



# Maintaining Animal Health in the EU Single Market

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**This presentation does not necessarily represent the views of the European Commission**

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## **Global trade and food: some thoughts to start**

- Food is not only a necessity;
- Food is also culture, diversity, lifestyle;
- Food sector: many jobs and many SME's;
- Fostering the Agri-Food Sector is important everywhere;
- Trade is not a zero sum game. There is opportunity.

# Trade needs predictability

- Transparent, predictable trade conditions are a pre-requisite to justify investment.
- International rules and guidance create predictability...
- ... if they are applied – which is an obligation – but easier said than done.

## **The EU internal market on animals and their products**

- Established in the early 1990s via EU harmonized legislation.
- The responsibility for the safety of animals and their products lie with the Member State of origin

## The issue

- All WTO Members are confronted with occasional outbreaks of animal diseases.
- The economic damage caused by eradication measures is unavoidable.
- But damage caused by trade restrictions can be minimized.
- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza is a prominent example, as we are witnessing outbreaks on (almost) all continents.

## The EU role in trade

- $\frac{3}{4}$  of the trade in animals and animal products is between the Member States;
- The EU must manage risks of its own 'international' trade;
- At the same time, global trade links are also substantial;
- EU lives up to these responsibilities.

## **Animal Disease Controls in the EU**

- Political consensus: High level of protection;
- Harmonised rules, based on the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) standards (Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes);
- Rigorous controls and enforcement;



## Animal Disease Controls in the EU (ctd.)

- Solidarity and assistance;
- Transparency.

***To base the EU policy on international standards is fundamental not only for international trade purpose but also to ensure the proper functioning of the EU single market***

## How does it work?

- Constant scrutiny and peer review with clear accountability;
- EU Commission was entrusted with strong enforcement power;
- Immediate notification of OIE;

**TRANSPARENCY IS A KEY ELEMENT.**

## The EU internal market on animals and their products

- Controls at borders between Member States were abolished, and replaced by controls at destination

**The old concept of « country freedom » from diseases became to a large extent obsolete and was replaced by:**  
**Regionalization**

## The main elements:

- Rapid decision-making in case of emergency;
- Pooled resources if necessary;
- High level of resilience and dynamics towards self-improvement through Audits, Transparency, and Peer Pressure.

## Regionalization in the EU context

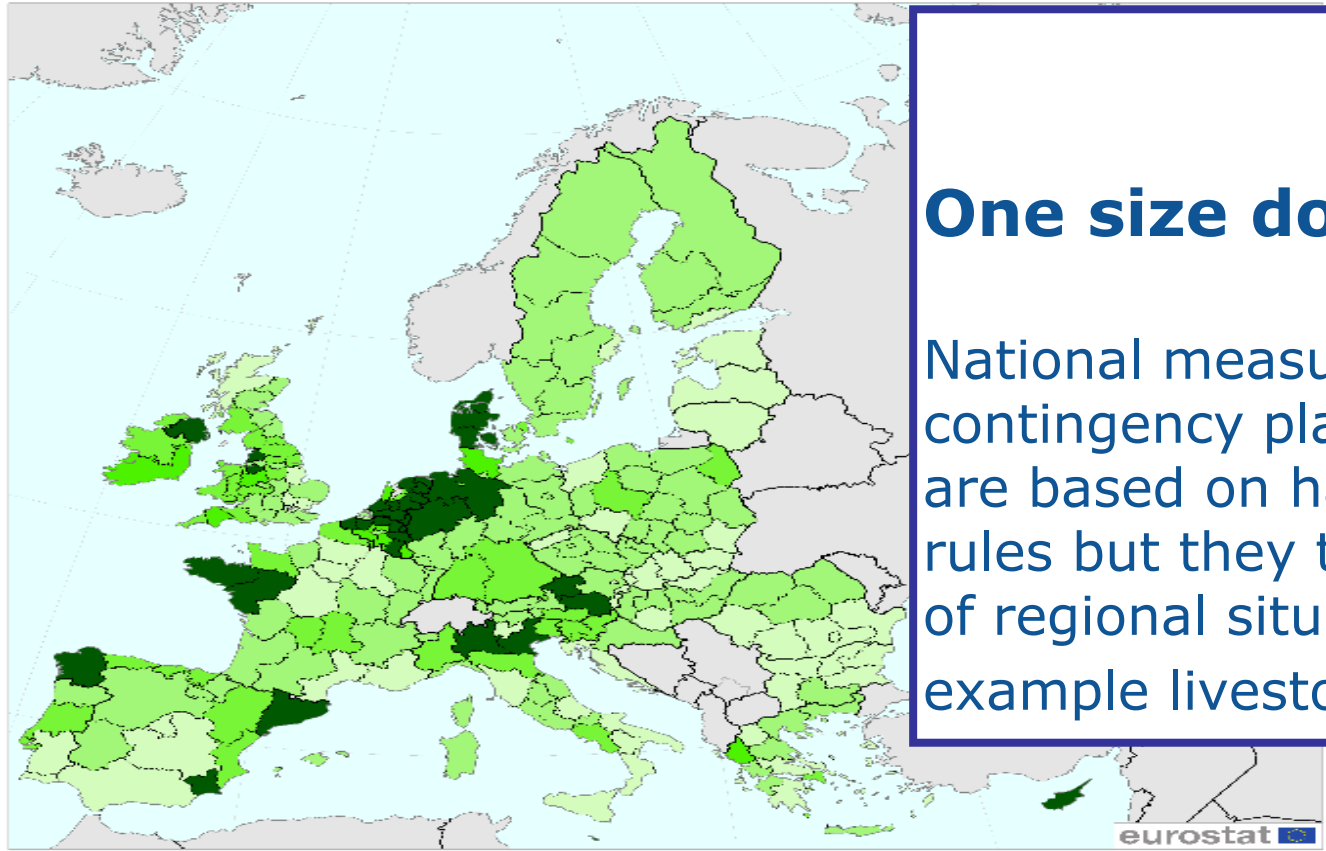
Regionalization is applied in the EU in line with OIE and as one integral element of the EU comprehensive strategy

