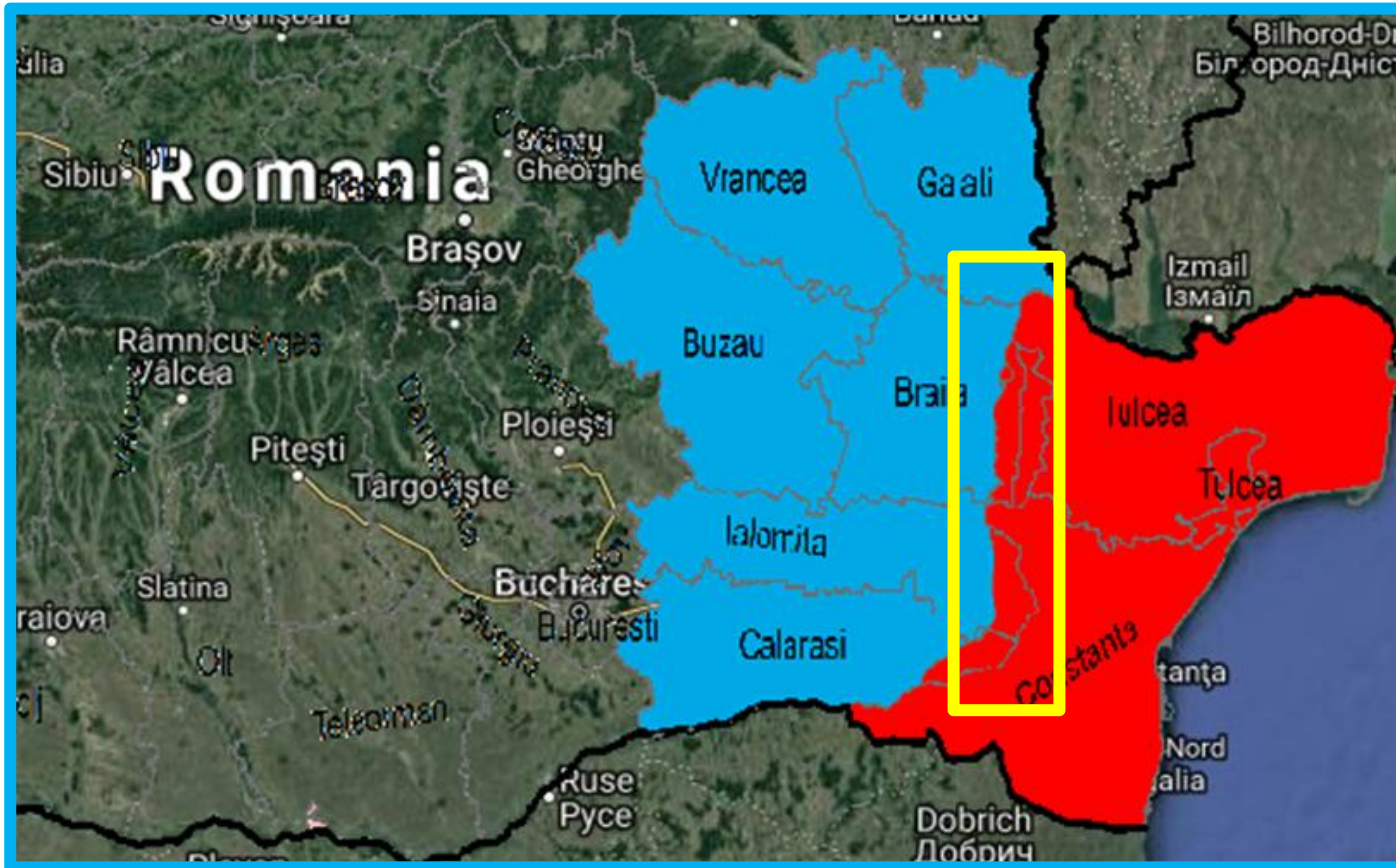
- ***Part IV***
 - Sardinia in Italy
 - Long standing persistence of ASF in pigs and wildboar
 - Specific factors
- ***Part III***
 - Presence of ASF in domestic pigs and wildboar
- ***Part II***
 - Presence of ASF only in wildboar
 - Free from ASF in domestic pigs
- ***Part I***
 - No disease
 - Higher risk due to proximity with ASF in wildboar

