



AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (ASF): COMMUNICATION

**New implementing decision of the European Commission of 23 November 2018:
adjustment of the zoning by the European Commission**

It is important to underline that this new decision by the European Commission is neither due to a deterioration in conditions among wild boar, nor to an increased risk. All pig farms are also ASF-free.

Following the identification of ASF in Belgium on 13 September 2018, the European Commission, following consultation with the federal authorities, and regional Walloon authorities, immediately demarcated an "infected zone" of 63,000 ha. The boundaries of this zone were calculated taking into account the epidemiology of the ASF virus, the habitat of wild boar, afforestation and existing natural or artificial barriers. It was a provisional decision, which expires on 30/11/2018. Within this "infected zone", the Walloon Region has demarcated 3 operational Belgian "subzones" as we know them today (the kernel zone, the buffer zone and the reinforced observation zone). Specific measures apply in each of these zones.

In this "infected zone", preventive measures were taken by decision of the Federal Minister for Agriculture, including slaughtering all domestic swine to prevent infection by wild boar. In addition, the recent opinion of the independent Scientific Committee established under the BFSFA underlines the following: *"The risk of introduction into Belgian pig farms is currently deemed to be low, mainly due to sanitary slaughter carried out in the pig farms in the infected zone"*.

Based on European legislation and following consultation with the federal authorities and regional Walloon authorities, the "infected zone" has now been replaced by two separate zones: "Zone I" and "Zone II".

This formal decision is imposed by European legislation in the context of zoning and protection measures against ASF, according to the identified risk. "Zone II" (see maps below) is deemed a high risk zone and corresponds to the current kernel and buffer zone (retained at Belgian level).

"Zone I" (see maps below), where the risk is lower, corresponds to the current "reinforced observation zone" in the south (which is also retained at Belgian level), which has been extended towards the north with a new zone called the "vigilance zone". "Zone I" (which is unique in European legislation) therefore consists of two sections (in practice for Belgium) called the "reinforced observation zone" and "vigilance zone", located to the south and north respectively. However, the latter zone, which is compulsory under European legislation, which imposes a peripheral zone I, entails less risk than the reinforced observation zone, and was only imposed by the EU for preventive reasons.

Although some additional measures need to be taken, it does not appear to be necessary to slaughter the domestic swine in this zone.



European measures relating to Zones I and II

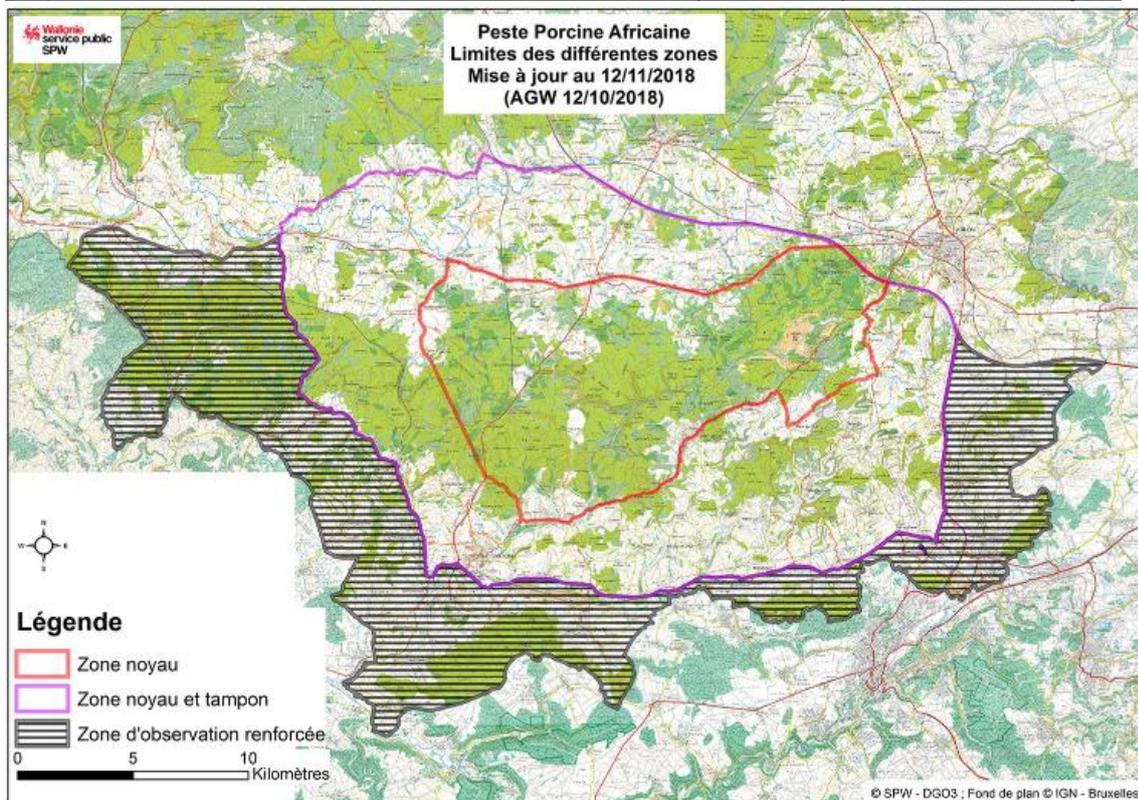
It was agreed with the Walloon Region that the BFSA would communicate the measures relating to federal competences (domestic swine) and the Walloon government would clarify the specific provisions of its competence retrospectively. They have already made it clear that these provisions will have no impact on movement within the forest, and forest and activities.

