

Missions of the EUVET to Luxembourg

(5-6 May 2019)



Objective

- Reason of the mission: preventive ASF measures in Luxembourg
- ToR: The experts should provide scientific, technical, managerial and practical assistance on-the-spot on the refinement of the most suitable eradication measures for African Swine Fever (ASF) under local conditions.
- Expert: Vittorio Guberti (ITA),



Places visited during the mission:

Meeting at the Ministry of Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development to discuss the ASF preventive measures enforced by the Country;

At risk area: southern and northern segments at the border with France and Belgium;



Findings

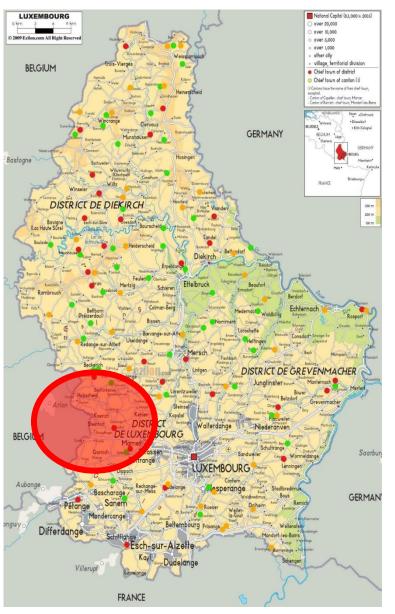
Domestic pigs

Domestic pig census has been carried out in **October 2018** and it is systematically updated. According to the level of **biosecurity**, farms have been assigned to three categories: red (poor biosecurity), yellow and green.

In the Country there are about 80.000 pigs in 116 holdings and among then 37 are open-air farms.

	Red		Yellow		Green	
	N.	N.	N.	N.	N.	N.
	hold.	pigs	hold.	pigs	hold.	pigs
Commercial	5	2213	9	2693	23	66922
Large size						
Commercial	25	261	25	255	15	7408
Middle size						
Commercial	30	2474	34	2948	38	74330
sub-total						
Non commercial	11	19	11	29	10	100
Total	41	2493	45	2973	48	74430





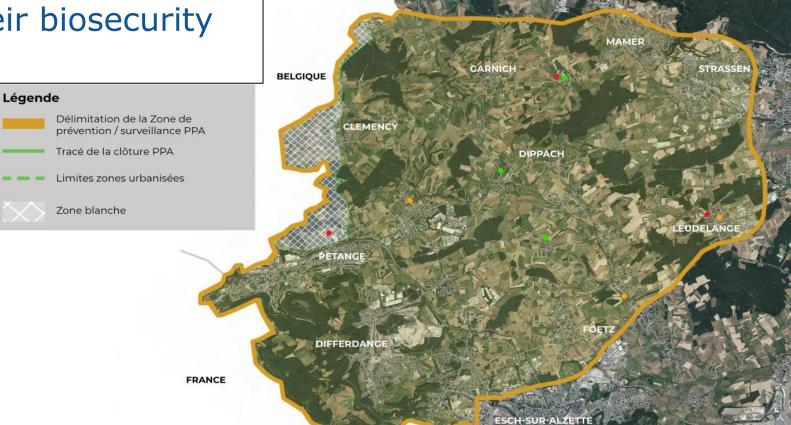
Identified at risk area

Due to the Belgian epidemiological situation it has been set a risk area; the area is delimitated by the Belgium and France borders (West and South) by highway A6 at north and by the highway A4 at east.

9 holdings with 4300 pigs; 3 commercial farms (4250 animals, all farms with high biosecurity); 6 small farms with 50 animals with insufficient biosecurity

measures (yellow and red).

Identified risk area together with "Zone Blanche"; Farms are show according to their biosecurity level;



European Commission



Wild boar

Hunting is carried out in about 2200 km2 (85% of the Country);

The wild boar population increased from the early 80s;

2000 hunting licenses are annually released plus 250 short terms hunting permits for foreign hunters; 600 hunting grounds with a mean surface of 420 ha. Wild boar hunting is allowed all year long without maximum quota;

An average of **5100** wild boars have been **hunted** (**2,3 hunted wild boar/km2**) during the past 10 years;



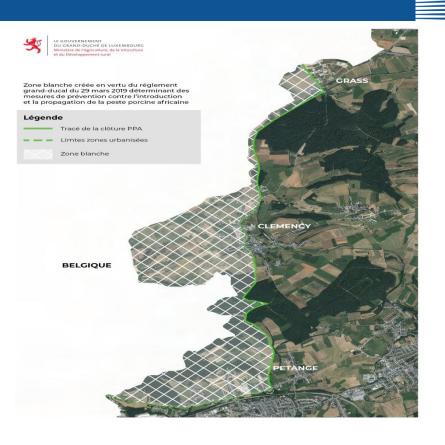
Passive surveillance

- From September 2018 up to 30 April 2019, 173 carcasses collected through all the Country and tested negative
- A telephone hotline is available to facilitate the reporting of wild boars found dead to all concerned persons
- The carcasses of wild boar are transported to a <u>collection centre</u> or to the Luxembourg <u>State</u> <u>Veterinary Laboratory</u> or samples are taken in the field and then transported to the Luxembourg laboratory
- All carcasses are safely disposed

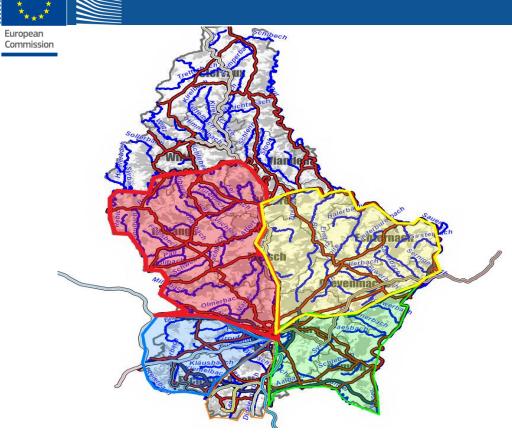


Prevention

- A fence has been built close to the Belgian border delimiting a WHITE AREA where wild boar should be depopulated;
- De facto there is a <u>fenced buffer between Belgium</u> <u>and Luxemburg</u> southwest to the highway A6 that reaches the French border.
- The Country individuated 5 areas that will be the ASF in wild boar management units in case of ASF introduction (average size 400 km2).







The 5 wild boar managment units



RECOMMENDATIONS

- To enhance the awareness (including general public);
- To ensure a high level of passive surveillance (both domestic pigs and wild boar);
- To increase the biosecurity level in red and yellow farms especially in at risk area or to close red and yellow farms that cannot comply with the requested biosecurity level;
- In the white area, the eradication of the wild boar should be achieved by the end of the next summer;



- To patrol regularly the white area for carcass detection (*i.e.* organised active search of carcasses every 14 days using approximately 1 person every 25-30 ha)
- To increase the hunting effort outside the white areas; the goal should be to reach 1-1,5 wild boar/km2 before reproduction;
- To strictly maintain the ban of artificial feeding;



Final remarks

The working atmosphere during the mission was very good. The colleagues from Luxembourg gave all their support and assistance to facilitate a fruitful mission.

The CVET rapporteur wishes to thank all colleagues for their support and help given during the whole mission.