Regionalization/zoning for ASF in a nutshell

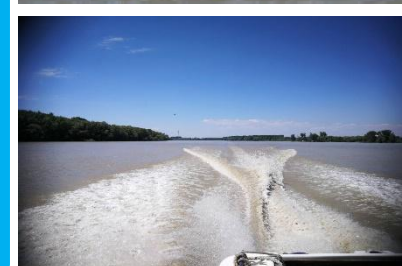
- The cornerstone of ASF regionalisation is on the **origin of the pigs** and the ***measures in the holdings***.
- *The whole set of measures is built around that together with **derogations depending on which part (I, II, III, IV)** if adequate risk mitigating measures can be put in place.*
- *The whole system works only because it relies on the **overall EU management of animal diseases** (identification and traceability, movement certification and checks, disease reporting, compensation mechanism, etc.)*

Examples of practical application of ASF regionalisation/zoning in EU

Examples of regionalisation/zoning: the **river of Danube**



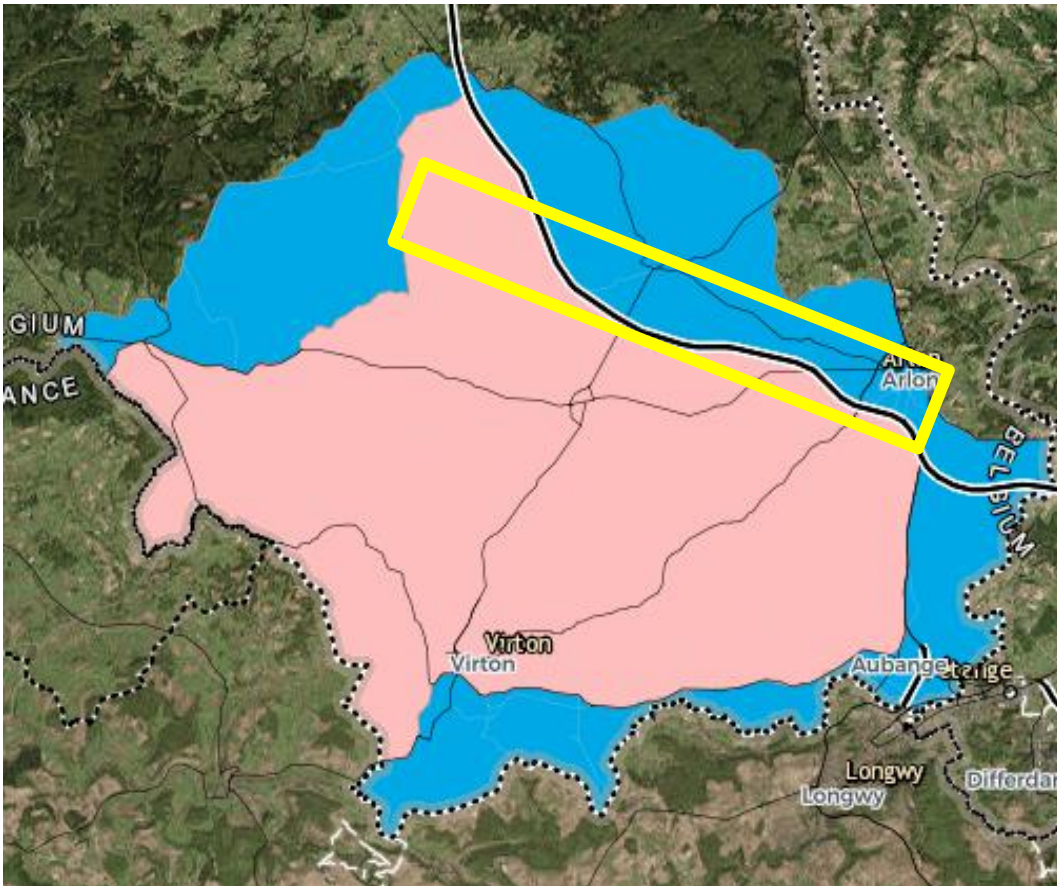
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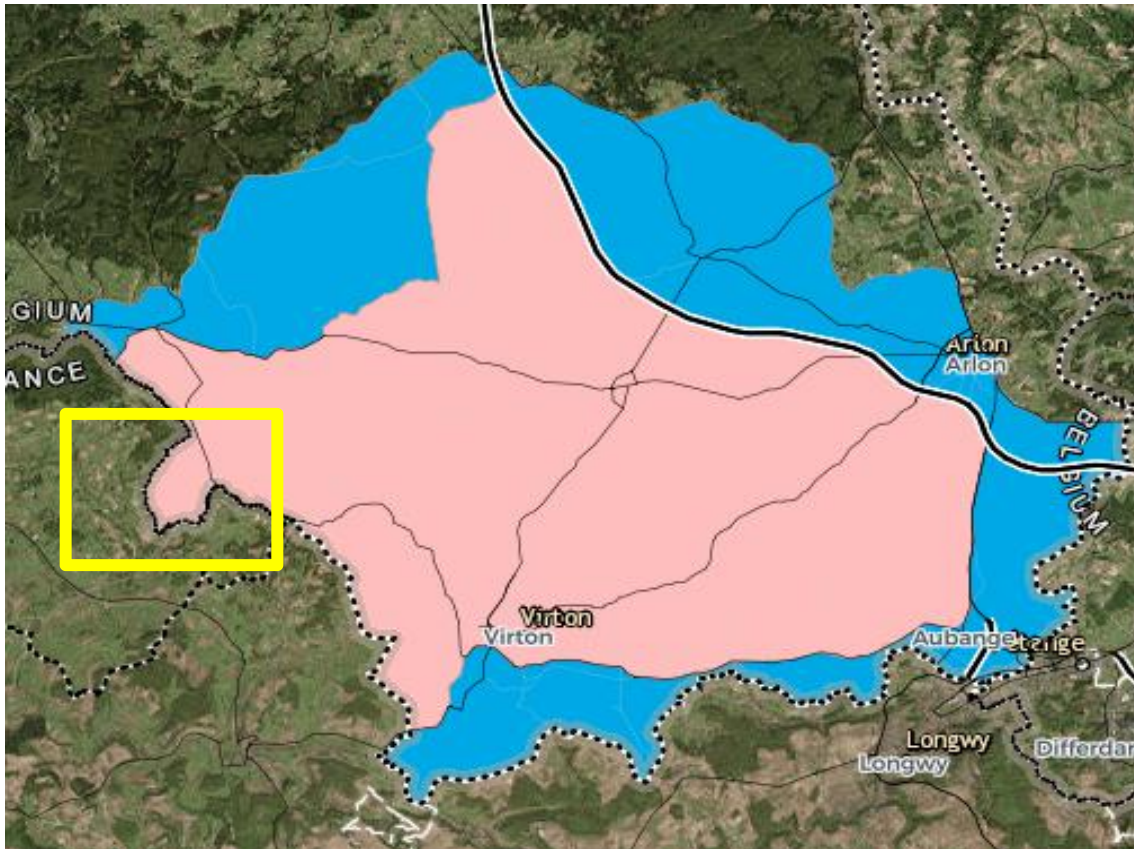
Examples of regionalisation/zoning: the **river of Vistula**



