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Department of Agriculture,
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AFRICAN SWINE FEVER UPDATE

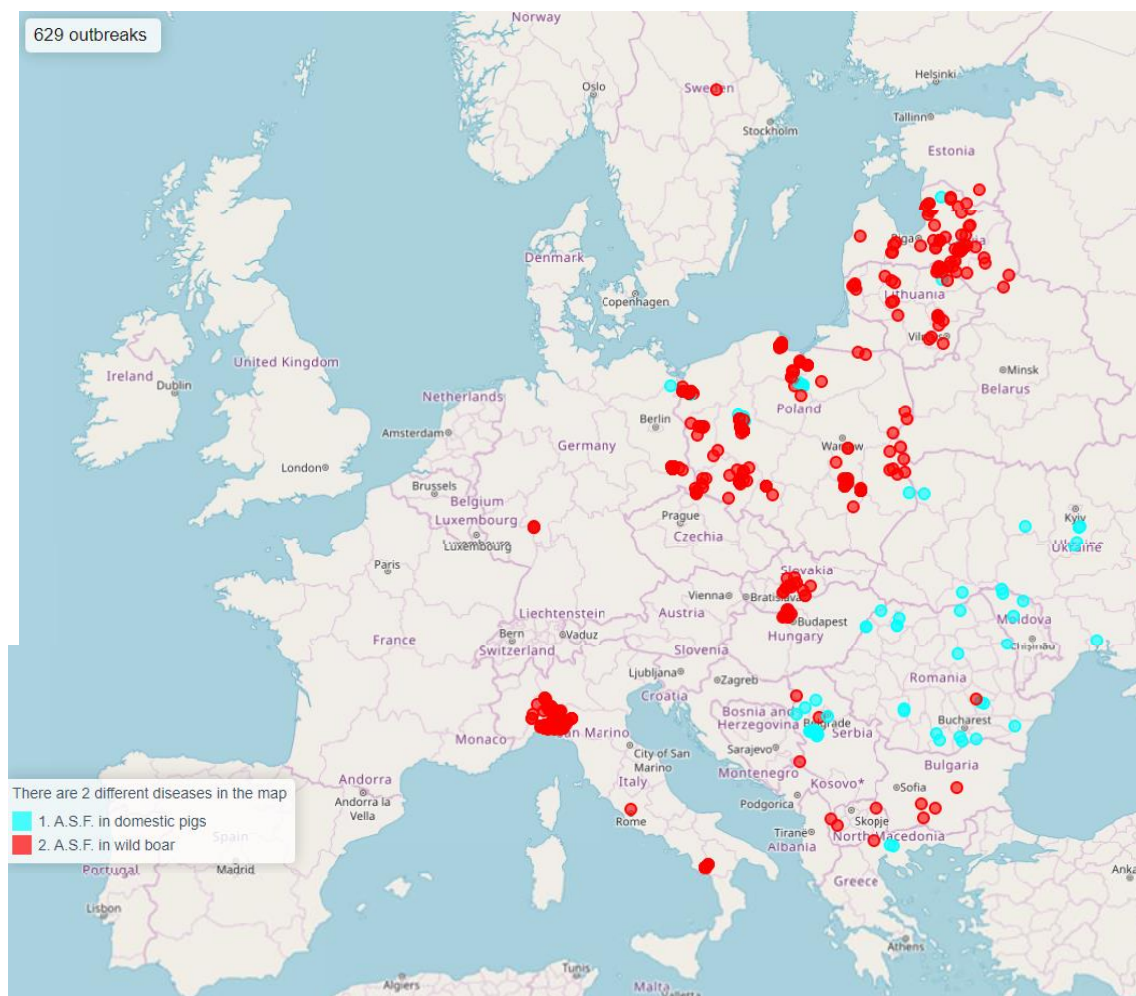
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National Disease Control Centre



Current ASF situation in Europe

African swine fever (ASF) has continued to be reported in domestic pigs and wild boar across Europe in 2024. There were 629 outbreaks of the disease in domestic pigs and wild boar between 24th May 2024 and 24th June 2024. See *Figure 1* below.

Figure 1. Outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs and wild boar in Europe 24th May 2024- 24th June 2024 (Source Animal Disease Information System (ADIS)):



An outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs occurred in Germany on 5th June 2024. The case was reported in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. Since the first report in domestic pigs in 2020, ASF has affected 9 farms in Germany.

