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HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Veterinary control programmes

SANCO/10899/2011

**FINAL REPORT ON THE
3rd TASK FORCE MEETING
OF THE
“CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER”
SUB-GROUP
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY
6-7 December 2010**

PARTICIPANTS (ATTENDED BOTH DAYS):

Task force sub-group members:

- Dr. Volker Moennig(DE – Chairman)
- Dr. Niculae Lazar (RO),
- Dr. Jedrt Maurer Wernig (SI),
- Dr. Willie Loeffen (NL)

- Dr Olga Zorko (SI)
- Dr. Ana Blass Rico DG-SANCO
- Dr. Silvia Bellini DG-SANCO
- Dr. Valentina Piazza DG-SANCO
- Dr. Klaus Depner (DE)
- Dr. Vilmos Pálfi (HU)
- Dr. Robert Kocsis (HU)
- Dr. Peter Jadud (SK)
- Dr. Lubomir Janiuk (SK)
- Dr. Akos Varga (HU)
- Dr. Zsolt Földi (HU)

APOLOGIES.

- Dr. Pencho Kamenov, (BG),
- Dr. Sandra Blome (DE)
- Dr. Miroslav Mojzis (SK)
- Dr. Deim Zoltán (HU)

LOCATION: Central Agricultural Office DAHW (Tábornok u. 2, 1149 Budapest)

Objectives for the visit of the EU-Task Force CSF:

- Assessment of the CSF situation in Hungary and Slovakia
- Recommendations for future actions

AGENDA

6 December 2010

12:00 Registration of participants

14:00 Welcome by the CVO Hungary

14:10 Opening by the chairman of the EU Task Force support for CSF, Mr Volker Moennig

14:30 CSF situation Hungary

15:30 CSF situation Slovakia

16:30 Coffee break

17:00 Contingency planning

18:30 End of day 1

19:30 Dinner

CSF situation in Hungary

After CSF outbreaks in Slovakia, Hungary has established a National CSF Expert Group in 2005 and a new national surveillance programme has been introduced. A minimum sample size has been determined for each county taking into consideration of the estimated number of wild boars. Shot animals were investigated serologically. In addition, within the 3 km radius of the place where seropositive wild boars were shot, samples from every 6th shot animals (during a period of 40 days after the shot of the seropositive one) were submitted for virological testing, which was done using Ag-ELISA and PCR. In the 20 km zone in the border to Slovakia every 3rd shot wild boar <12 months was tested virologically (counties Pest, Nógrád, Heves and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén).¹ As a result of the consultations of the Expert Group and several “Bi- and Trilateral Meetings” the Hungarian control policy was amended several times between 2005 and 2010. The key elements of the Hungarian strategy in infected areas are:

- Movement control of domestic pigs and wild boar carcasses
- Reduction of the number of wild boar as efficiently as possible in order to reduce the number of susceptible animals; main targets are young animals; measures had been adjusted several times in order to increase numbers of shot wild boar
- Implementation of biosafety measures in order to prevent the spread of CSF in the wild boar population and to domestic pigs
- No emergency vaccination was implemented (however, plans exist)

The first CSF cases in wild boar in Hungary appeared in 2007 (3 cases); Nógrád county was affected. The whole territory of Nógrád county has been considered as CSF infected area. Compulsory serological and virological examination of each shot wild boar has been introduced in the infected area. The sampling is the responsibility of hunting associations and it refers to individual hunters as well. ² .Samples are investigated by the National Reference Laboratory (NRL). A temporary ban of group hunting was enacted, individual hunting was still allowed. Rules for destroying intestines, and carcasses and trading of carcasses were issued. Carcasses can be traded when serologically and virologically negative, they have to be destroyed when serologically or virologically positive. Burial of wild boar intestines on site was mandatory and the site of evisceration had to be disinfected. Later burial was banned and viscera had to be destroyed in rendering plants (category I). Measures were designed to be in effect for 24 months after the last outbreak of CSF. In parallel a surveillance plan for domestic pigs was set up. In order to promote public awareness an information policy program was launched for media and hunting associations. In June 2006 a joint Slovak-Hungarian expert group had been established. In December 2007 Pest county was affected