Examples of regionalisation/zoning: the **highway**



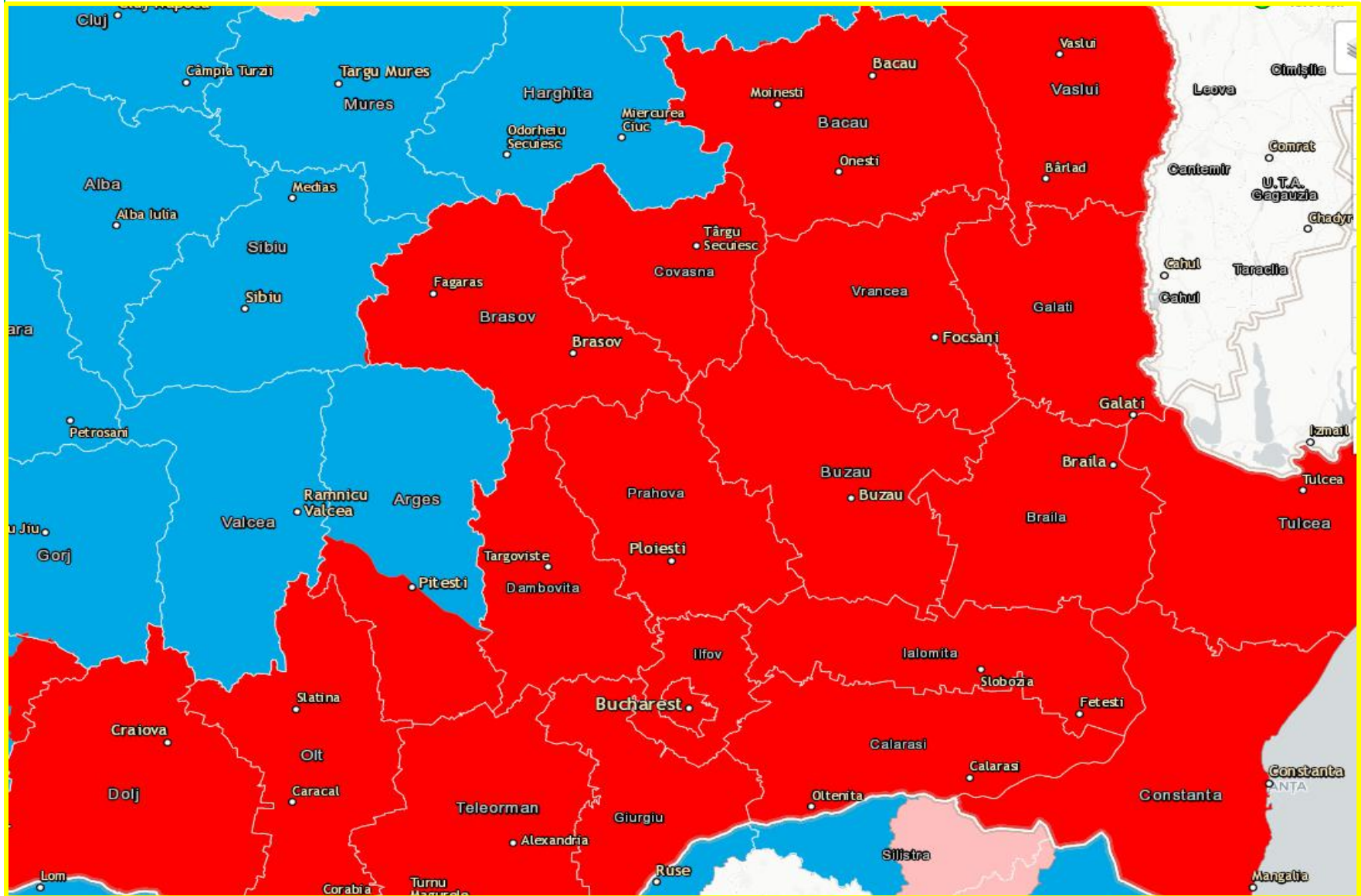
Examples of regionalisation/zoning: **electric fence**



Examples of regionalisation/zoning: electric & odour fences



Examples of regionalisation/zoning: administrative divisions (e.g. counties)



