

Update on ASF in Eastern Europe (24 July 2017)

African Swine Fever (ASF) has been present in eastern Member States of the EU since the start of 2014. Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have been affected. Outbreaks in pigs have mostly been in back yard herds and the virus is maintained in wild boar in the region.

New developments occurred in July 2017 – with cases confirmed in wild boar in Czech Republic for the first time, and an outbreak in a commercial pig holding in Lithuania. This is causing concern at Commission and at Ministerial level.

The strategy for dealing with the disease is regularly reviewed and a guideline document **SANTE/7113/2015 - Rev 7** entitled *African Swine Fever Strategy for Eastern Part of the EU* is updated as necessary (this document was last updated on 8 June 2017). In addition document **SANCO/7138/2013** provides *Guidelines on Surveillance and Control of African Swine Fever in Feral Pigs and Preventive Measures for Pig Holdings* in affected areas.

The documents and updated maps can be found on the DG SANTE website here:
https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/control-measures/asf_en

Cases of ASF in wild boar in Czech Republic

- ASF was confirmed in wild boar in the Czech Republic for the first time on 27 June
- The boar were found in the Region of Zlin, in the south east of the country on 21 June
- The nearest wild boar positives are 4-500 km away
- Investigations by a Commission expert team have determined that the source is unlikely to be local spread in wild boar
- The wild boar were found in built up areas in close proximity to road 49. No obvious risk factors were found, but it is thought that the wild boar had access to contaminated meat products that were improperly disposed of
- It is thought that ASF was introduced the first week of June, and that at least 3 cycles of the infection had occurred before detection
- Testing of all wild boar found dead or shot is underway
- To date wild boar have been confirmed at 61 locations – all in the same Region of Zlin
- A wild boar infected area has been defined in Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/1162
- A map of positive cases is below

