The Commission is closely monitoring the situation and supports the efforts of Italy and other Member States to prevent, control and eradicate African swine fever (ASF).

The Commission has a complete set of legislation and science based guidelines to manage the risks deriving from the wild boar population in the context of ASF. In 2020, the Commission upgraded its guidelines\(^1\) to include a strategic approach for the long-term management of wild boar in all Member States to prevent, control and eradicate ASF in wild boar. In addition, the Commission is currently discussing with the Member States the possibility to shift this strategic approach to a legally binding requirement for national action plans for wild boar management in the context of ASF prevention, control and eradication in each Member State.

Strategic fencing of ASF infected zones has proven to be effective, in combination with other measures, to control and eradicate ASF as concluded by the European Food Safety Authority\(^2\) and demonstrated by the strategies put in place by Belgium and Czechia, who have eradicated ASF in the wild boar population recently.

It is under the responsibility of the Italian competent authority(-ies) to engage with all relevant stakeholders and to decide how to properly implement ASF control measures under the local circumstances, ensuring the necessary resources to effectively and successfully prevent, control and eradicate ASF. However, EU co-financing for certain control measures linked to the management of ASF in the wild boar population is also provided under certain conditions in the Single Market Programme Regulation\(^3\).