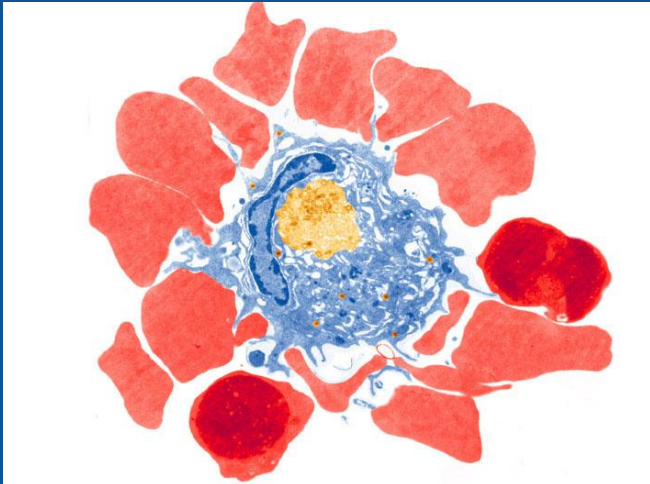


African Swine Fever

What is the EU doing?



Alberto Laddomada
European Commission

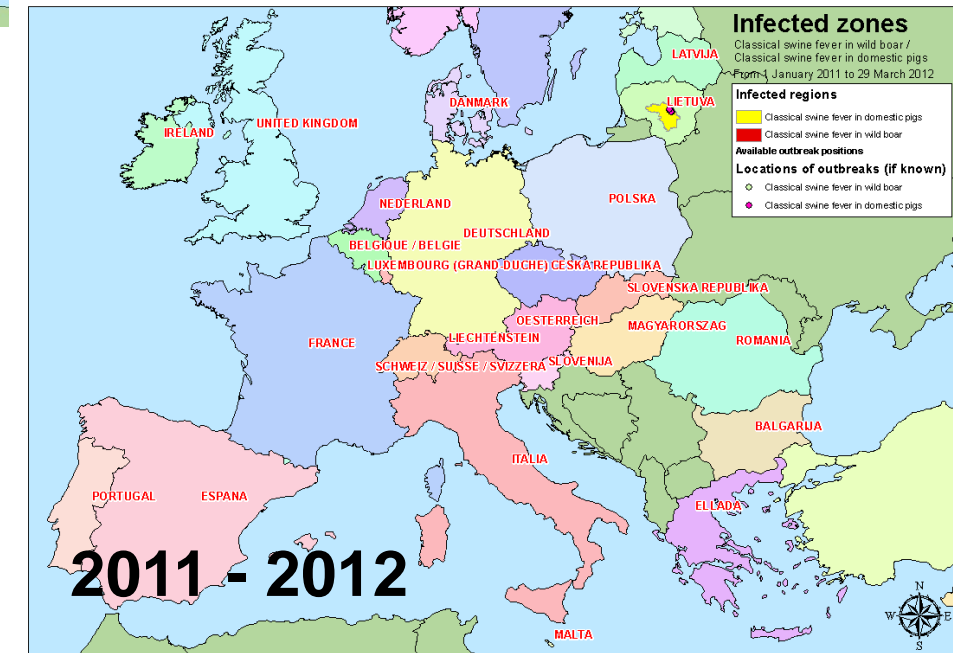
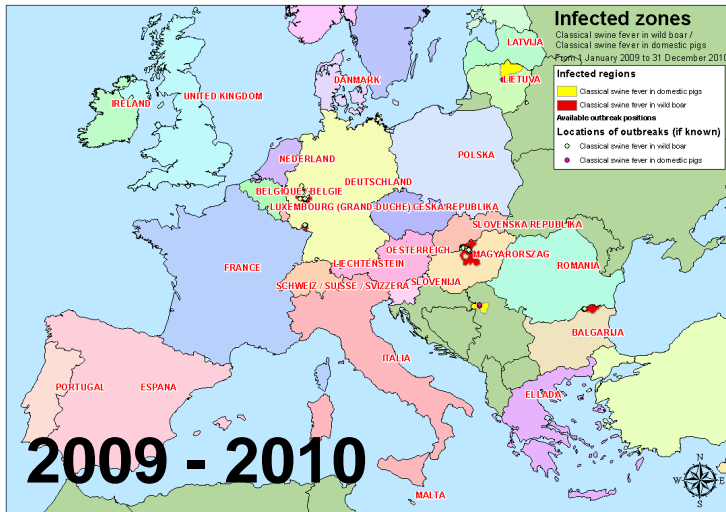
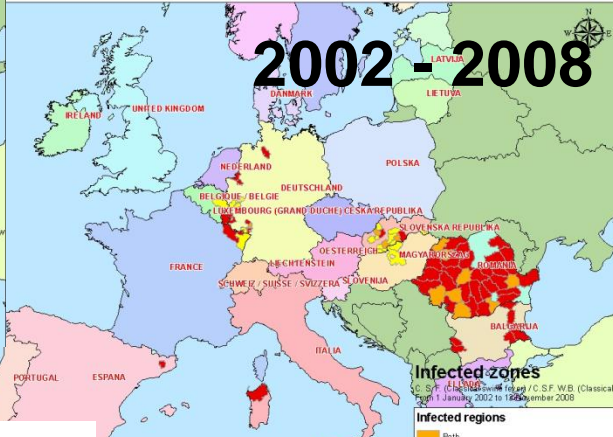
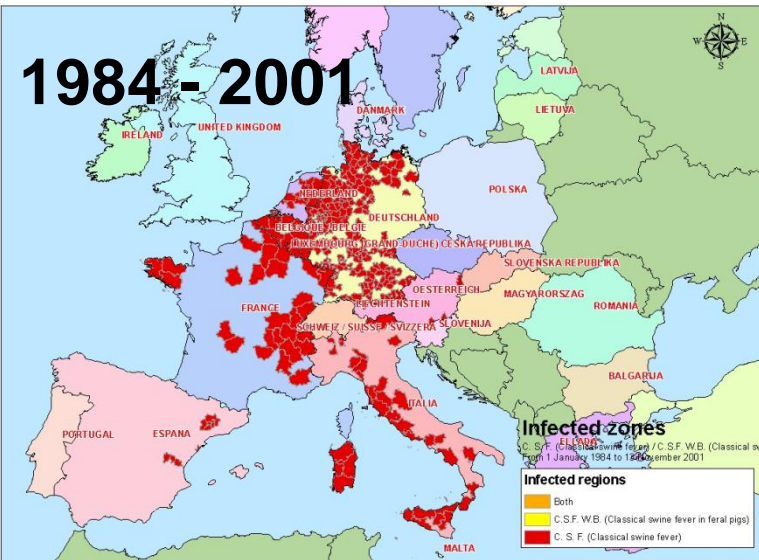