aimed at:

Minimizing impacts 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.

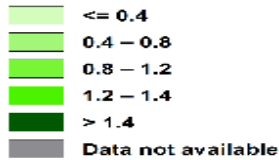
## Key factors of EU regionalization

- Comprehensive strategy covering prevention, detection, control;
- Competent veterinary services with adequate resources and legal standing;
- Adherence to international standards;
- Transparency.

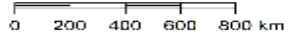


# One size does not fit all.

National measures and contingency plans are based on harmonized rules but they take account of regional situations, for example livestock density.



Administrative Boundaries: © EuroGeographics © UN FAO © Turkstat  
Cartography: Eurostat — IMAGE, 17/03/2017



## **Policies on regionalisation in the EU ASF + AI**

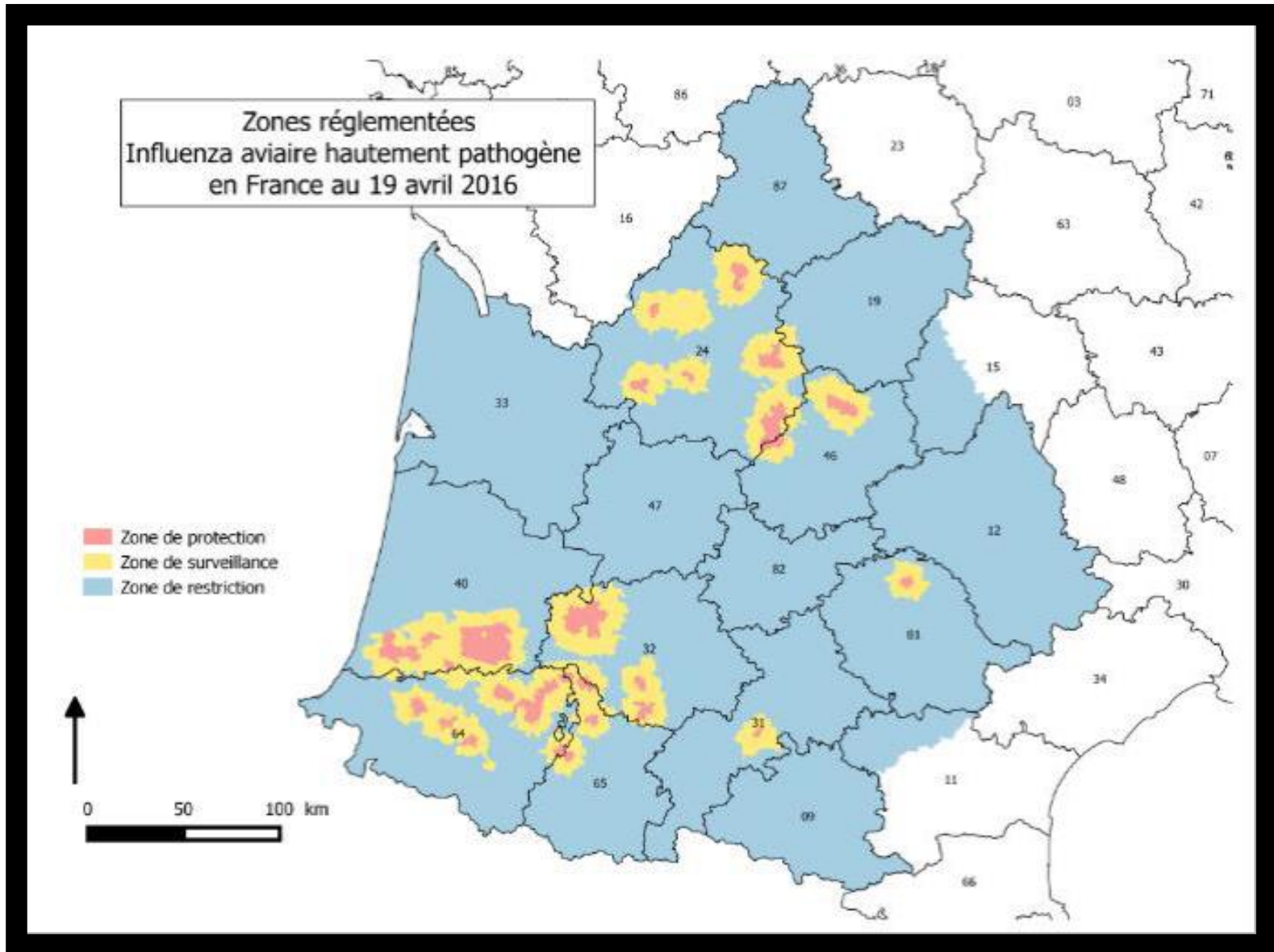
- National measures / contingency plans based on specific EU Rules for individual diseases;
- Protection zone: 3 Km - stamping-out;
- Surveillance zone: 10 Km - movement restrictions, intensive surveillance, biosecurity



## Policy on regionalisation in the EU ASF + AI (ctd.)

- **Additional zoning of large extent:** High risk products restricted;
- Size of zones depends from the disease and situation;
- All measures apply to Intra-EU trade and export.

# Example: Zoning after HPAI outbreaks



# HPAI in the EU in 2017 - unprecedented

- Commercial poultry holdings in 17 Member States infected with over 1200 outbreaks;
- High disease pressure from migrating birds;
- Wild birds positive in 24 Member States
- Free range holdings particularly affected;
- **Regionalisation system worked;**
- No horizontal transmission of the disease outside surveillance zones;
- Mainly H5N8
- NOW : H5N6!

## Minimizing economic damage

- For HPAI, evaluation of regionalisation applications may take longer than regaining OIE country freedom status;
- Country freedom to be accepted swiftly;
- 'Peace-time' agreement on recognition of regionalisation measures is an alternative;
- EU has successfully implemented this approach with several countries.