by CSF with 12 cases, in 2008, 110 cases were found in Pest county.³ Heves and Borsod-Abaúj-zemplén counties were included in restriction zones. In order to promote the reduction of the young age class in wild boar the shooting of young animals (<12 months) was rewarded with 20.000 HUF each. Since November of 2010 this prize has been also paid for shot animals >12 months, but under 30 kilograms of bodyweight.⁴ In order to be prepared for the worst case, plans were designed for emergency vaccination of wild boar. In 2009 the use of the Ag-ELISA was abandoned in Hungary. The last CSF cases in wild boar were observed in Pest county in October of 2009. No cases were recorded in 2010. During the CSF epidemic in wild boar in Hungary a total of 268 cases was registered, 120 in Nógrád county and 148 in Pest county. Seroprevalence in wild boar is low with decreasing tendency, i.e. in recent two hunting years it decreased in affected areas from 24,27% and 11,8% to 9,42% and 3,86%, , respectively⁵.

For the protection of domestic pigs a number of measures were introduced, e.g. movement control for all domestic pigs (no transport to non-infected counties), a census of pigs, pigs have to be kept in premises where no contact with wildlife is possible, movement control of persons and vehicles, and general biosafety measures. All holdings of domestic pigs are classified according to their size (Small scale farms <100 animals, large farms >100 animals). Small scale farms are clinically and serologically investigated half-yearly. Large scale farms are investigated quarterly for clinical signs and half-yearly serologically⁶. All serosurveys in domestic pigs were negative so far. Details concerning the Hungarian eradication strategy are attached (Annexes I and III).

Explanations:

¹ Please see the slides No 6 and No 10 in Hungarian presentation of 6 December 2010.

² Please see the slide No 16 in Hungarian presentation of 6 December 2010.

³ Please see the slide No 63 in Hungarian presentation of 6 December 2010.

⁴ Please see the slide No 57 in Hungarian presentation of 6 December 2010.

⁵ Please see the slide No 23 in Hungarian presentation in bilateral meeting of 26 January 2011.

⁶ These are the current rules in the infected area, please see slides No 88 and 89 in Hungarian presentation of 6 December 2010.

CSF situation in Slovakia

The history of the CSF epidemic in Slovakia between 1993 until 2010 was presented. The last CSF-positive wild boar in Slovakia was recorded 14th May 2008, the last case in domestic pigs was in 12th July 2008.

Authorities attempted to promote the shooting of wild boar by paying compensation/reward for each animal killed (17 €/each male animal, 34 €/ each female animal). In contrast to the Hungarian strategy oral vaccination of wild boar was used. However, the number of baits per

km² was relatively low and seroconversion rates after vaccination varied and were often fairly low. However, the vaccination area became free of CSF in January 2007 and has been free since. Fresh outbreaks after January 2007 were outside or at the border of the vaccination area. These outbreaks did not result in an enlargement of vaccination area. Oral vaccination was stopped in November 2009. Seroprevalence data are at about 10% with decreasing tendency.

In infected areas all dead and shot animals were sampled and tested. In free areas 20% of all shot and 100% of animals found dead were sampled and tested.

Domestic pigs in infected areas were under close surveillance: Insemination stations and backyard pigs (with breeding activities) were inspected every three months, all abortions were investigated for possible CSF and random samples of all imports were tested for CSF. In total there were 187 outbreaks of CSF recorded in domestic pigs and 640 in wild boar. CSF viral isolates from outbreaks were analysed on the molecular level and were used for epidemiological studies.

A detailed account of the CSF epidemic, the sampling strategy and results of molecular epidemiology in Slovakia is attached (Annexes II and III).

The following detailed account of samples taken in the last three years was provided after the meeting:

**CSF - MONITORING IN WILD BOAR POPULATION
ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

Year	No. of examined wild boars	piglets		Last year wild boars		Adult		Unknown	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2008	18 130	7 049	38,9%	8 785	48,5%	2 264	12,5%	32	0,2%
2009	17 766	6 901	38,8%	8 676	48,8%	2 159	12,2%	30	0,2%
2010	22 938	9 846	42,9%	10 573	46,1%	2 481	10,8%	38	0,2%

CSF situation in Romania

Between 2007 to the end of 2009 Romania has implemented an emergency vaccination for domestic pigs and wild boar. Since January 1st 2010 vaccination of domestic pigs was banned. The last CSF outbreak in Romania was recorded in October 2007. In order to protect the country from incursions of CSF from abroad Romania has established a 20 km buffer zone to its neighbours Ukraine and Moldavia; in this area wild boar vaccination is in place. Bilateral communication with non-EU neighbours is not very well established. A steady decrease in backyard holdings (non commercial farms) can be observed. The number of these operations has decreased from two million a few years ago to about one million in

2010. It is seen as a problem that no effective serosurveillance of non commercial holdings is in place. It was suggested to explore the possibilities to use samples submitted for trichinella diagnosis at the same time for CSF diagnosis (primarily serology on meat juice). Simulation exercises have been carried out in all 42 counties.

