



ASF control and regionalisation from EU perspective

EPP Congress

Sevilla, Spain

17-19 May 2023

Barbara Logar

Directorate G

Crisis preparedness in food, animals and plants

DG SANTE, European Commission

Outline

- **ASF control and eradication in the EU:**
 - EU approach
 - ASF measures and legislation
- **ASF Regionalisation/zoning:**
 - Key principles of regionalization (zoning) in the EU
 - ASF Example
- **Conclusions and key messages**

ASF measures

EU approach

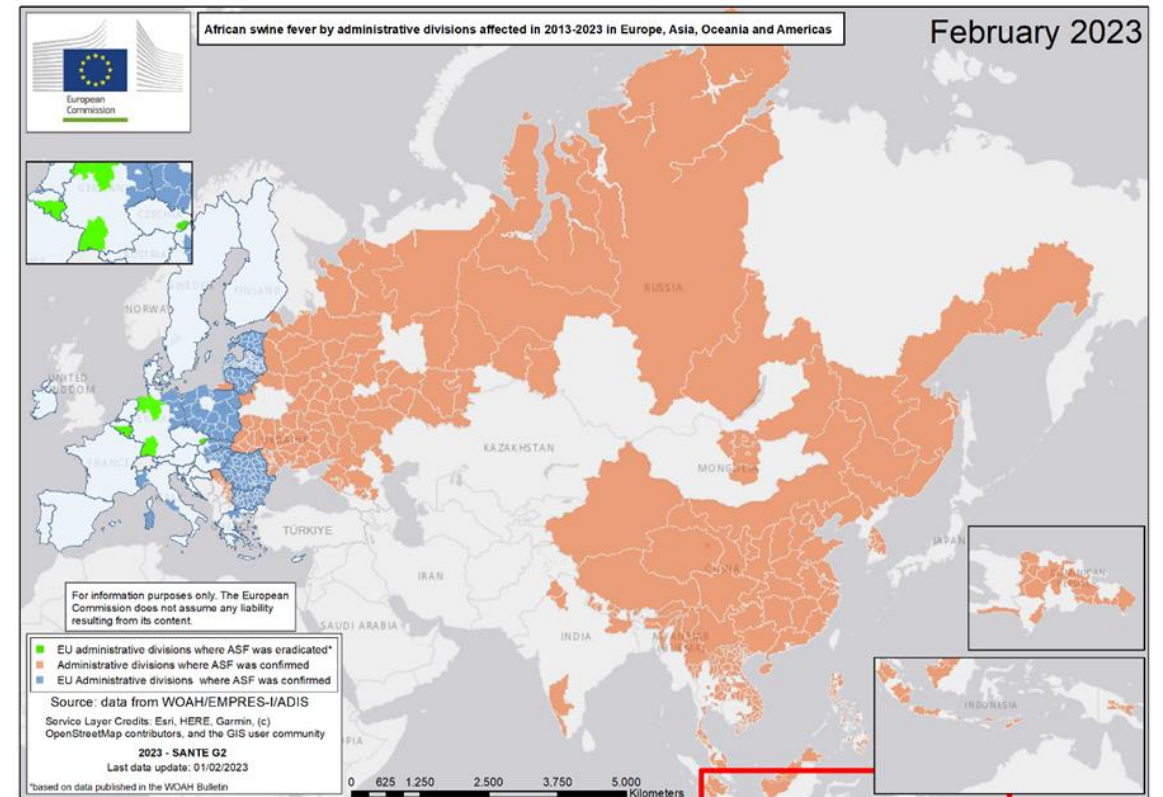
Legislation

Animal
Health
Law



African swine fever (ASF): the EU approach

- ASF listed in the EU as category A disease (CIR (EU) 2018/1882)
- Disease control measures for all Cat A diseases are provided in EU general rules
 - Animal Health Law and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687)
- ASF is a specific disease
 - additional measures and rules needed to tackle it