# African swine fever in The Czech Republic



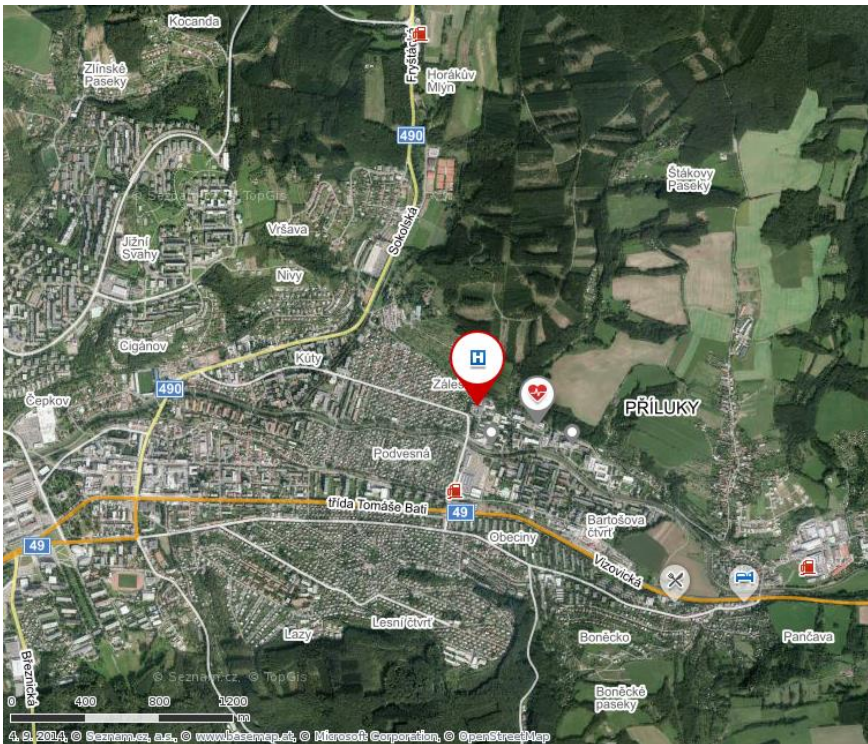
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Petr Šatrán



First occurrence of ASF virus in wild board in the Czech Republic

Date of finding: 21.6.2017, confirmation: 26.6.2017 (NRL SVI Jihlava)

Location of finding: Příkladky u Zlína, GPS 49°13'44.303"N, 17°42'1.996"E



## ASF – Epidemiological situation from 26. 6. 2017 to 31. 1. 2018

In total **217** cases of African swine fever in wild boar population

- The total number of positive cases found in dead wild boar: **200**
- The total number of positive cases in hunted wild boar: **17**

### **NO OUTBREAKS IN DOMESTIC PIGS**

**Total number of ASF tested wild boar:**

- **Part II:** found dead 332 / **200 positive**

hunted 2522 / **17 positive**

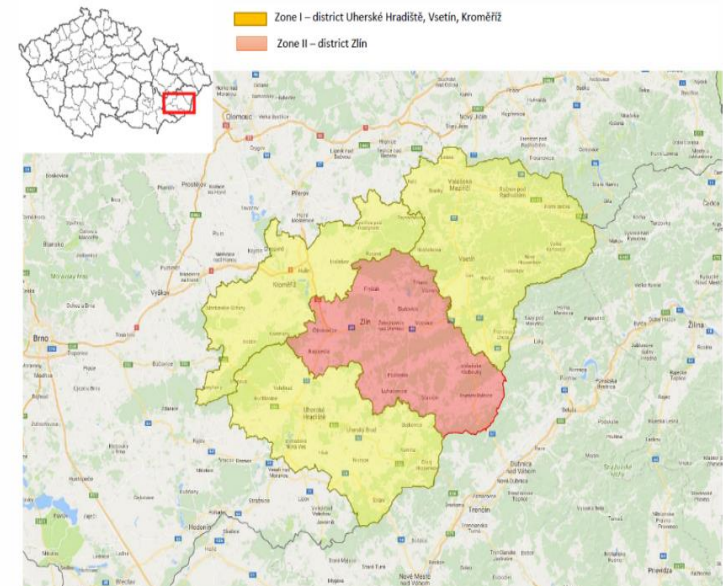
- **Part I:** found dead 73 / no positive

hunted 6 168 / no positive

- **Area with intensive hunting**

(without **Part I and Part II**)

