



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 them 37 are open-air farms.

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



European

Identified at risk area

Due to the Belgian epidemiological situation it has been set a risk area; the area is delimited 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;



Légende

-  Délimitation de la Zone de prévention / surveillance PPA
-  Tracé de la clôture PPA
-  Limites zones urbanisées
-  Zone blanche



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 collection centre or to the Luxembourg State Veterinary Laboratory 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 fenced buffer between Belgium and Luxemburg 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).



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.