Main EU legal framework for ASF control

- **Regulation (EU) 2016/429** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health (**Animal Health Law - AHL**)
- Commission **Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687** of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council, as regards rules for the prevention and control of certain listed diseases
- **Special disease control rules:**
 - Commission **Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594** of 16 March 2023 laying down **special control measures for African swine fever (ASF Regulation)**

Former ASF Regulation (EU) 2021/605 has been repealed

- **Commission emergency measures** (if needed)

Basic disease control measures

AHL and CDR (EU) 2020/687

- Disease confirmation and stand-still measures
- Establishment of 3-10 Km restricted (e.g. protection and surveillance) zones depending on risk / disease characteristics
- Establishment of further restricted zones, as necessary
- Wildlife considered
- Tracing / Epidemiological investigations
- Additional Surveillance and Testing
- Emergency vaccination, where possible (based on EU rules)

“Special” ASF regulation (Implementing Reg (EU) 2023/594)

- **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594** lays down special disease control measures for African swine fever
 - Sets out additional disease control measures for ASF (to address the special nature of disease, e.g. virus presence in wild boar, etc.)
 - Provides rules for regionalisation, giving a possibility for the zones under longer restrictions to move certain products and animals, without creating a risk for spreading the disease

New ASF Regulation (EU) 2023/594

Since
21 April 2023

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 repealed Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605
- takes account of the epidemiology of ASF **latest experience and knowledge**
- ensures a **continuous and consistent application** of special disease control measures for ASF in the Union
- provides for some **new** (additional) special disease control measures for ASF, such as
 - specific prohibitions and risk mitigating measures for the movements of consignments of kept porcine animals within restricted zones I, II and III
 - a harmonised shape of special health or, where relevant, identification marks for certain products of animal origin
 - national action plans for wild porcine animals in order to avoid the spread of ASF in the Union

New ASF Regulation (EU) 2023/594

From
21 April 2023

- The principles for this regionalisation and the definition of restricted zones I, II and III will remain in principle the same as in the previous specific ASF legislation
 - **Annex I - list of ASF restricted zones (I, II and III)** differentiated by the epidemiological situation of that disease
 - new: **Annex II – list of areas subject to Commission emergency measures**, where relevant
 - **Annex III – reinforced biosecurity measures** for establishments of kept porcine animals located in restricted zones I, II and III
 - new: **Annex IV – Minimum requirements for national action plans for wild porcine animals** in order to avoid the spread of ASF in the Union

Regionalisation/zoning In the EU

Considerations

Key elements and principles for successful regionalisation

Example: How is regionalisation applied for ASF?

The problem of animal diseases and trade



All countries are confronted occasionally or regularly with outbreaks of animal diseases.



The **economic damage** caused by the disease itself and the eradication measures is unavoidable.



The **damage caused by trade restrictions can be minimised.**

Regionalisation (zoning) in the EU context

- Regionalisation is applied in the EU in line with WOAHA standards and as an **integral element of the EU comprehensive disease control 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 (WTO SPS agreement principles)

Key elements and principles for successful regionalisation

Key elements

- Swift response
- Risk based / Proportionality
- Consistency / Predictability
- **Transparency** / Trust
- Overall disease control system (identification, registration, control of movements, traceability etc.)
- Capacity of the competent authorities
- Appropriate surveillance within and outside restricted zones
- Flexibility, suitability with different peculiarities depending on the diseases and other factors