Although ASF has been detected in wild boar in eastern Germany previously, the disease has now recently been reported in a wild boar in western Germany for the first time. This is the first occurrence of ASF in the state of Hesse, which neighbours the highest pig-producing state in Germany, North Rhine-Westphalia.



Albania has reported ASF in the country for the first time. The event happened in wild boar in February 2024. This brings the total number of countries in Europe now affected by ASF to 28, since it was introduced to Europe in 2007.

There has been further spread of ASF in wild boar within previously affected regions in northern Italy resulting in expansion of restriction zones northwards and westwards and new initiatives to control the wild boar population. The northernmost ASF detection in Italy to date is around 60 km from the border with Switzerland and authorities have begun to prepare [measures](#) for preventing disease spread among the wild boar population in the event of an outbreak.

In June, Poland reported its first outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs in 2024. There has been a general decrease in the rate of ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs across Europe, largely due to a reduction in outbreak numbers in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. In 2023, there was a significant increase in outbreaks of ASF in domestic pigs to a level not seen since 2019 (EFSA Journal, 2024). The main areas of high rates of infection in domestic pigs were located in Croatia, near to the border of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Romania, and these accounted for over 90% of the cases in EU member states in 2023 ([EFSA ASF 2023 Report](#)).

Clusters of ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs continue to be reported in the Balkans (*Figure 1*). Additionally, increased surveillance effort in Sweden has resulted in the finding of multiple ASF-infected wild boar carcasses related to the outbreak that occurred in September 2023. However, these are not considered new infections and are thought to be at least 6 months old. Efforts to control wild boar populations continue in Poland, where cases continue to be detected in wild boar.

Development of a vaccine for ASF by research institutions across Europe is ongoing, with collaborations and funding for multiple projects in recent months.

Diseases don't respect borders

Risk to Ireland

- ASF continues to be reported in many countries in Europe with spread in wild boar in recent months to previously unaffected regions, such as western Germany and Albania.
- Humans can play an important role in spreading ASF to new regions.
- Travellers coming back from ASF affected regions must be vigilant to avoid inadvertently bringing back to Ireland ASF contaminated meat, meat products, clothing, footwear, vehicles, equipment, etc.
- Food waste infected with the ASF virus being consumed by pigs represents the most significant risk pathway for a disease incursion into Ireland.
- Other risk factors include clothing, footwear, vehicles and equipment contaminated with the ASF virus.
- Wild boar and feral pigs play an important role in the spread of the disease worldwide.
- Ireland does not have a sustainable wild boar or feral pig population.



- EU legislation (Article 48 of [Commission Implementing regulation 2023/594](#)) prohibits the trade of wild boar between EU Member States and implements control measures on the movement of live pigs within ASF affected areas of the EU which is a risk factor for the introduction of the disease.

Advice for Travellers

- The ASF virus can survive for several months in pork and pork products such as sausages, cured meats, smoked meats (meat/meat products can also carry other animal diseases such as Foot & Mouth Disease).
- Do not bring meat products into Ireland from outside the EU, and never bring home pork or pork products if travelling abroad to regions affected by ASF.
- Do not bring meat or meat products onto Irish pig farms.
- Always use a secure bin to dispose of waste food, so that it cannot be accessed by farm animals, wild animals, or wild birds.

Advice for hunters

- Hunters who travel to ASF affected countries should take measures to ensure that they do not bring ASF into Ireland.
- Do not bring back untreated hunting trophies or souvenirs of wild boar or feral pigs into Ireland.
- Do not bring pork or pork products onto Irish farms where they may accidentally be eaten by
- pigs, e.g., ham sandwiches, salami, cured meat etc.
- Clean and disinfect equipment, clothing and shoes used during hunting in ASF affected regions:
 - Remove all traces of dirt and visible contamination prior to washing and disinfecting
 - Clothing should be washed at a high temperature (+60°C for a minimum of 30 minutes)
 - All footwear and equipment should be cleaned and treated with a disinfectant in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, e.g., Virkon S, 2% Sodium hypochlorite.
- If hunting with dogs:
 - Wash the dog to ensure that the coat is clean
 - Wash and disinfect equipment using an approved disinfectant according to the manufacturer's instructions, e.g., collars, leads, jackets, dog trailer etc.
- Upon your return to Ireland avoid contact with pigs and pig farms for 72 hours upon where applicable.