The success of EU eradication measures and regionalization/zoning

The Czech Republic example

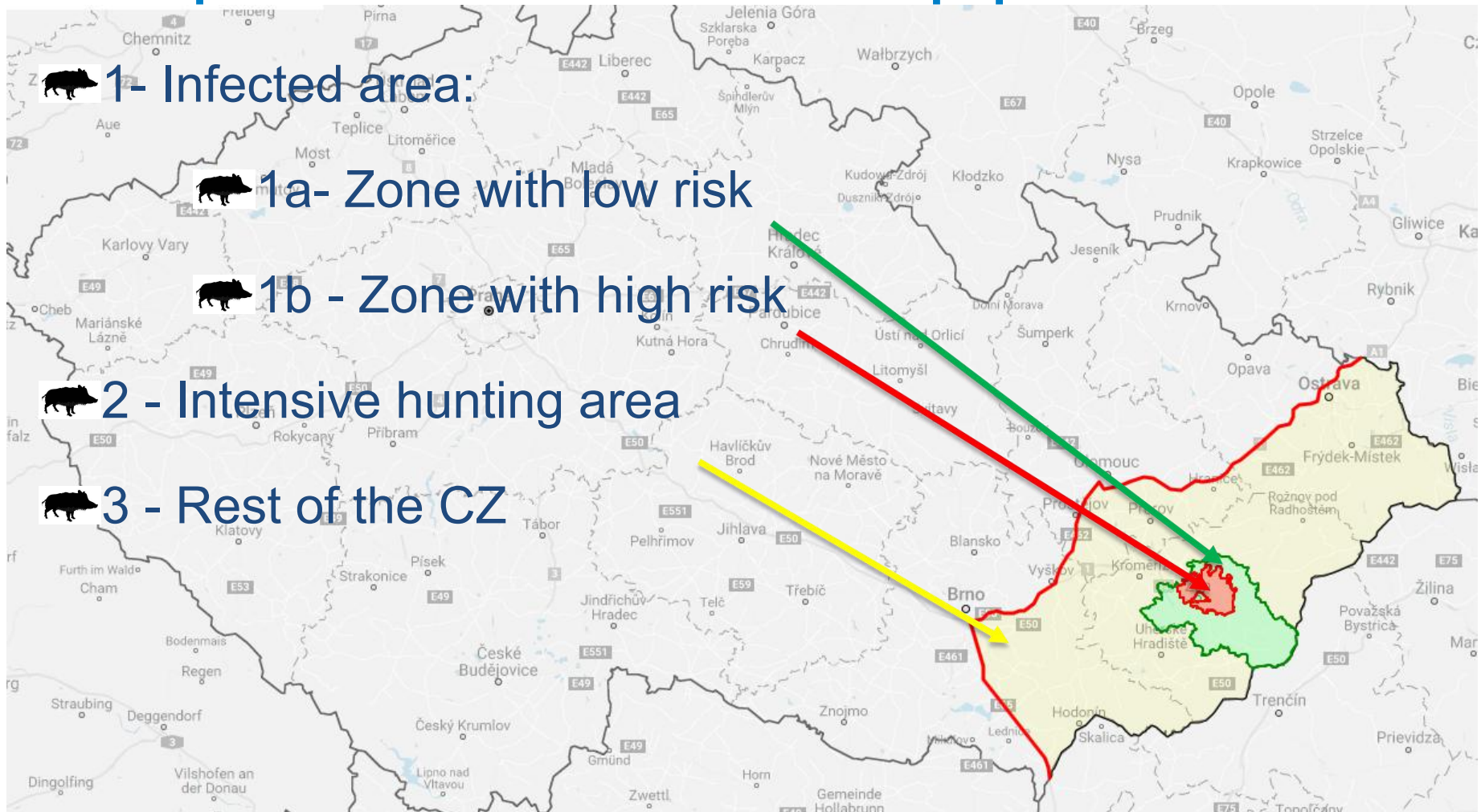
ASF in Czech Republic

European
Commission



- First occurrence of ASF - in two wild boar (found dead) on 21 and 22 June 2017
- ASF positive decomposed carcass (bones) was found 19 April 2018
 - Since then - no more cases in wild boar.