hunted 6433 / no positive





## **ASF - New defined infected area (Part II) from 1. 2. 2018**

*Total number of found dead wild boars from 1. 2. 2018 to 26. 2. 2018*

New Part II: 3 / **1 positive**

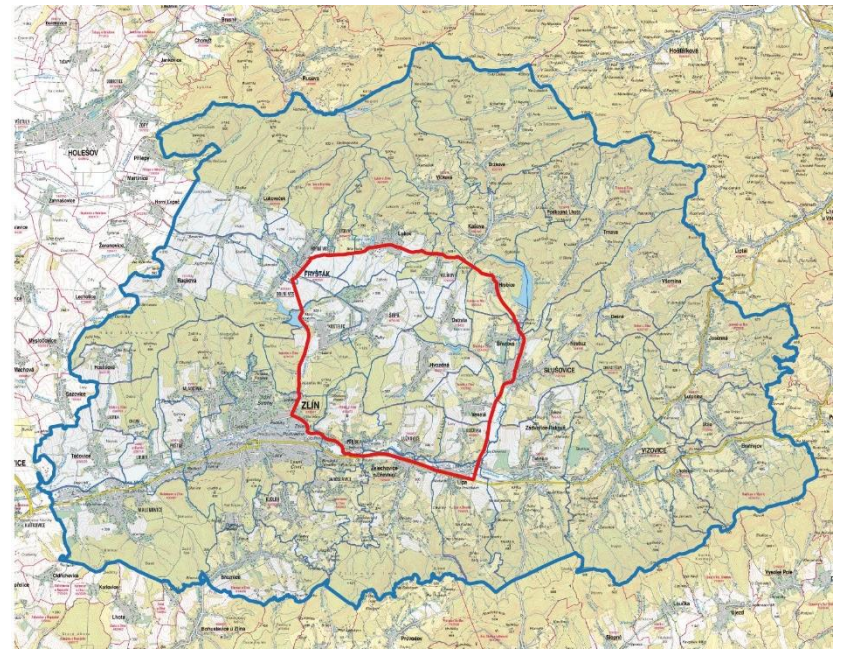
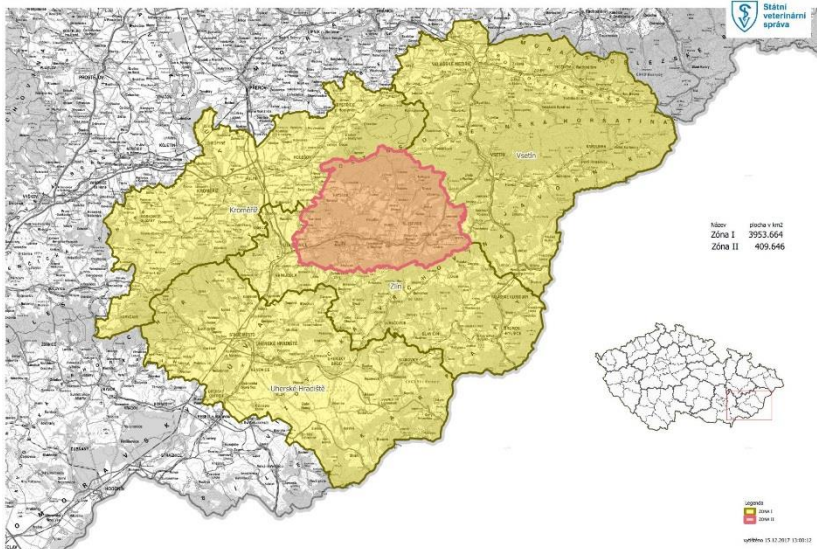
New Part I: 12 / no positive

*Total number of hunted wild boars from 1. 2. 2018 to 26. 2. 2018*

New Part II: 110 / **1 positive**

New Part I: 557 / no positive

AMP - Regionalizace - zóna I, zóna II







## Demarcation of the infected area

In accordance with the Council Directive 2002/60/EC the whole District Zlín has been declared as an infected area (1 034 km<sup>2</sup>), 37 municipalities, 89 hunting grounds