Advice for Pig Owners

NEVER FEED FOOD WASTE TO PIGS

- Food waste (swill) including kitchen waste and catering waste must be disposed of carefully away from livestock. Bins must be kept in a secure location and sealed to ensure that vermin, birds or other animals do not carry food waste into areas where pigs are kept.
- Pig owners in Ireland are advised to implement biosecurity measures to mitigate the risk of an outbreak of the disease in this country such as establishing disinfectant points and implementing a pig-free period of 72 hours for anyone coming from an ASF affected region to prevent the risk of contaminated clothing, footwear, vehicles or equipment coming into contact with pigs.
- Vigilance for any unexplained disease patterns or unusual presentations of disease should be maintained. Any suspicions of ASF must be reported to your [Regional Veterinary Office](#) during normal office hours or the **National Disease Emergency Hotline at 01 4928026** (outside of normal office hours) without delay
- A dedicated page of useful information including clinical signs of ASF and biosecurity information is available at www.gov.ie/asf

Further information on the situation in Europe

- During 2024 (up to 24th June), 14 EU Member States have reported ASF. 85 outbreaks in domestic pigs and 3627 outbreaks in wild boar. Details of these ASF events can be found in *Figure 2* below.
- In 2023, 1931 ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs and 7,452 ASF events in wild boar were reported by 14 EU Member States (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Sweden) and several other Eastern European countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine) to the European Commission's [Animal Disease Information System \(ADIS\)](#). 2023 saw the highest number of outbreaks in domestic pig ever reported in EU Member States.
- In 2022, 537 ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs and 7,442 ASF events in wild boar were reported by 11 EU Member States (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia) and several other Eastern European countries (Moldova, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine) to the European Commission's Animal Disease Information System.
- During 2021, 1874 ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs and 12,147 ASF events involving wild boar were reported by 10 EU Member States (Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Italy (Sardinia), Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia) and other Eastern European countries (Moldova, Ukraine and Serbia) to the European Commission's [Animal Disease Information System \(ADIS\)](#)



- The EU has legislation in place to prevent the spread of ASF within and between Member States through the implementation of control measures on the movement of pigs and pig products and prohibits the movement of wild boar between Member States ([Commission Implementing regulation 2023/594](#)). Zoning measures in place to control the spread of ASF in the EU can be found in *Figure 3* below.
- ASF outbreaks in the EU must be reported to the European Commission. Member States must implement control measures for outbreaks in domestic pigs to prevent further spread, as per [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2020/687](#).