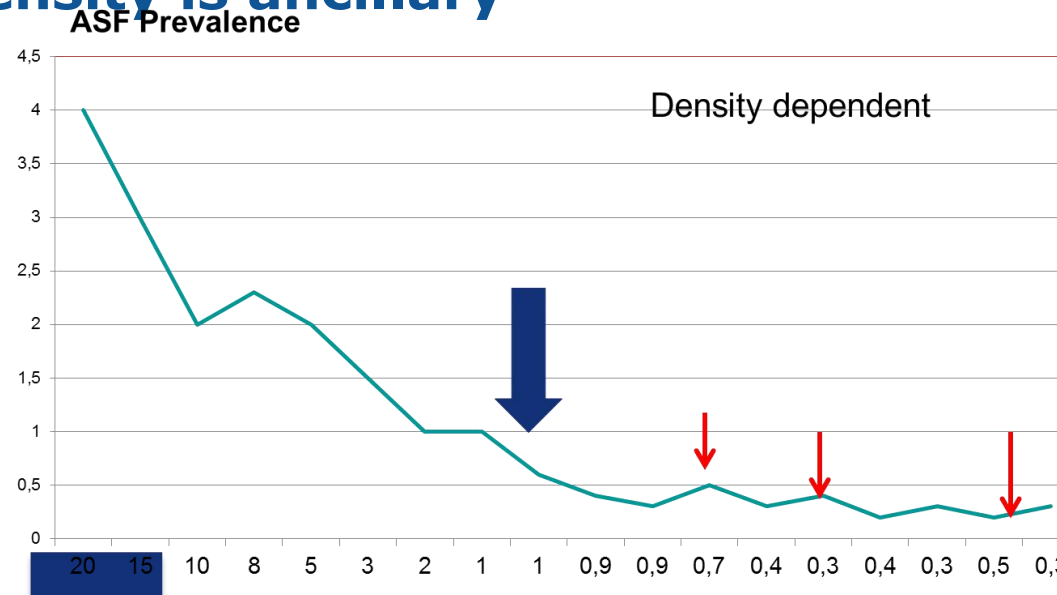
CZ Republic: measures in wild boar population in 4 levels



The EU ASF strategy behind eradication and regionalization/zoning

The wildboar challenge

- **ASF is not a truly density dependent infection: The last tail of the infection is determined by persistence of infected carcasses**
- **Therefore problem then is not purely addressed by reducing the wildboar density but reducing viral load of the environment**
- **Reducing wildboar density is ancillary**



The domestic pig challenge

- **Low contagiousity: ASF is a disease with a tendency to spread slowly within a herd.**
- **Passive surveillance is the key: 97% of the outbreaks were reported by the farmer so passive surveillance worked well**
- **PCR testing (not ELISA)**
- **Biosecurity is of paramount importance**

The EU ASF Strategy in a nutshell

Wild boar management: long term

- Passive surveillance for early detection
- Sophisticated hunting: selective, adult females
- Feeding ban: in risk areas
- Carcass removal and safe disposal: fast

Human factor: short term

- Awareness for passive surveillance
- Enforcement of feeding ban
- Biosecurity strengthened
- Hunter vs farming: behaviour risks

Key actions

- **High peak of the disease** in the summer– awareness campaigns for targeted groups
- **Coordinated actions** between farmers, hunters, other stakeholders and official services
- Small non-commercial (also small commercial) with lower biosecurity **farmers need to be involved** in the fight against this disease
- **Human factor** – increased checks at EU external borders (personal consignments, unauthorised goods, smuggling of commodities etc.)
- **Farmers and hunters** need to upgrade their practices to be ready for African swine fever: **biosecurity** is a key

Thank you!

**CHRONOLOGY OF MAIN INITIATIVE TAKEN OR
SUPPORTED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION:**

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/
docs/ad-control_measures-asf-chronology_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/ad-control_measures-asf-chronology_en.pdf)