African Swine Fever (ASF) in the European Union: a long history

- Portugal
- Spain
- Mainland Italy
- France
- Malta
- Italy/Sardinia
- Belgium
- Netherlands

- Today - still occurring in the inner areas of Sardinia

Classical swine fever



The challenge posed by the complex epidemiology of ASF virus

- High level and long lasting viraemia (60 days)
- Carrier animals
- ASFV is quite resistant in the environment
- ASFV can remain infectious for 3–6 months in uncooked pork products:
 - **Chilled meat: at least 15 weeks**
 - **3 to 6 months in hams and sausages**
- Wild and domestic pigs species are susceptible
- Soft ticks *Ornithodoros* (real problem in central and eastern Europe?)

The main singularity of ASF

- **The absence of an effective VACCINE against ASF limits the options for disease control which has to be mainly based on direct prophylaxis measures**



The EU main strategies for ASF control and eradication

Identification and registration

Surveillance

Animal movement control

Zoning and regionalization

Stamping out policy

Cleansing and disinfection

Farm bio-security

Swill feeding (kitchen waste)



EU tools for AFS control

- Legislation
- Contingency plans
- The EU Reference Laboratory for ASF
- The EU co-financed eradication programme
- The missions of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team - CVET
- Better training for safer food – BTSF
- Scientific advise - EFSA
- EU research projects - RTD

ASF Legislation

- ✓ Council Directive 2002/60/EC: which lays down specific provisions for the control of ASF (including those on contingency plans)
- ✓ Commission Decision 2003/422/EC: diagnostic manual for ASF
- ✓ Commission Decision 2011/78/UE: on certain measures to prevent the transmission of African swine fever
- ✓ Commission Decision 2005/363/EC: concerning animal health protection measures against ASF in Sardinia, Italy

African Swine Fever Sardinia

From the second half of 2011 and during the first nine months of 2012, there has been a serious recrudescence of the disease

- ✓ More than 100 outbreaks in domestic pigs in 18 months
- ✓ Around 40 wild boars positives
- ✓ Situation improved in the last three months

Review of trade measures from Sardinia
Whole of Sardinia as a high risk area for ASF

Actions are being taken and the 2012 and 2013 programmes amended in light of the new epidemiological situation

ASF in Sardinia – Critical elements

- Suboptimal farm registration/ animal identification
- Free ranging pigs + wild boar
- Poor bio-security (fencing, swill feeding..)
- Home slaughtering
- Deficient pig movements control
- Lack of motivation of farmers



The EU Reference Laboratory for ASF

CISA-INIA, Valdeolmos, Madrid

- to coordinate the diagnostic methods employed in the Member States
- to make the necessary arrangements for training or re-training of experts in laboratory diagnosis;
- to have trained personnel available for emergency situations;
- to perform research activities and whenever possible coordinate research activities directed towards an improved control of ASF;
- to draw up technical protocols relating to procedures to verify the efficacy of disinfectants against ASF virus.

The CVET work on ASF

- Missions ASF
 - **Georgia - June 2007**
 - **Armenia - September 2007**
 - **Ukraine - August 2010**

Scientific advise - EFSA

- **Two recent scientific Opinions**
 - Scientific Opinion on role of tick vectors in epidemiology of ASF (10/08/10)
 - Scientific Opinion on ASF: significance and risk of endemicity in the countries neighbouring the EU, in the EU, role of wildboar, role of vectors (19/04/10)

EU Research Projects:

- **QLK2 – 2001 – 02216 (FP5)**

ASF Control: African Swine Fever (ASF): Improved Diagnostic Methods and understanding of virus epidemiology and virus host interaction.

- **GA 211691 (FP7)**

ASFRISK: Evaluating and controlling the risk of African swine fever in the EU

ONGOING INITIATIVES ON ASF

- **2011 Training Initiatives:**
 - "Better Training for Safer Food", training on ASF for Russian competent veterinary authorities within SANCO initiatives;
 - *"Multi country workshop on Future challenges for veterinarians in the European Union and Neighbouring countries"*. Taiex workshop, Budapest – Hungary.

Research Projects:

- **QLK2 – 2001 – 02216 (FP5)**

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Summary

- **In the EU there is high awareness on the threat posed by ASF**
- **A lot of expertise is available: diagnosis, epidemiology, legislation, CP ...**
- **EU is ready to help neighbouring countries**



European
Commission

Thank you for your attention