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Agricultural Outlook Forum
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ON STREAMLINING THE
REGULATORY PROCESS – A EUROPEAN PRESPECTIVE

David McNamara
Former Assistant Director
European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization
Paris, France

Impact of international standards on streamlining the regulatory process - a European perspective

David McNamara

former Assistant Director,
European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization,
Paris, France

A historical review of the the
development and
internationalization of plant
quarantine

Four phases

- 1. The Dark Ages
- 2. National Regulations
- 3. First Internationalization
- 4. The Present

The Dark Ages

- Biological information limited
- No control on plant movement
- Pests frequently spread by humans

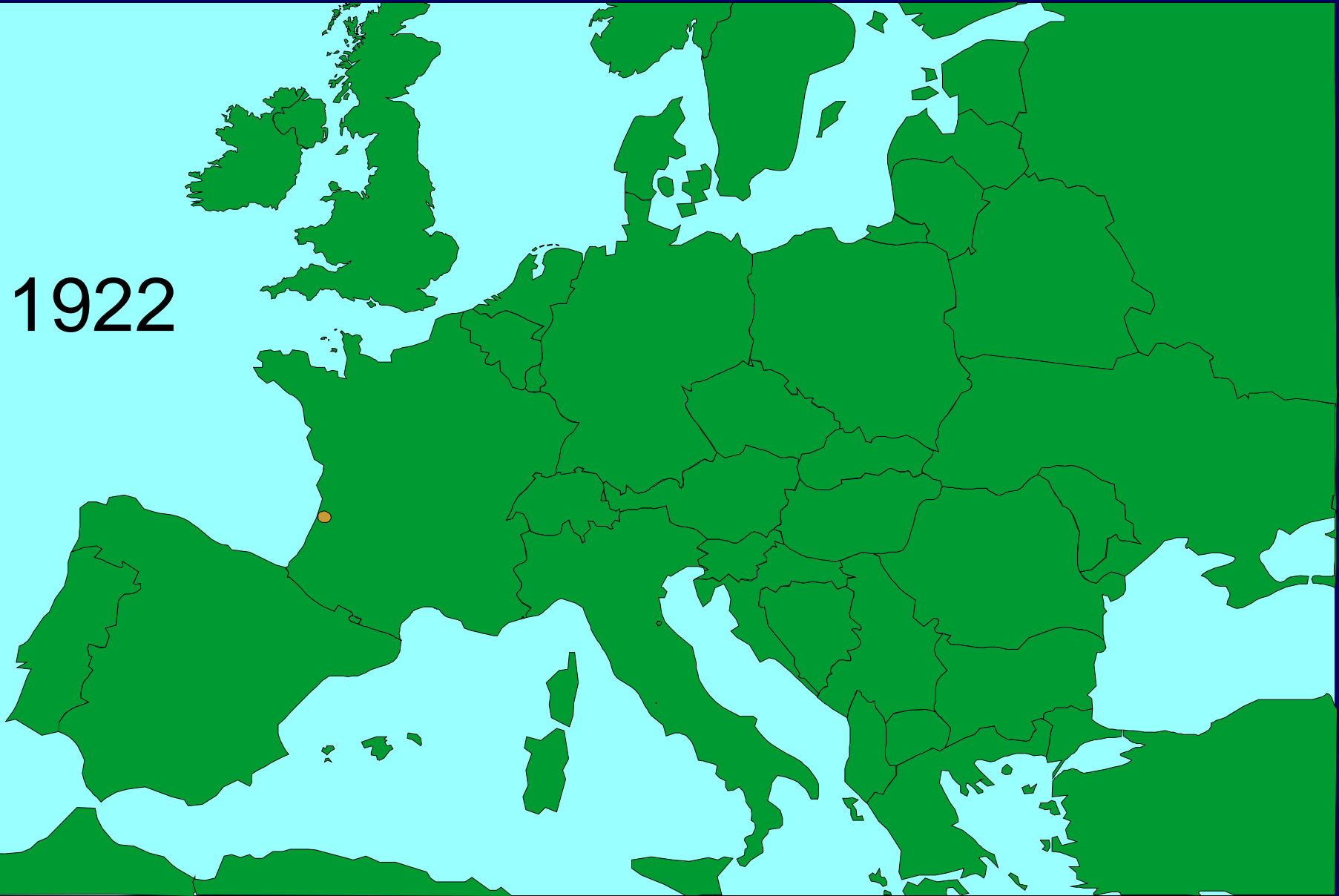
National Regulations

- Late 19th Century
- National “experts” advised on measures
- Measures variable, ineffective and restrictive