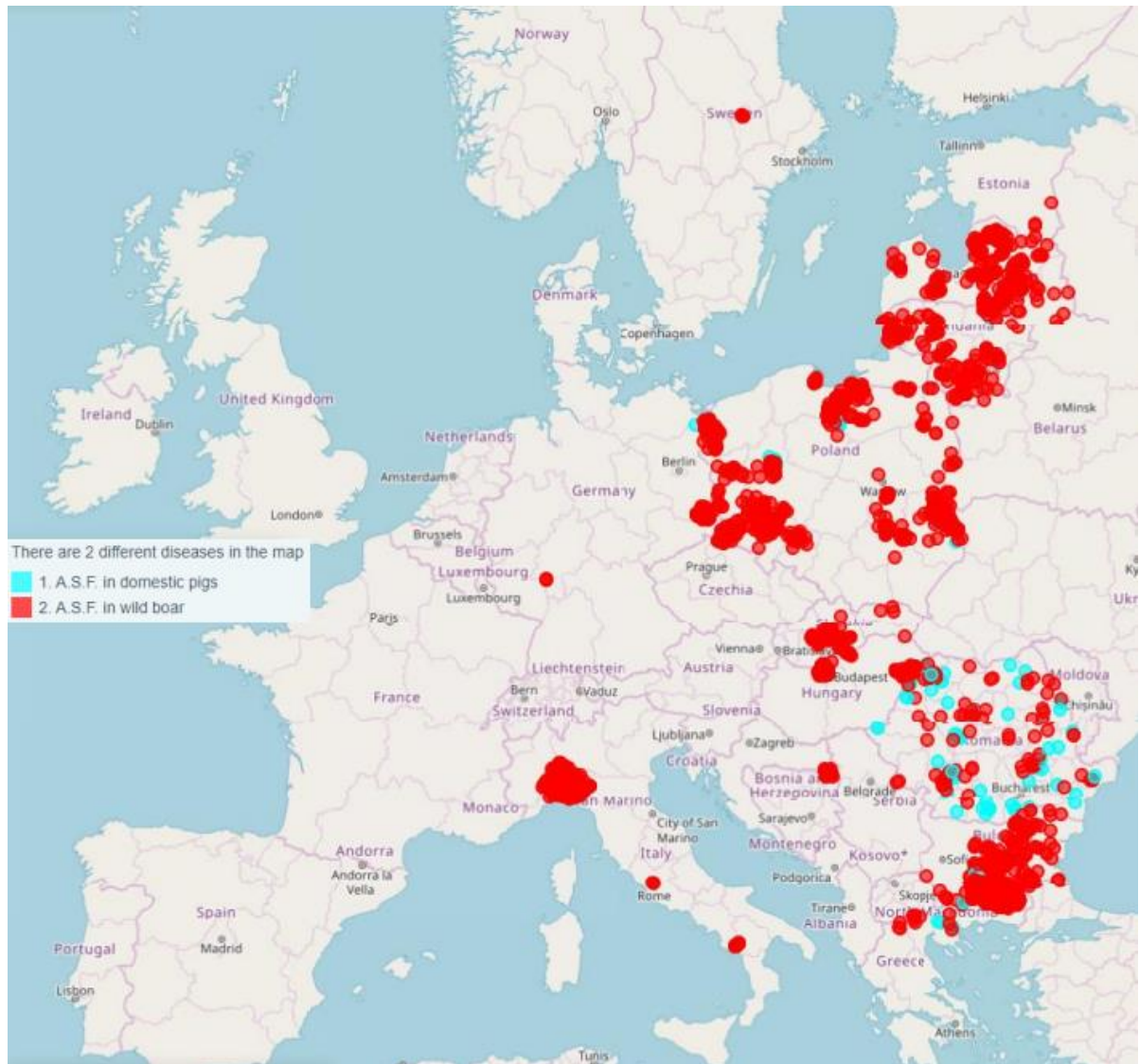
