African swine fever (ASF) is considered endemic in sub-Saharan Africa. Outside Africa, outbreaks of this disease have been reported in the Americas (with the most recent occurrences in Brazil, in January 1981, and Haiti, in 1984)\(^1\). In Europe, ASF has been endemic in the island of Sardinia, Italy, since 1982\(^2\). The disease was first introduced into Georgia in 2007 and rapidly spread to Armenia, Azerbaijan and the southern part of Russia in domestic pigs and wild boar. ASF was then introduced into Ukraine in 2012.

A total of eight OIE Member Countries in Europe (Belarus, Estonia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Ukraine) reported the presence of ASF between 1 January 2013 and 9 December 2014. During this period, Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland notified the first occurrence of ASF in their countries, while Russia and Ukraine notified the spread of the disease to new zones. Belarus reported ASF only in domestic pigs, Estonia observed it in wild boar, and it was reported in both domestic pigs and wild boar by Italy, Latvia, Lithuania,

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\(^1\) [www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Countryinformation/Reporting](www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Countryinformation/Reporting)

Poland, Russia and Ukraine (Fig. 1). As of 9 December 2014, events in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Ukraine were still ongoing.

In Africa, 16 Member Countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, the Dem. Rep. of Congo, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia) have reported the disease during this period. Cote d’Ivoire notified a reoccurrence whereas Benin, Chad and Zambia reported the disease in specific zones. Moreover, ASF has been notified, through their six-monthly reports, by Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Dem. Rep. of Congo, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda. Eleven African Member Countries reported ASF only in domestic pigs whereas four African Member Countries reported ASF in both domestic and wild pigs, and South Africa reported it only in wild suidae (Fig. 1). As of 9 December 2014, events in Chad and Cote d’Ivoire were still continuing.

As noted above, ASF is considered to be endemic in some countries in Africa, and the Eastern European situation poses a constant threat to the rest of Europe. Between 1 January 2013 and 9 December 2014, a total of 47,788 cases and 298,702 animal losses (through death, destroyed and slaughtered animals) were reported to the OIE from around the world.

OIE Member Countries are under an obligation to notify an exceptional epidemiological event within 24 hours of confirmation and follow-up reports should be submitted on a weekly basis. When the disease is endemic, and no new strain or sudden increase in morbidity or mortality is involved, the OIE encourages Member Countries to provide quantitative information by administrative division and month through their six-monthly reports. It is crucial to collect and share this information with other Member Countries to prevent the further spread of the disease and facilitate trade.

General disease information sheet about African swine fever:

OIE–CIC Joint International Meeting on African Swine Fever and other animal health issues at the wildlife–livestock–human interface

Paris, France, 30 June–1 July 2014

More than 100 representatives from organisations involved in hunting and wildlife management in Central and Eastern European countries, as well as professionals from these countries’ national Veterinary Services, including OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife, came together for the first time at a forum convened by the OIE in collaboration with the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC).

Hunters undoubtedly play an important role in the early detection of wildlife diseases; one which should clearly be recognised in the establishment of efficient systems for detecting animal pathogens in wildlife. Since Central and Eastern European countries face an alarming threat from African swine fever (ASF), potentially affecting not only porcine health but also biodiversity and wild-boar management over large parts of Europe, there was an urgent need to discuss mutual collaboration in trying to detect, control and eradicate diseases at the wildlife–livestock–human interface.

This initiative to strengthen cooperation between veterinarians, on the one hand, and hunters and wildlife managers, on the other, came jointly from the OIE and CIC, an international umbrella organisation for governments and national hunting bodies, with whom the OIE signed an official cooperation agreement in May 2011.

After reviewing the ASF situation in Central and Eastern Europe, both hunters and veterinarians concluded that general disease awareness at all times and strict compliance with biosecurity measures during the