EU regionalisation principles

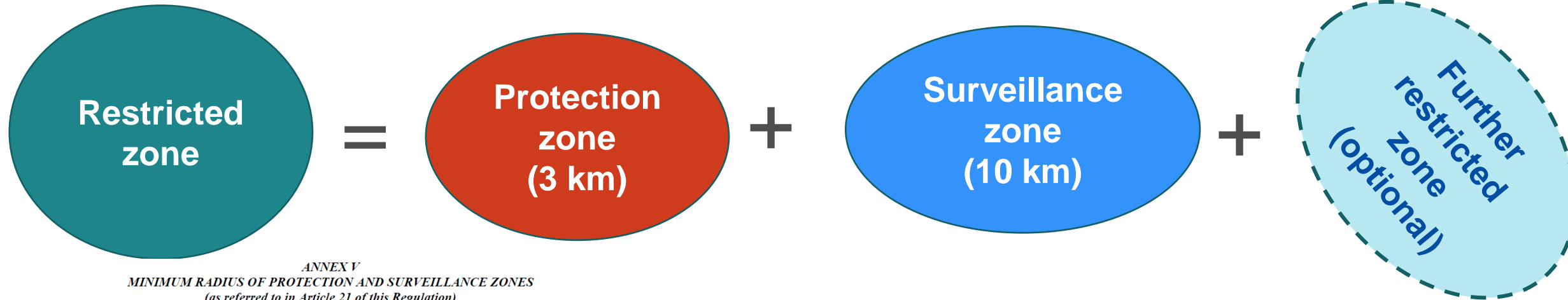
- Clearly **defined roles** for Member States and the Commission
- **Clear criteria, principles** and **measures**
 - based on science, experience, EU legislation and international standards (WOAH)
- **Rapid** flow of information
- **Urgent adoption** of emergency measures
- **Agreed with Member States** (regular Committees)
- **Immediately applicable**
- Legal acts **published in the Official Journal** of the European Union in all EU languages

EU regionalization / zoning: ASF

Restricted zone

Article 21: Establishment of a restricted zone

1. In the event of an outbreak of a category A disease in an establishment, food and feed business, animal by-products establishment or other locations, including means of transport, **the competent authority shall immediately establish around the affected establishment or location a restricted zone**, which comprises:



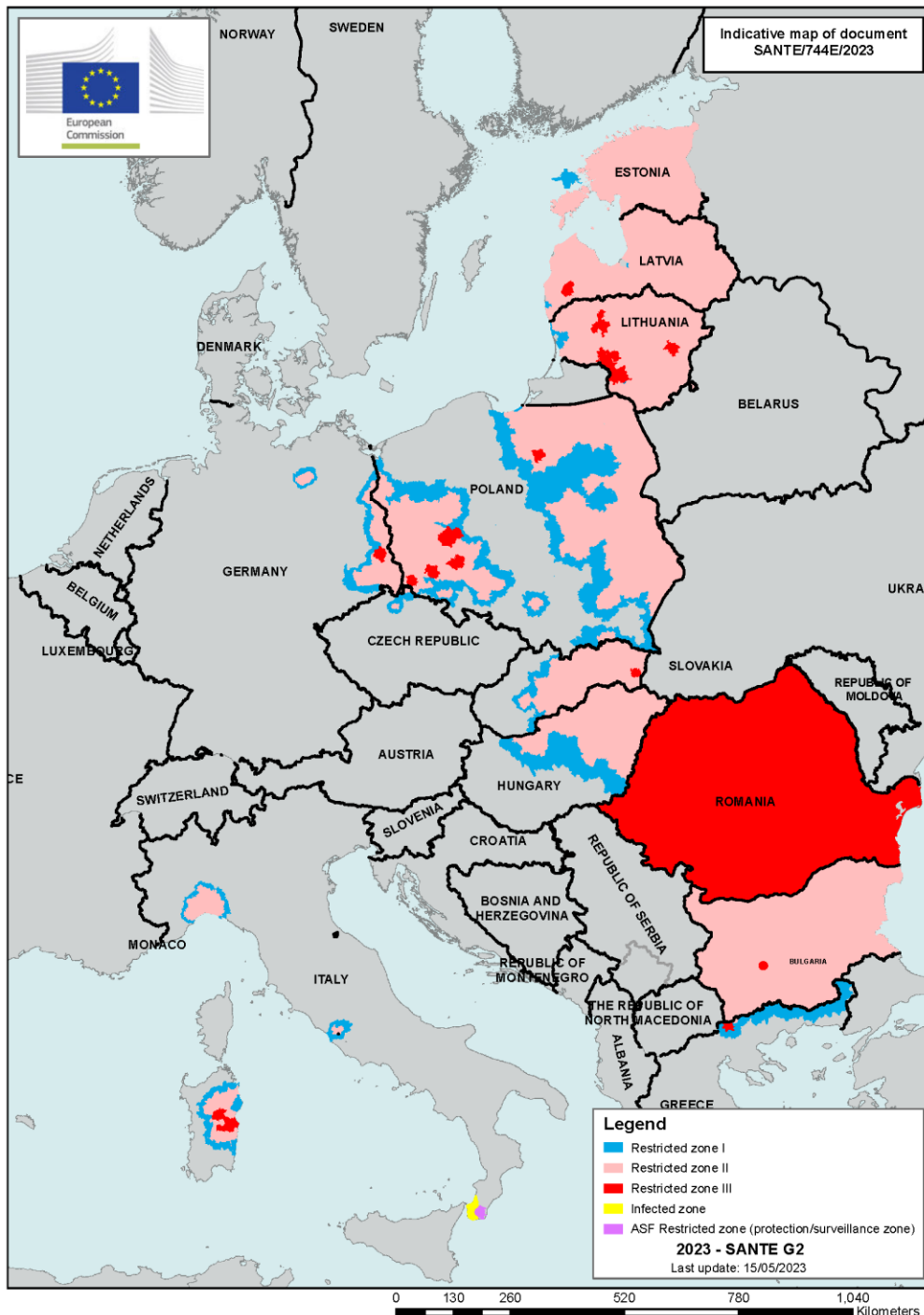
ANNEX V
MINIMUM RADIUS OF PROTECTION AND SURVEILLANCE ZONES
(as referred to in Article 21 of this Regulation)