- **Zone II** (*Inner zone, the high risk zone, corresponds to the current Belgian "kernel zone" - "buffer zone"*)
Domestic swine:
Within this zone, **there are no changes** given that there are no longer any domestic swine here.
- **Zone I** (*Outer zone with lower risk*)
At Belgian level, this Zone I is split into "**Zone I South**" (= current Belgian reinforced observation zone) and "**Zone I North**" (new Belgian "vigilance zone" where there is a lower risk than in the reinforced observation zone).
 - **Zone I "South" - reinforced observation zone:**
Domestic swine:
Within this zone, **there are no changes** given that there are no longer any domestic swine here.
 - **Zone I "North" – vigilance zone (New):**
Domestic swine: There are 16 pig farms located in the zone, of which only one is a fattening farm with a capacity of more than 1000 pigs. All pig farmers were individually notified by the BFSA of the new situation during the week of 19/11. Domestic swine - **will not be slaughtered preventively**, as was the case for pigs in the "infected zone", including the reinforced observation zone, where the risk is higher.
 - At national level: no additional measures are applicable on top of the legal measures which are applicable throughout the territory¹.
In practice, no new restrictions therefore apply to live pigs, pork and pork products.
 - For intra-community trade (between EU Member States):
 - for pork and pork products (from pigs from this zone): **No specific legal restrictions are applicable.**
 - for live pigs: **Transportation to other Member States is banned, except where a derogation is possible and provided that the following conditions are met:**
 - the pigs sold have been on the farm for at least 30 days, or since birth;
 - The farm from where they originate complies with the biosecurity measures applicable to ASF;



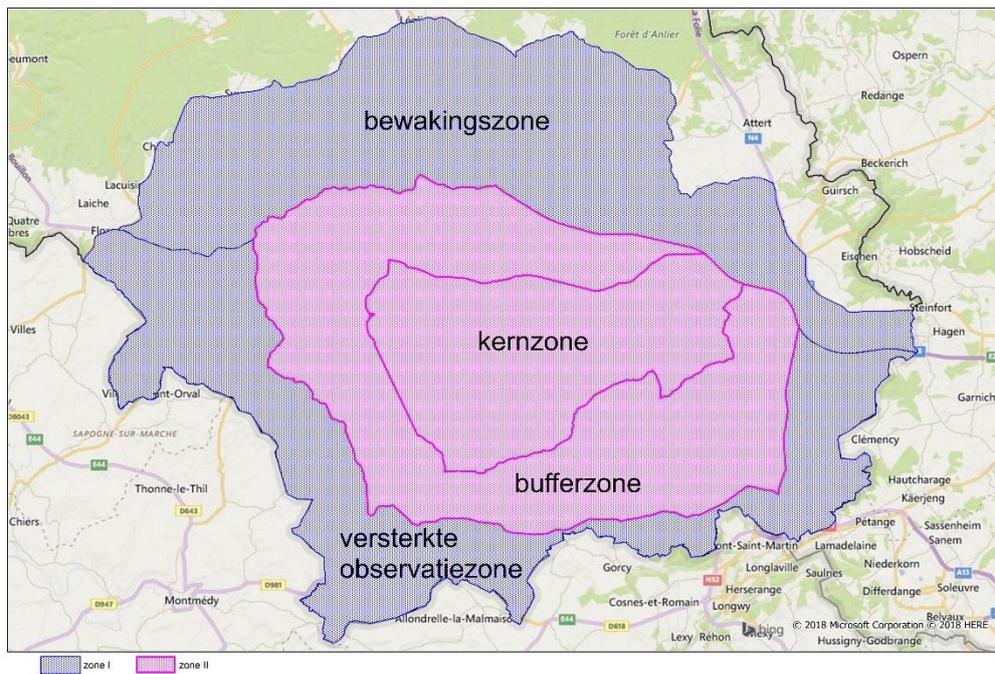
- Within 15 days prior to being transported, the sold pigs undergo an ASF laboratory test which must be negative. On the day of transport, the official veterinarian carries out a clinical examination which must be favourable;
 - Twice a year, at intervals of at least 4 months, the competent veterinary authority must perform an official inspection.
- Export of pork and pork products to third countries:
Export possibilities depend on the conditions established by the third country in question¹.

Map 1: "infected zone" with the 3 "subzones" currently defined by the Walloon Region





Map 2-3-4: zoning following EU decision of 23 November 2018: "Zone I" (reinforced observation zone + vigilance zone) and "Zone II" (kernel and buffer zone)





<http://www.favv.be/avp/1>

Contact person for press:

Liesbeth Van de Voorde

Liesbeth.vandevoorde@favv-afsca.be

Tel: 0479/777304