First Internationalization

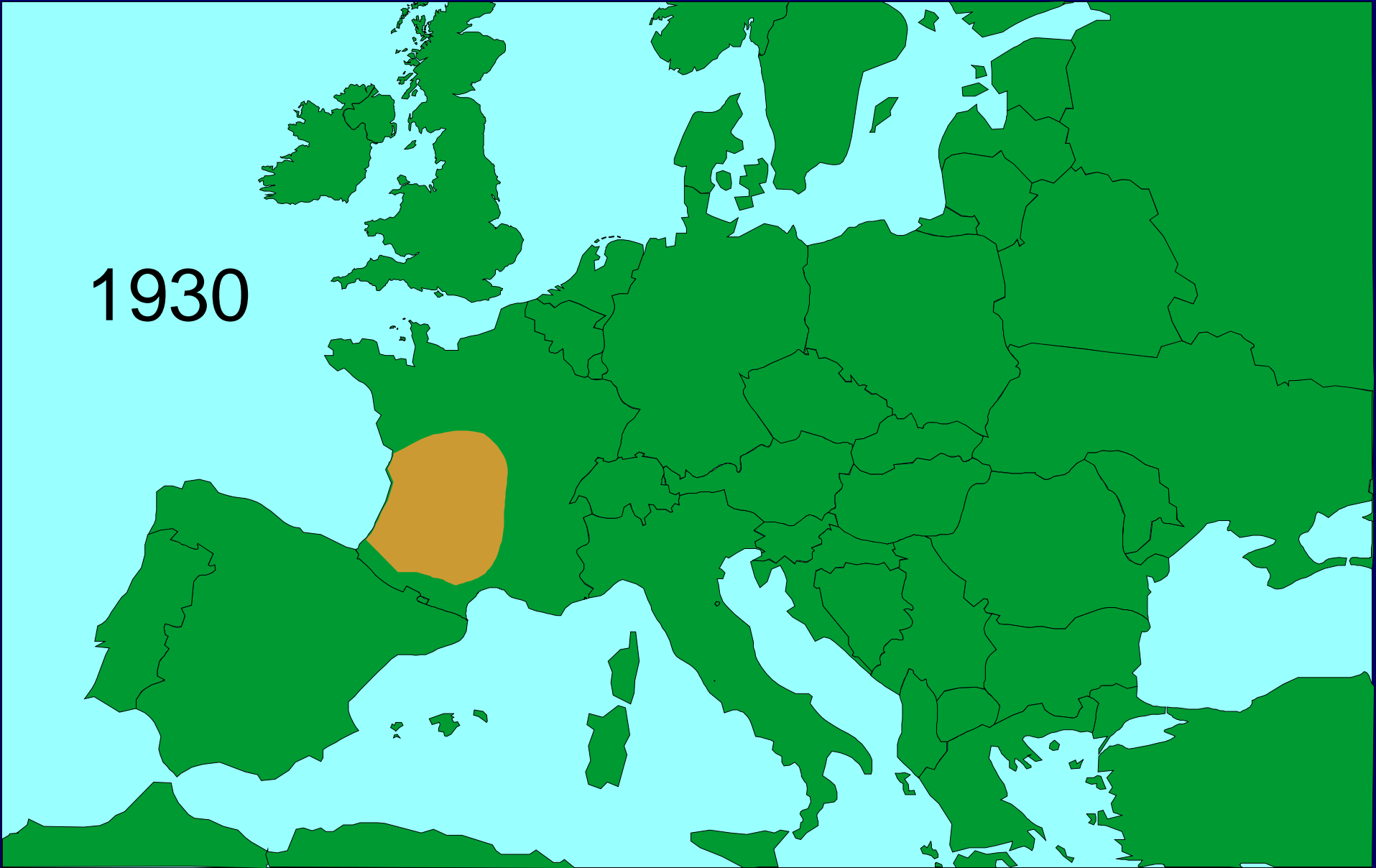
- Post-War Disorganization
- Alarmed by dangerous introductions
- International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) 1951