Indicated as radius of a circle centred on the establishment

Category A diseases	Protection Zone	Surveillance Zone
Foot and mouth disease	3 km	10 km
Infection with rinderpest virus	3 km	10 km
Infection with Rift Valley fever virus	20 km	50 km
Infection with lumpy skin disease virus	20 km	50 km
Infection with <i>Mycoplasma mycoides</i> subsp. <i>mycoides</i> SC (Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia)	Establishment	3 km
Sheep pox and goat pox	3 km	10 km
Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus	3 km	10 km
Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia	Establishment	3 km
African horse sickness	100 km	150 km
Infection with <i>Burkholderia mallei</i> (Glanders)	Establishment	Establishment
Classical swine fever	3 km	10 km
African swine fever	3 km	10 km
Highly pathogenic avian influenza	3 km	10 km
Infection with Newcastle disease virus	3 km	10 km

In addition:

CIR (EU) 2023/594 lays down special control measures for ASF



EU regionalisation measures for ASF

In line with
WOAH

Regulation (EU) 2023/594:

- Restricted zone I ('an additional further restricted zone') – zone, bordering zone II or III, where relevant (no ASF)
- Restricted zone II ('an infected zone') – ASF in wild boar
- Restricted zone III ('a further restricted zone', in addition to PZ/SZ) – ASF in domestic pigs (with or without ASF in wild boar)

- the **Strategic approach** to the management of African Swine Fever for the EU

https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2020-04/ad_control-measures_asf_wrk-doc-sante-2015-7113.pdf

- the **principles and criteria** for geographically and temporally defining ASF regionalisation:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/ad_control-measures_asf_wrk-doc-sante-2015-7112.pdf