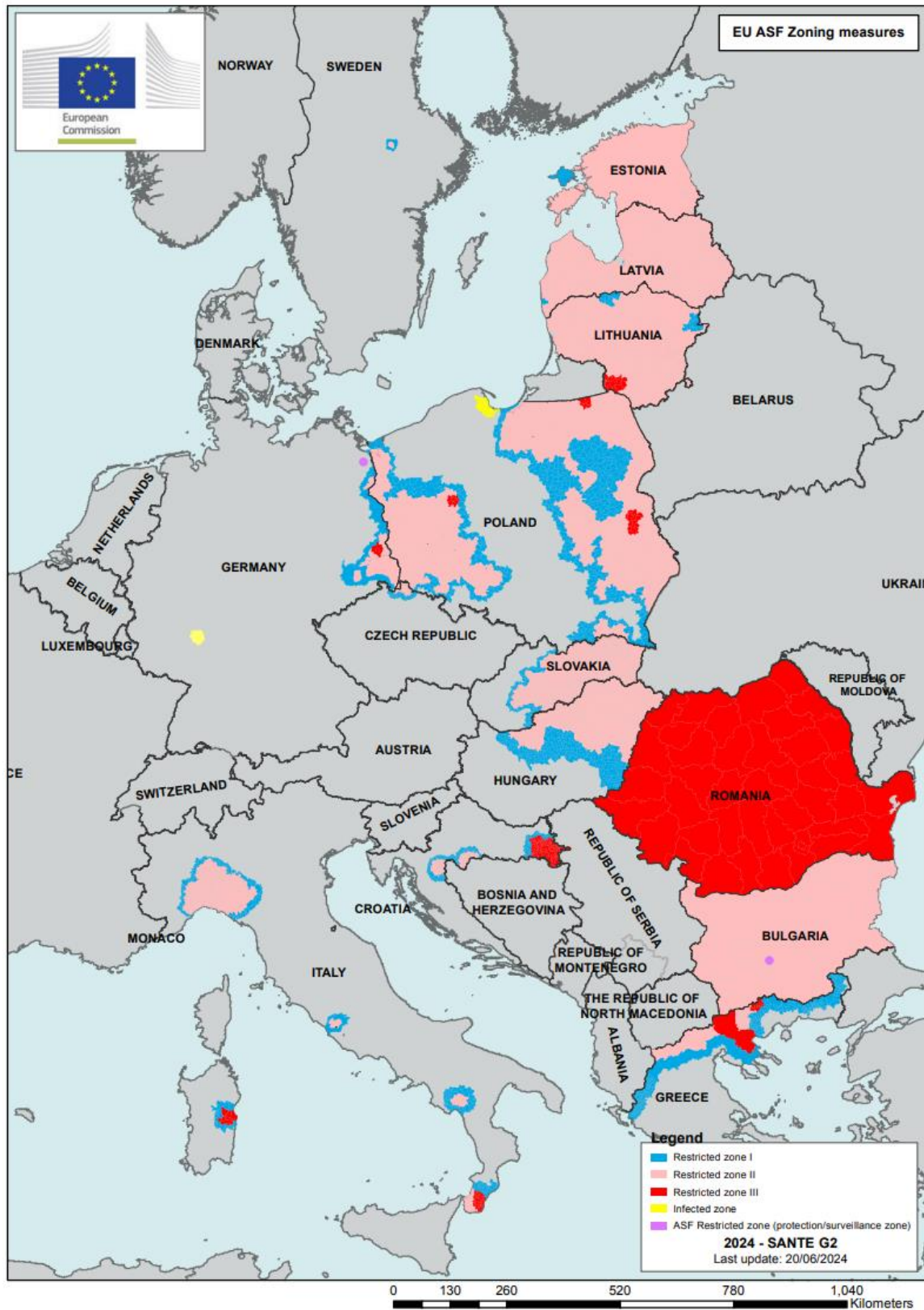