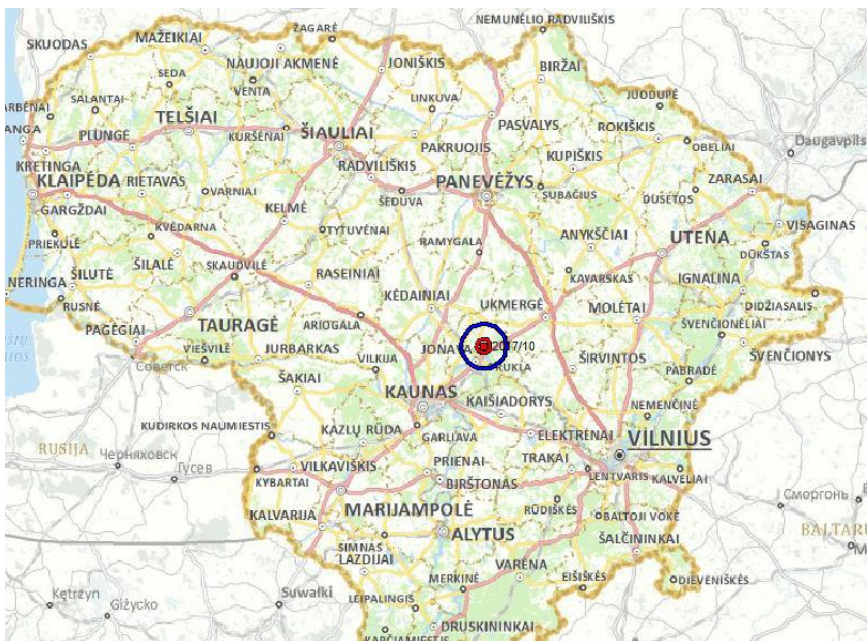


Map of positive findings for ASF since

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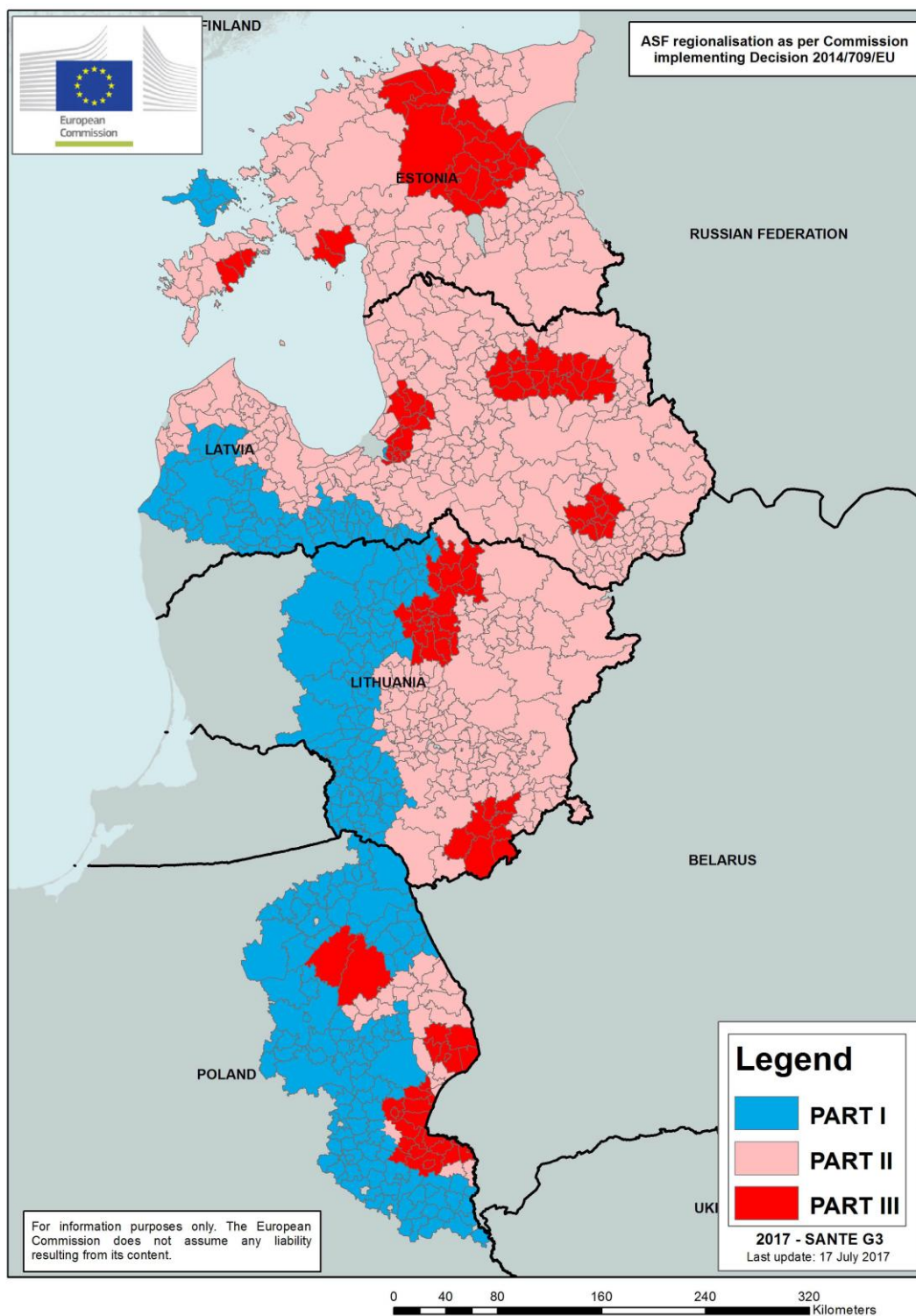
First outbreak in a commercial pig holding in Lithuania in 2017

- On **12 July 2017** ASF was confirmed in a commercial pig farm in the district municipality of Jonava
- This is the 10th outbreak in a pig holding in 2017 – but the first in a commercial holding (the only other outbreak in a commercial holding in Lithuania occurred in 2014).
- The affected farm contains **23,464 pigs** (2,619 sows, 3 boars, 499 pigs over 8 months old, 6,212 pigs from 3 to 8 months old and 14,131 piglets up to 3 months old).
- The holding is located in a restricted area listed in Part II of the Annex to Commission Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU.
- Disease was suspected on 10 July, when an increased mortality of sows was recorded in the sow and piglet unit.
- Post mortem inspection showed enlarged spleens and in the framework of the national surveillance programme of ASF, organs of 4 sows and 4 piglets were sampled.
- On 12 July, 4 more sows died, movement restrictions for the farm were imposed and the State Food and Veterinary Service visited the farm. During the visit, laboratory results were received confirming that 1 of the 4 sows and all 4 piglets sampled were positive for ASF.
- In the unit where sows with piglets are kept, sows showed clinical signs of apathy and loss of appetite. A further 9 blood samples, 2 organs from dead sows and 3 dead piglets were taken for disease confirmation. RT-PCR results were positive to the ASF virus in all the samples taken.
- 3 farms belonging to the same company ("Blauzdžių" with 7958 pigs, "Trakų" with 3668 pigs and "Praulių" with 2533 pigs) have been restricted and sampled – results are awaited.



Map 2: showing location of outbreak 10/2017 in Lithuania

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Map 3: showing restricted areas as of 17 July 2017 (yet to be updated in relation to Czech republic)

Document **SANTE/7112/2015** details the *Principles and Criteria for Geographically Defining ASF Regionalisation*:

- **Part III:** occurrence of ASF in both domestic pigs and wild boar. The situation is not yet endemic.
- **Part II:** occurrence of ASF in wild boar.
- **Part I:** higher risk area with no cases or outbreaks of ASF, and where higher surveillance is applied.