Currently being revised

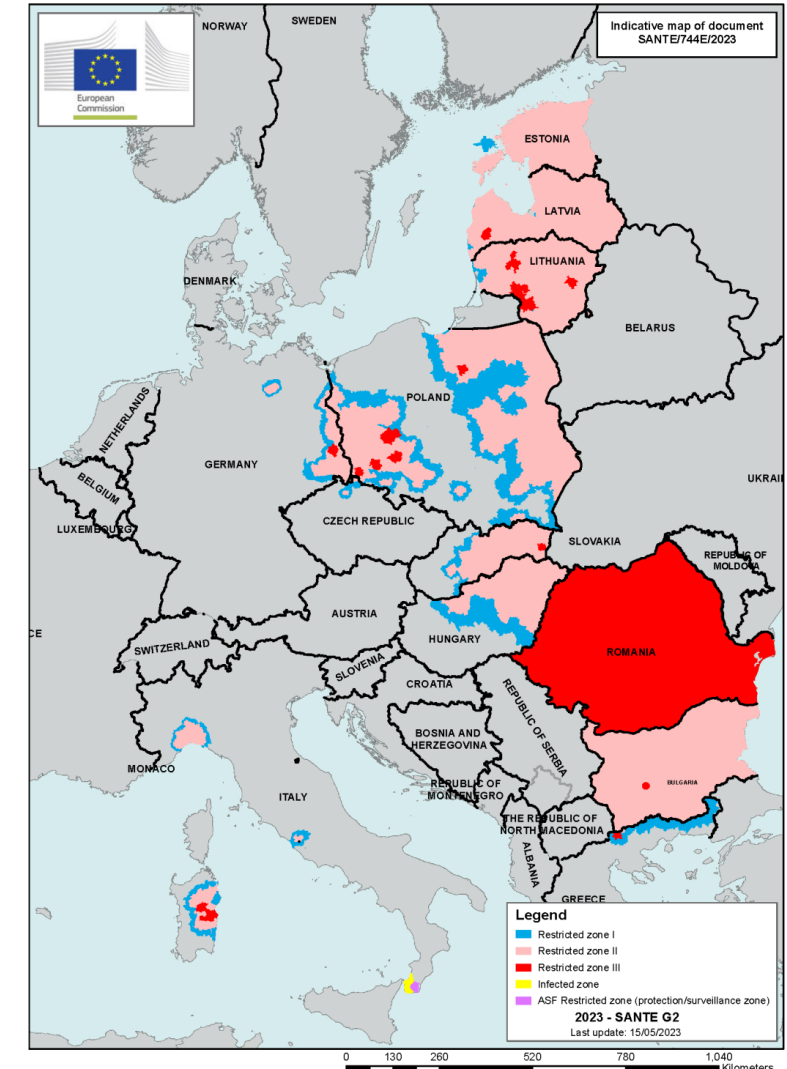
- **Online interactive map:**

<https://santegis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=45cdd657542a437c84bfc9cf1846ae8c>