Figure 2: Outbreaks ASF in EU in domestic pigs and wild boar 1st Jan-24th June 2024 (Source: ADIS)



Figure 3. Map summarising ASF zoning measures in the EU (last updated on 24th June 2024)(Source: [African swine fever - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://european-commission.eu))

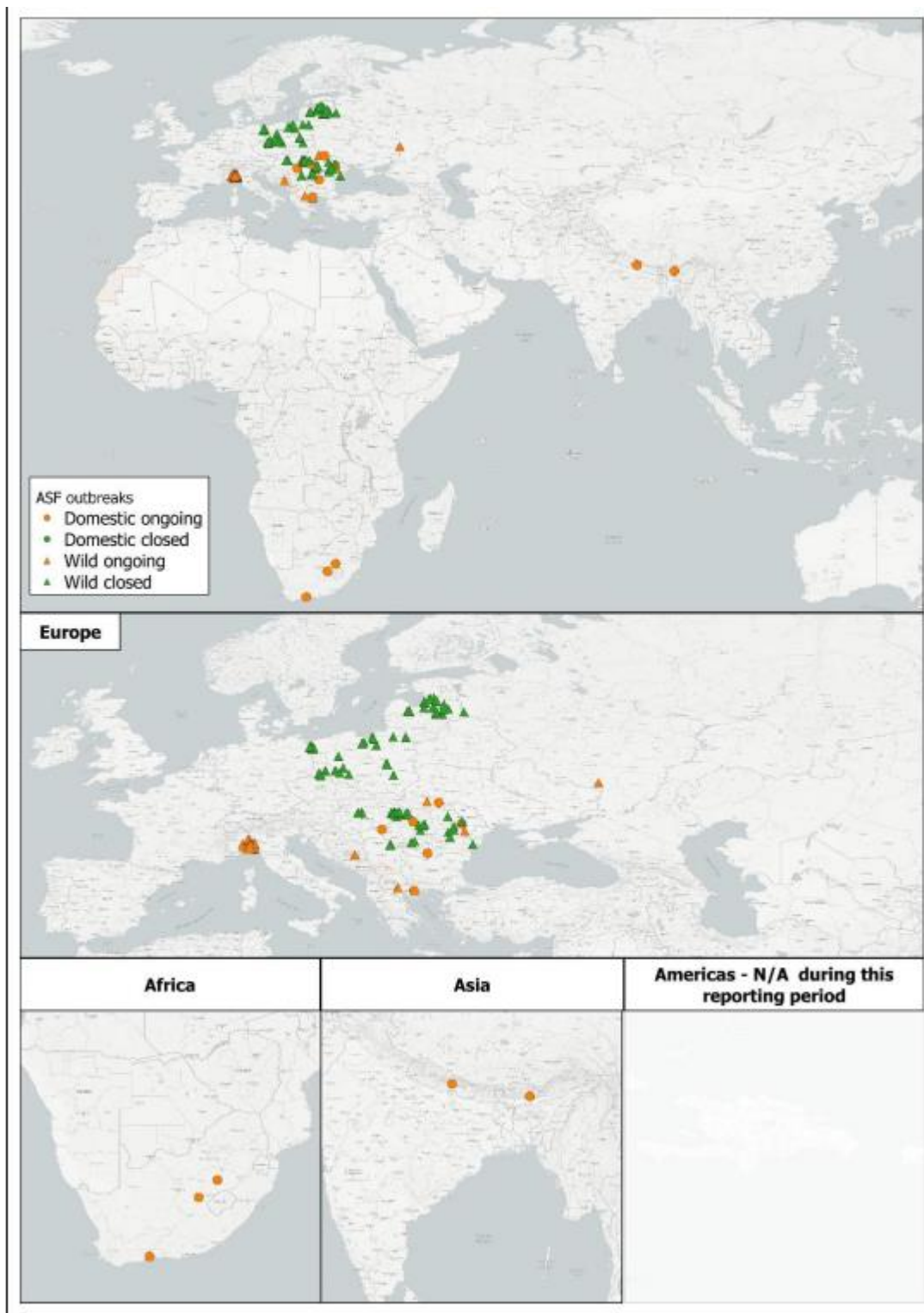


Current Situation - Worldwide

- In total, since January 2022 ASF has been reported as present in five different world regions in 50 countries, affecting more than 484,000 pigs and more than 17,400 wild boars, with more than 1,373,000 animal losses ([African swine fever \(asf\) – Situation report 47 \(woah.org\)](#))
- Since January 2022, 7 countries have reported ASF as a first occurrence in the country, while 9 countries have reported its spread to new zones. This shows that the disease continues to spread to new countries and new zones in countries already affected.
- ASF continues to represent a global threat and WOAHA highlights the importance of implementing strict biosecurity, an early reporting and response system, and maintaining a high level of disease awareness among all stakeholders involved.
- The global distribution of reports of ASF can be found in *Figure 4*.



Figure 4: Map of ASF outbreaks (according to the information submitted through the World Animal Health Information System of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WAHIS)) from period 29 January 2024 – 18 February 2024 in domestic animals and wildlife. Zoomed views of areas where updates occurred in the last period are provided as well ([African swine fever \(asf\) – Situation report 47 \(woah.org\)](#))



ASF Simulation Exercise- All-island approach to ASF prevention, emergency preparedness and control

A joint jurisdiction (Republic of Ireland/ Northern Ireland) Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine /Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs simulation exercise on African Swine Fever took place in county Louth in June 2024. The aims of the exercise were:

- To enhance joint emergency preparedness between competent authorities of Ireland and Northern Ireland in the understanding of roles and responsibilities in the event of an incursion of African Swine Fever.
- To raise awareness of the consequences of an outbreak of disease and potential arrangements for contingency / mitigation.
- To meet statutory requirements.

Ireland's ASF Simulation Exercise robustly evaluated DAFM and DAERA's ASF current contingency plans and procedures and examined how plans and procedures are interpreted and implemented. The exercise was a great opportunity to practice interoperability between the two participating Competent Authorities and help to identify any gaps in our ASF contingency plans, procedures and other areas of central management in response to an African Swine Fever event.

Further Information

Further biosecurity advice, ASF videos, posters and disease updates can be found at:

www.gov.ie/asf

[African swine fever - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](http://African swine fever - European Commission (europa.eu))

African swine fever - WOA - World Organisation for Animal Health

European Food Safety Authority

