



Mission of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team to Estonia

SCOPE of the mission: wild boar management
in the framework of African swine fever

(30 – 31 March 2016)

Terms of Reference

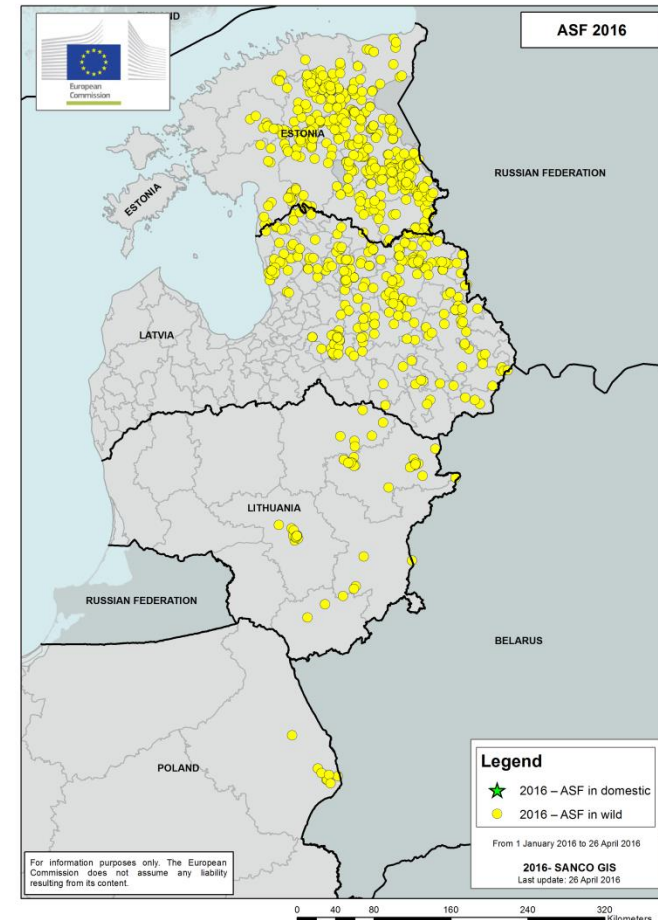
- The expert should provide assistance to the scientific, technical, managerial and practical on-the-spot assistance on the development and refinement of the most suitable prevention and control measures for African Swine Fever (ASF) under local conditions, especially as regards wildlife management.
- Taking into account the latest EFSA conclusions and the working document SANTE/7113/2015 (Rev 4) on the ASF Strategy for Eastern Part of the EU, the expert should provide recommendations to the Estonian authorities on how to refine the ASF strategy for wild boar.

CVET experts and DG SANTE officials

- Dr Vittorio Guberti – team leader, IT
- Dr Tomasz Podgórski - PL
- Commission Representative:
Dr Francesco Berlingieri (DG SANTE)

The ASF situation

- During the period October 2015-February 2016
 - the virus prevalence in hunted wild boars ranged from 2,5% to 10,3%
 - the antibody prevalence ranged between 0,98% to 3,9%.



Wild boar management

- *Estonia has 330 hunting grounds*
- *324 Hunting Clubs*
- *With an average of 46 hunters/hunting ground*
 - **About 15000 hunters hunt in Estonia**
- These hunters are managing wildlife
- The estimated size (spring census - April 2015) of the wild boar population in Estonia is around **20.000 individuals**

Wild boar management

- Due to ASF it was decided to increase the hunting bag in the hunting season 2015-2016 to **29600** animals representing **148% of the spring census**
- Driven hunts were initially forbidden but allowed in October 2015 due to their higher efficiency in reaching the programmed hunting bag
- Baiting: a limited amount of food (10kg/hunting site) is allowed and aimed at attracting animals to the hunting spots.

Carcasses retrieval and disposal

- The Estonian government subsidised the proper disposal of any found wild boar carcass
- Carcasses are buried or disposed in containers (for the hunting grounds that requested it)

Biosecurity measures during hunting

- A significant number of shot animals are still **dressed in the field** and **offal is abandoned on the spot**
- Disposal pits or containers are not available in each hunting ground whereas the disposal containers provided by the Veterinary authorities are perceived to be mainly for found dead animals

Recommendations - Wild boar management

- Driven hunts should not be conducted within a buffer zone of 25 km on each side of the border between infected and free areas (total width of the **buffer zone – 50 km**) in order to minimize disturbance and escape movements of wild boars and the likelihood of long distance spread of the virus
- The practice of **increasing the proportion of females** in the hunting bag be **continued**. Therefore incentivising hunting of adult and sub adult females in the whole country should be maintained.

Recommendations - Baiting

- To develop a **three dimensional** limits of baiting for the purpose of hunting. The 3 dimensions include quantity, timing and surface. The amount of **10kg/month/Km²** has been recommended in the framework of the “ASF Strategy for Eastern Part of the EU” (SANTE/7113/2015 – Rev 4)
- In case this limit cannot be controlled, **any form of feeding (including baiting) should be banned**. Baiting, as well as any other form of supplementary feeding, should be banned in areas where driven hunts are allowed.

Recommendations – Surveillance

- It is recommended to increase as much as possible **passive surveillance** in both infected and free areas while maintaining a high level of awareness among the main stakeholders through information campaigns

Recommendations – Biosecurity measures during hunting

- Need to minimise the risk of spread of the virus to the environment.
 - In each hunting ground has an appropriate **dressing area** with tools which must remain in the facility
 - Dressing rooms are equipped with **tap water** and effective **disinfectants** to be used regularly
 - **Offal are not abandoned in the forest** but stored in proper containers or in ground pits located in close proximity of the dressing facilities
 - Hunted animals are **stored** in the hunting ground facilities and released only when tested negative to ASF.
 - Stored wild boars are **individually identified**. In case of ASF positive outcome (virus or antibody positive tests) all stored animals have to be **disposed under veterinary supervision** and the whole dressing room cleaned and disinfected.

Recommendations – Awareness campaigns

- Continue organising awareness campaigns **for hunters** emphasising the importance of **carcass search** and **proper disposal of offal** of each hunted wild boar; informing about the ASF strategy and the intended goals so to encourage the participation of hunters and other relevant stakeholders.



Thank you for your attention!