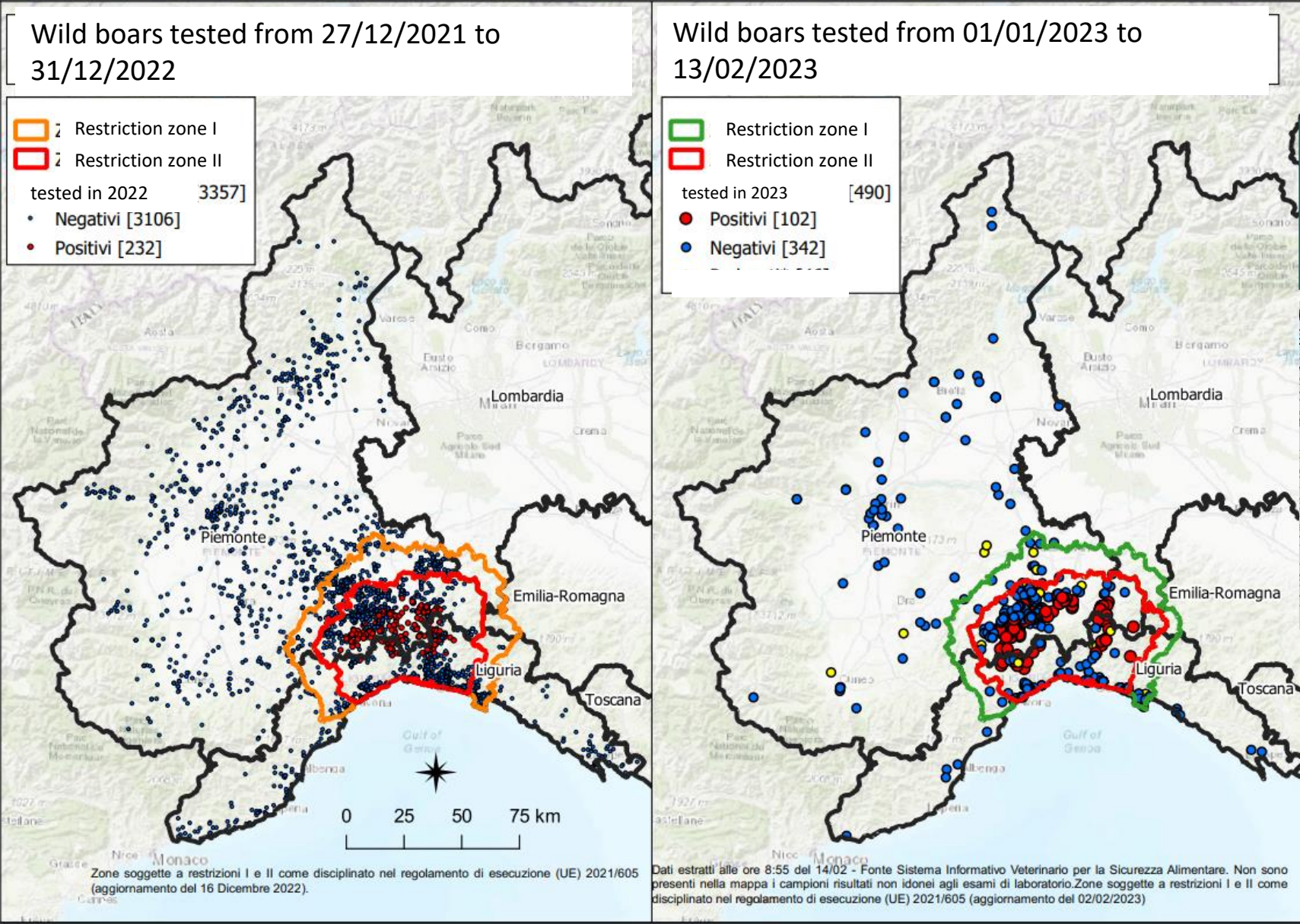
Main principles of Regulation (EU) 2023/594 (special ASF control measures)

EU regionalisation

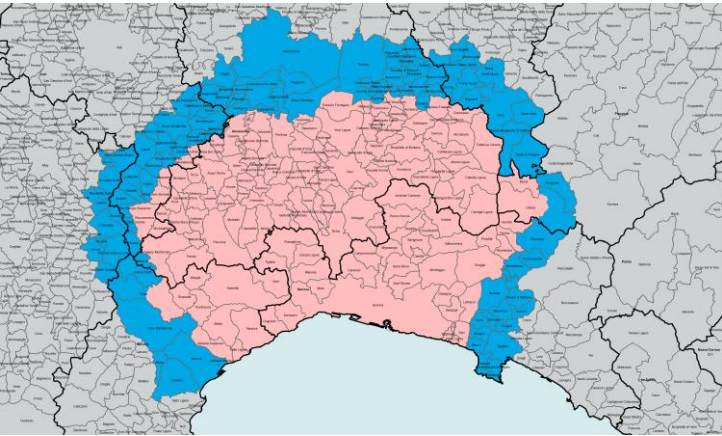
- **Prohibitions** in relation to the movements of certain commodities within and out of restricted zones (*the cornerstone of ASF regionalisation is on the origin of the pigs and the measures in the holdings*)
- **Safe derogations** from prohibitions under **specific conditions** and **risk mitigation measures**
- Special **designation** of establishments and **requirements**
- **Information and training obligations** and **public awareness**
- List of restricted zones categorised by the epidemiological situation (**regionalisation**) (Annex I and II)
- Reinforced **biosecurity measures** (Annex III)
- **National action plans on wild boar** (Annex IV)