The previous meeting of the Task Force Subgroup took place in Bucharest in November 2009. A number of recommendations were made and the Romanian authorities have taken action accordingly. The measures were reported to the Commission October 11-12th 2010. For details see attached presentation (Annex V). In addition some English versions of administrative forms were given (Annex VI).

7 December 2010

09:00 Contingency planning - involvement of personnel- hunters

11:00 Coffee break

11.30 Information about WB project

12:00 Strategy paper for eradication of CSF- working group

13:00 Discussion, conclusions and recommendations

14.00 Lunch

15:00 End of meeting

Dr. Zsolt Földi explained the structure of the food chain safety administration and the hunting management in Hungary (Annexes VII and IX). The outline of the Slovakian contingency planning was summarised (Annex VIII). Additional information was given concerning the hunting strategy with respect to CSF eradication in the Slovak Republic (Annex X).

CSF situation in Western Balkan countries

Dr. Olga Zorko gave an overview on the CSF situation in Western Balkan countries. The epidemiological situation for Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia was summarised. The last CSF outbreak in the latter country and the measures taken were described in more detail. The Serbian authorities have set up a crisis centre, epidemiological investigations were carried out and restriction zones were set up. So far a vaccination policy is in place in Serbia. As a consequence of the outbreak the implementation of the non vaccination policy had been postponed until a risk analysis due to the new epidemiological situation had been performed. Except for Croatia the CSF situation in wild boar is not very well defined in Western Balkan

countries. Either the number of wild boar is not known or there is no systematic surveillance in place or both. Details are given in Annex IV.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions:

- Situation concerning CSF in wild boar is favorable in Hungary and Slovakia. There have been no new cases in the past 13 (Hungary) and 29 (Slovakia) months, respectively.
- (Molecular) epidemiological investigations showed that the outbreaks on both sides of the border were caused by the same virus
- Granting adequate compensation/reward for the hunting of young and underweight wild boar was an effective method to reduce that part of the population. In addition more information about the prevalence of the infection can be collected.
- The disposing of viscera of shot wild boar as category I material was considered effective to reduce infective pressure.
- The regular bilateral meetings and cooperation on all levels is seen essential for the effective control of CSF in wild boar.
- Romania, Hungary and Slovakia consider participation in the EU wild boar data base as soon as the technical requirements are met on a national level.
- Standardization of laboratory diagnosis of CSF in wild boar is identified as a problem
- The existing "Guidelines on surveillance/monitoring, control and eradication of classical swine fever in wild boar (SANCO/7032/2010 (Rev 4))" are seen as a useful paper to help control CSF in wild boar

Recommendations:

- Transboundary connections on all levels should be maintained and established when necessary and joint simulation exercises are recommended on the basis of the updated national contingency plans.
- A method for standardization of laboratory tests for CSF diagnosis in wild boar should be developed and added to the diagnostic manual.
- To organize a workshop for the handling of the wild boar database in 2011 (1 IT expert and 1 veterinary epidemiologist per country).
- Samples for trichinella tests could also be used for CSF-serology where applicable.

- Continued surveillance of wild boar and free ranging domestic pig populations in formerly infected and/or risk areas is recommended.
- Transboundary cooperation in case of disease outbreaks in border district should be implemented in national contingency planning (if not already in place).
- The existing guidelines should be reviewed and extended

Addendum:

On January 26th 2011 a bilateral meeting of Hungarian and Slovakian experts took place. The present epidemiological CSF situation in both countries was reviewed and it was agreed to regularly meet in order to improve mutual communication and information (Annexes XI-XIII).

Annexes

Annex I: CSF in Hungary

Annex II and III: CSF in Slovakia

Annex IV: CSF situation in WB

Annex V: CSF in Romania

Annex VI: Administrative forms Romania

Annex VII: Food chain administration in Hungary

Annex VIII-X: SK contingency planning

Annex IX: Rules for hunting management in HU

Annex X: Hunting strategy SK

Annex XI-XIII: additional information after meeting SK-HU 26 January 2011