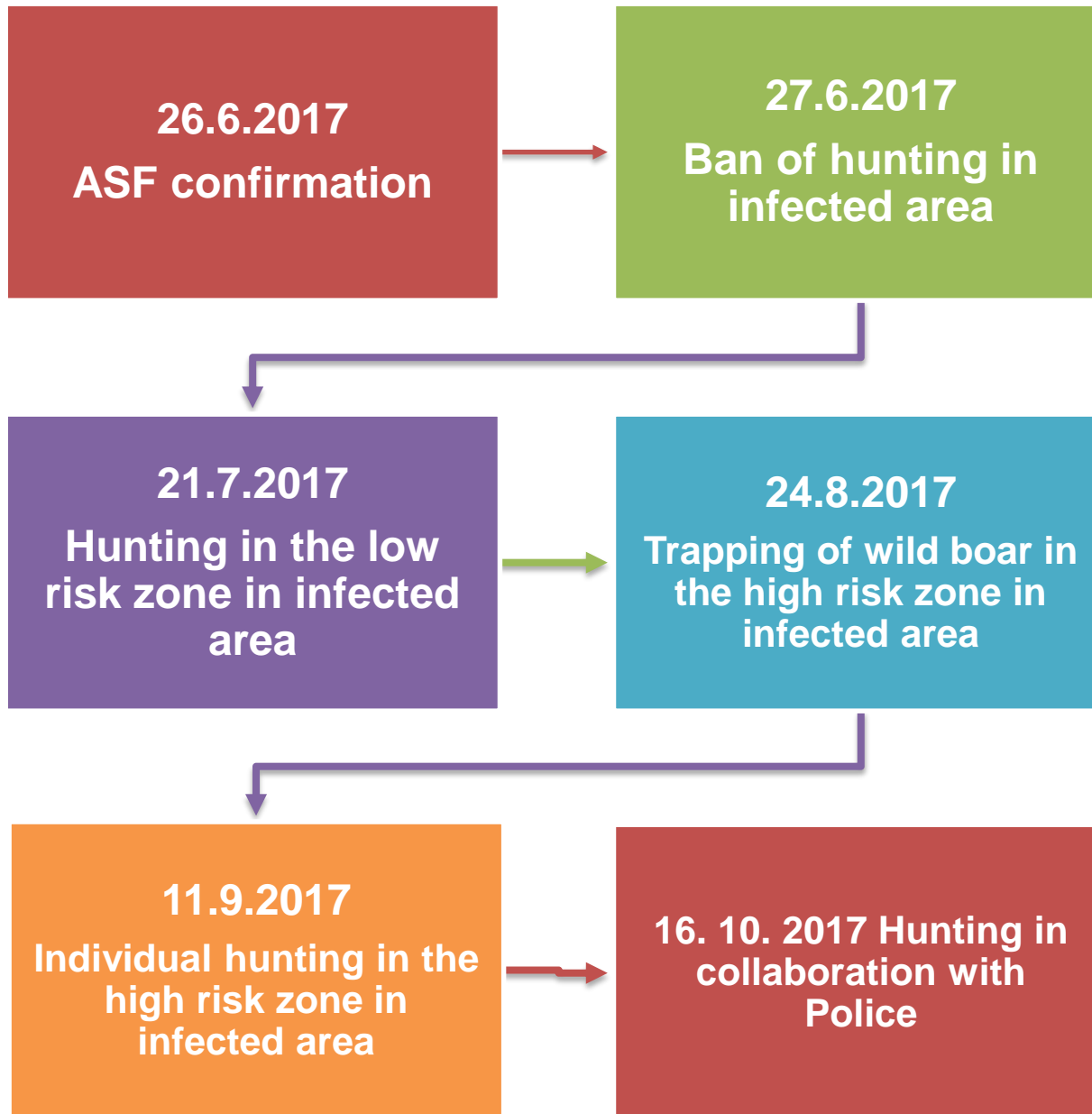
### **General control measures applied in the infected area**

#### *WILD BOAR*

- 1) Increased passive surveillance (each found dead wild boar is rewarded)
- 2) Ban of hunting (any species, any hunting system)
- 3) Ban of wild boar feeding
- 4) Ban of entrance for the general public into the high and higher risk areas (red areas)
- 5) Sampling and testing for both ASF and CSF (PCR) each found dead wild boar;

Carcasses are collected in a plastic bag, identified with a “earmark” and carried to the nearest road where dedicated vehicles transport them to the rendering plant (about 70 km distance). An official veterinarian samples carcasses at the rendering plant.

# Timeline of hunting regulation



# Conclusions

- Current ASF and AI epidemic are unprecedented in the EU
- However, thanks to implementation of regionalisation measures:
  - **Rapid containment of outbreaks**
  - **No human cases of disease for AI**
  - **Disease limited to wild boar, with minimized spill-over in domestic pigs for ASF**

Regionalisation is a highly efficient instrument, which must be part of a comprehensive veterinary control system!

# 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.

# *Thank you*

*more at:*

*[https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/health-and-food-safety\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/health-and-food-safety_en)*