EU regionalisation measures for ASF – Italy (Piedmont and Liguria regions) 2023



EU regionalisation measures as per Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605*



* Repealed and replaced by CDR (EU) 2023/594

Urgent information and transparency (ASF)

- **Official Journal** of the EU (legislation)
- **EC website**
 - Guidelines
 - Overview reports (ADIS weekly tables + distribution maps)
 - Regionalisation maps + an interactive tool + animation
 - EFSA (scientific assessments, reports) ; BTSF (training material)
 - Audit reports
 - Events / factsheets / videos
- **Info notes** (maps/update of the measures/adoption of legal acts)
- **Chronology** of main initiatives
- **Standing Committee** on Animal Health and Welfare (publicly available regular updates from affected MS or non-affected MS on the preparedness)
- **Other meetings** and events



A screenshot of the European Commission's Food Safety website. The page has a blue header with the European Commission logo and the text "Food Safety". Below the header is a navigation bar with links: Home, Food, Animals, Plants, and Horizontal topics. The main content area is titled "African swine fever" and includes a "PAGE CONTENTS" sidebar with links to "What is African swine fever?", "Current Situation", "Special control measures", "List of approved establishments - applicable until 21 April 2021", "Websites of competent authorities of Member States", "BTSF training materials on African Swine Fever (ASF)", "EFSA scientific advice", "Blueprint and Roadmap (BRMP)", "ASF Diagnostics", "Related links", and "Further information". The main text area contains a section titled "What is African swine fever?" with a paragraph explaining the disease and its transmission, followed by a "Current Situation" section with a paragraph about epidemiological information, and a "Special control measures" section with a paragraph about legislative updates. The page also includes a language selector (EN English) and a search bar.

Awareness raising of EU regionalisation

- Regular **regional Standing Group of Experts on ASF in Europe** (SGE ASF) and **global cooperation** on ASF with other regional SGEs (Asia, Americas, Africa)
 - 20 meetings 14 field visits since 2014
- **International events** (EU initiative) **dedicated to regionalisation**:
 - **WTO SPS MC12 Thematic Group on regionalisation** (remote, 10 May 2023)
 - **Thematic session on ASF at WTO SPS Committee** (remote, 23 March 2021)
 - A high-level **international conference** *'The future of global pork production under the threat of African swine fever'* (85th International **Green Week**, Berlin, 17 January 2020)
- **Continuous bilateral meetings and communication** with third countries and international organizations (such as WOAAH, FAO)



Conclusions

Key messages: ASF control

- **Preparedness** is crucial – no country worldwide is safe from ASF
- **Biosecurity** should be an "everyday" practice (both at hunting or pig keeping)
- Continuous **passive surveillance** is the most important tool for early detection = urgent response!
- Tailor made **long-term strategy on wild boar** populations
- **Awareness** and a **regular dialogue** between all involved
- Sharing of **knowledge**
- Measures based on **science** and **experience**
- **Cooperation** (including cross-border and international)

EU regionalisation (zoning) measures = guaranty for safe trade

- **The EU legislation** foresees strict measures to apply regionalisation:
 - based on **science**;
 - in line with the WOAH **international standards**
 - in the areas affected – establishment of **restricted zones** and **risk mitigation measures**
- **Business continuity**:
 - the negative impact of animal diseases is reduced (safe trade from non-restricted areas, safe derogations for affected areas, if relevant, etc.)
- Proven to be **effective to prevent / control / slow down the spread of diseases and eradicate them**, where feasible, enabling **safe trade**
- **Recognized internationally (e.g. WTO cases) and by certain trading partners**

Thank you for your attention

Questions?



More information available:

- https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-health/animal-health-law_en
- https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/diseases-and-control-measures/african-swine-fever_en