1922



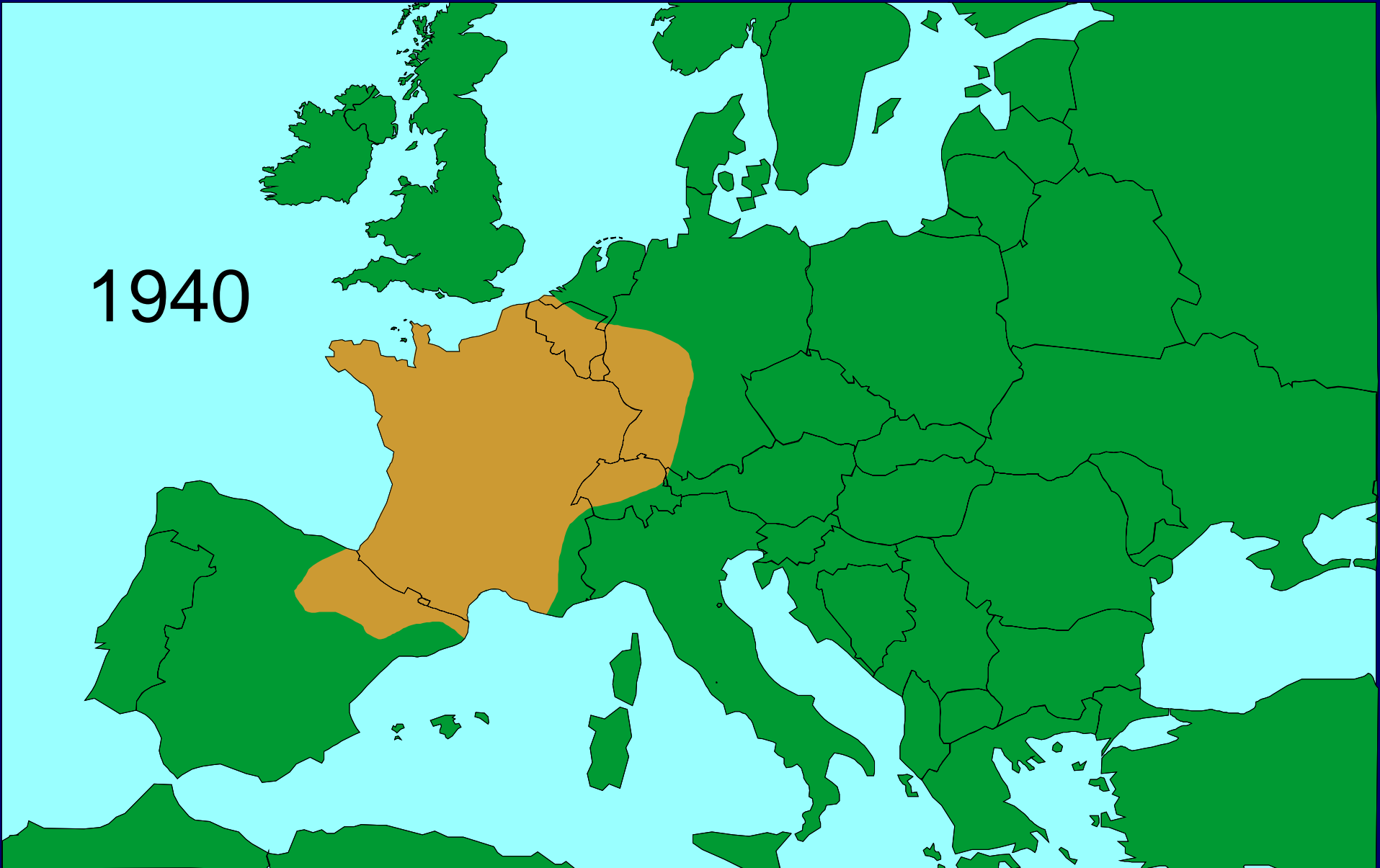
Spread of Colorado Beetle in Europe

1930



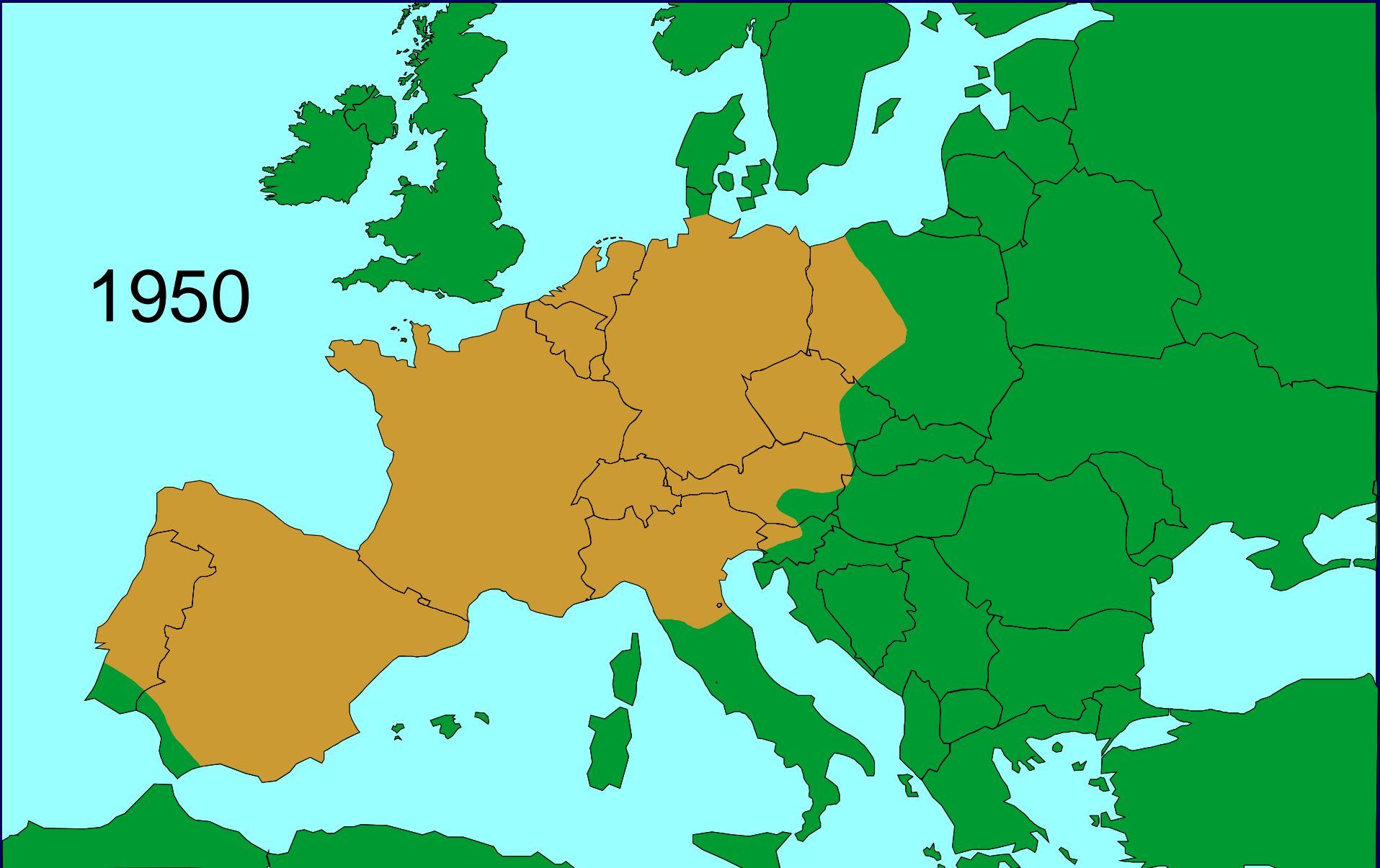
Spread of Colorado Beetle in Europe

1940



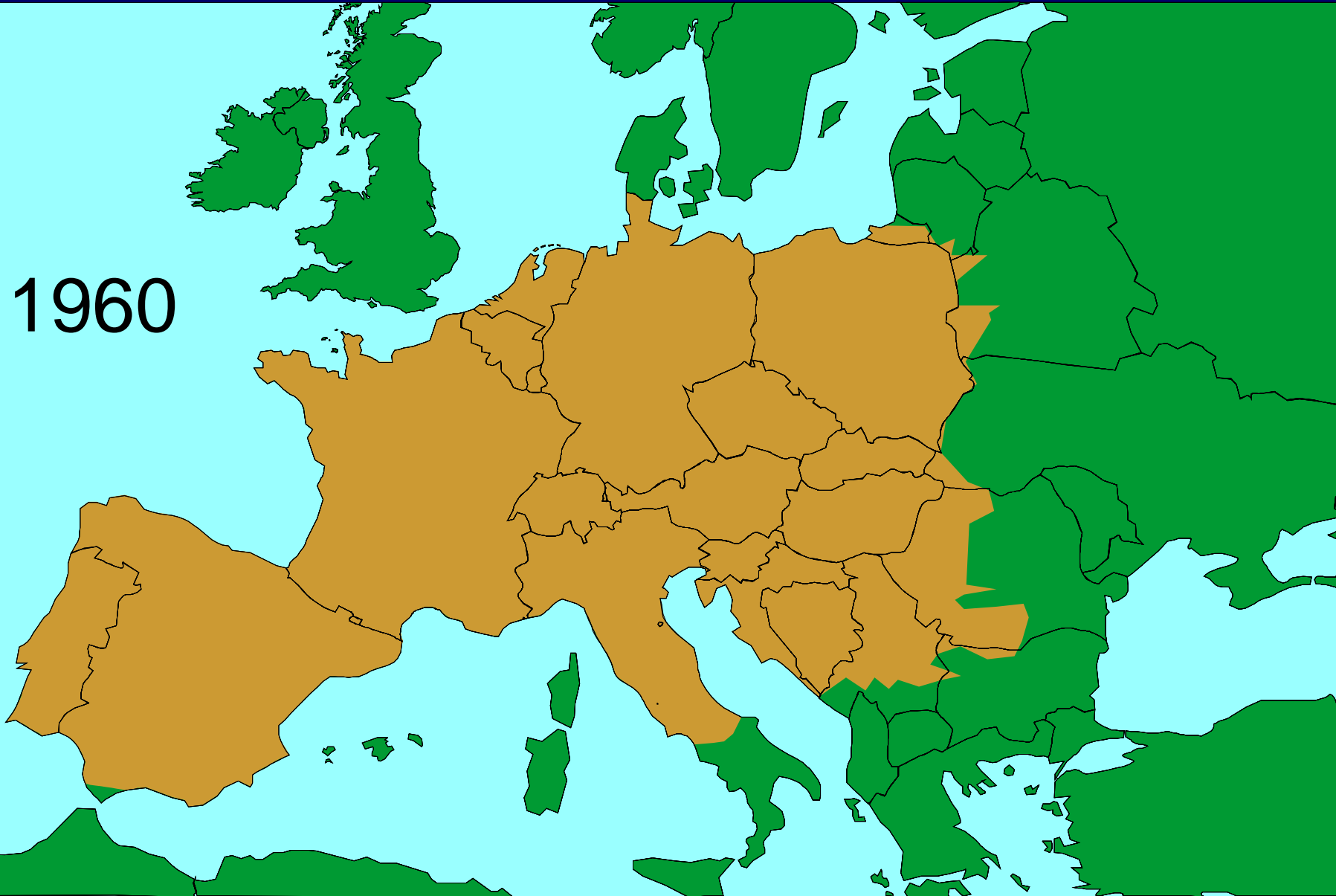
Spread of Colorado Beetle in Europe

1950



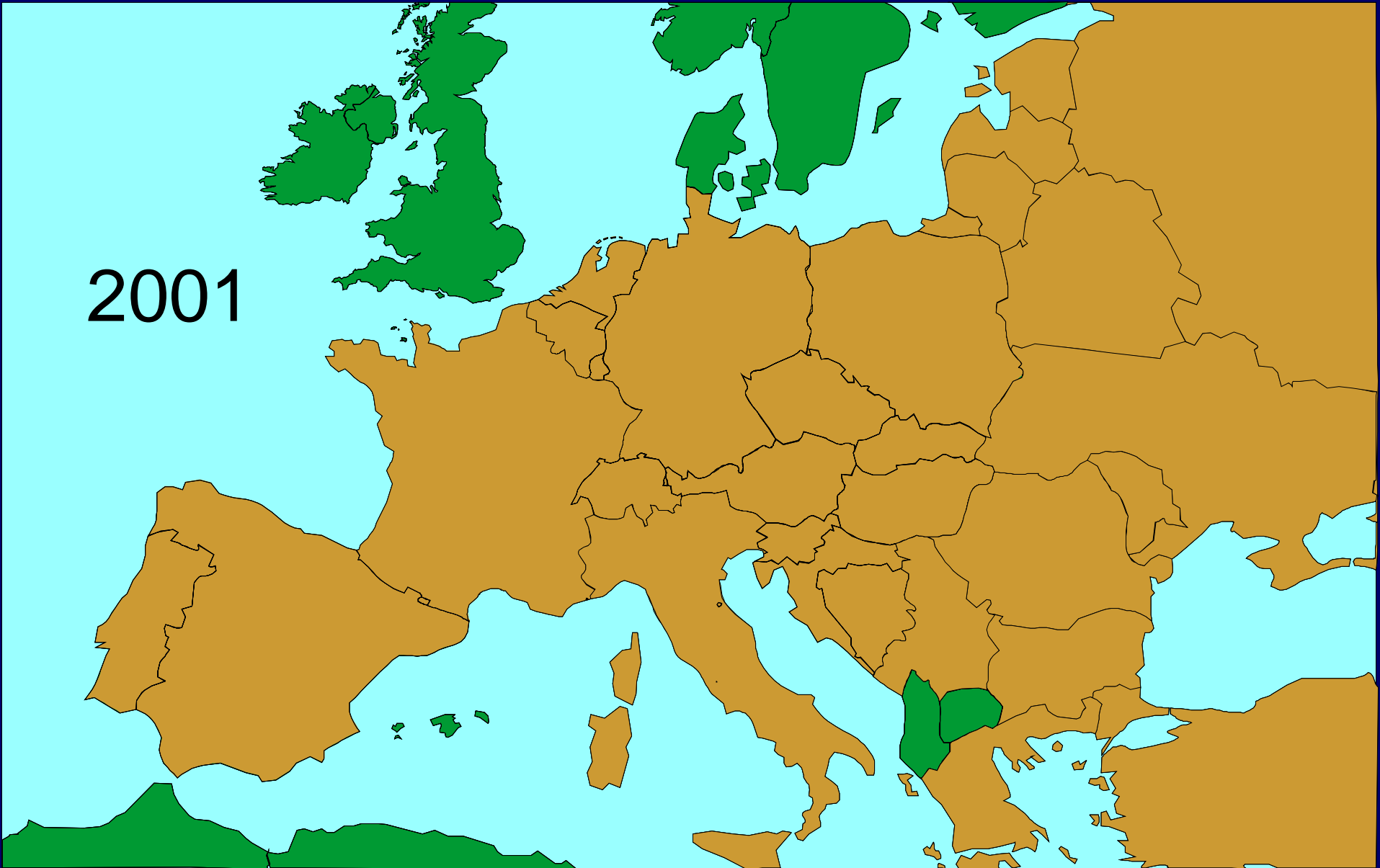
Spread of Colorado Beetle in Europe

1960



Spread of Colorado Beetle in Europe

2001



Spread of Colorado Beetle in Europe

International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

- Countries shall establish a competent, official plant protection organization, in order to:
issue phytosanitary certificates,
survey for pests
- Countries shall publish a list of their **quarantine pests**

International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

- Countries shall co-operate with each other to:
- create regional plant protection organizations (as coordinating bodies to achieve the aims of the convention)

“Failure” of original IPPC

- Countries signed but did not conform
- Too European!

Plant Quarantine Philosophies

- Everything is permitted unless specifically prohibited. Trust others
- Everything is prohibited unless permitted on a case-by-case basis. Trust yourself

SPS Agreement of the WTO

Phytosanitary Measures:

- Scientifically justified
- International Standards
- Appropriate Level of Protection
- Dispute Settlement

The Present

- Revised IPPC
- International Standards
- Global participation
- Information Exchange
- PRA = more effective measures
- Challenge possible

The Future?

- More specific Standards
- Publication of PRAs
- More biodiversity elements