Mission of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team to Romania

SCOPE of the mission: Preparedness against Lumpy skin disease in cattle in Romania

28 – 29 June 2016

Terms of Reference

- The expert should provide assistance to the scientific, technical, managerial and practical on-the-spot aspects required for the development and refinement of the control strategy for lumpy skin disease (LSD) under local conditions taking into account sound scientific basis (including the recent EFSA report on LSD) and within the framework of Council Directive 92/119/EEC.
- The expert should report exclusively to the Commission services and the Romanian competent authorities. Daily reports should be produced and continuous contact should be guaranteed between the team, the Commission services and competent authorities. A final report should be produced by the expert; this report should include recommendations to the competent authorities.

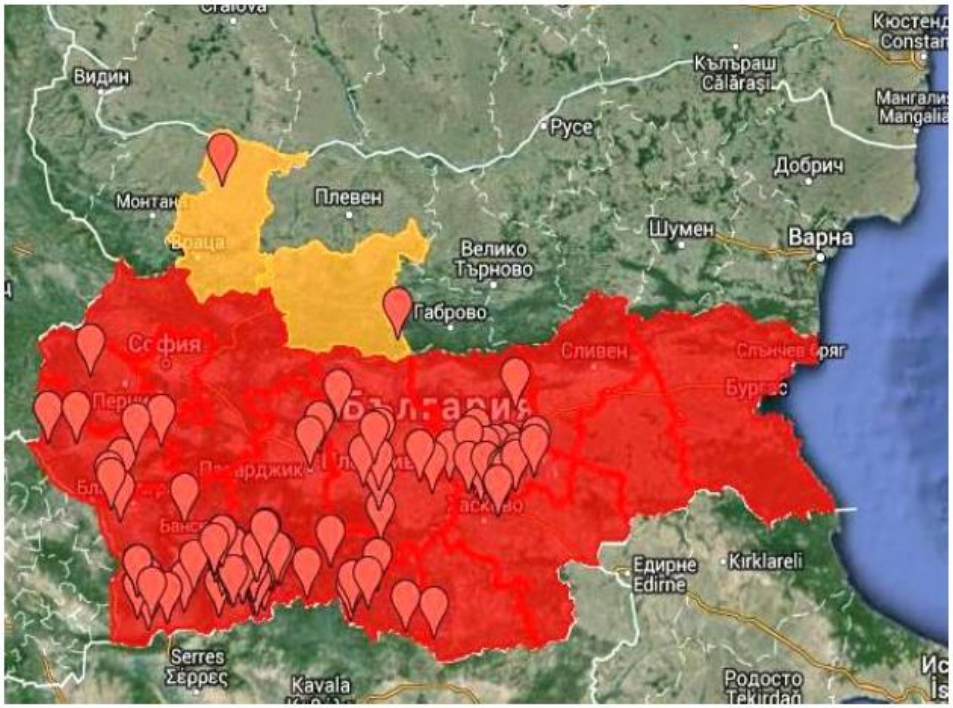
CVET experts

- Dr Eeva Tuppurainen – team leader, FI
- Dr Kris De Clercq - BE

LSD situation in Bulgaria 8th June 2016

(as presented at the CVO meeting 14th of June 2016)

Restricted zones related to LSD outbreaks



- Restricted regions in Southern BG
- Affected and restricted regions in Northern BG related to LSD outbreaks confirmed on 6th and 7th June 2016

New outbreak at 28 km from border with Romania

LSD situation in Serbia on 14 June 2016
(presented at SGE-LSD GF-TAD 4-5 July 2016)

New outbreak at 100 km from border with Romania

Area at Risk: South Romania

- Counties bordering Bulgaria and Serbia: 500.000 cattle
- Romania export: 68.000 cattle (to Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Jordan, and to lesser extend Balkan countries)
- Cattle identification and Movement registration in place
- Control and eradication measures:
  - National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority (NSVFSA)
  - Local level includes the County Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Directorates (CSVFSD) and government veterinary officers

Area at Risk: South Romania

- Emergency budget / Contingency plan available
- Risk analysis: cattle markets were banned
- Awareness campaigns: official and field veterinarians and farmers
- Desk-top simulation exercise
- Training clinical signs
- Increase diagnostic capacity: five more laboratories

Issues remaining

- Killing method to be decided:
  - Captive bold
  - Injectable T61
  - Barbiturates
- Environmentally safe method to dispose carcasses: to be agreed between the ministries of Agriculture and Environment
  - Stamping out of big dairy farms of 1000 heads and the safe disposal of carcasses = environmentally challenging task

Expected situation

- LSD close to the border of Romania
- Information available: Position paper Bulgaria June 2016: Vaccination against LSD of the whole cattle population in Bulgaria to be completed by the end of 2016 !
- European Commission offered opportunity to carry out emergency vaccination as extension of Bulgaria
  - Romanian hesitation because of trade restrictions and because of time-consuming national process to purchase the vaccines
- Therefore highly likely that:
  - LSDV originating from the Bulgarian or Serbian outbreaks would shortly spread to Romania
  - LSD may not be prevented by vaccinating cattle only on Bulgaria and Serbian sides of the border

Visit to the national reference laboratory

- National LSDV Ref Lab: Virology Department, Institute for Diagnosis and Animal Health
- ISO 17025; Partially BSL3
- General CaPV real-time PCR: 50 (max 80) samples per day
- Virus isolation on cells: 100 samples per 2 weeks
- Serum neutralisation test: 100 samples per week
- Participation in Ring trials:
  - The Pirbight Laboratory (UK): PCR 2015
  - Robert Koch Institute (Germany): Electron microscopy 2014
- Good staff competency and commitment but limited in number
- Training:
  - The Pirbight Laboratory (UK): diagnosis 2015
  - KVI (Israel): molecular diagnosis 2016
  - CODA-CERVA (Belgium): serology IPMA 2016

Visit to the national reference laboratory

- Lacking:
  - Assay to differentiate between virulent and vaccine strains
  - Species-specific CaPV assay
- Identified needs:
  - Sheeppox virus isolate as control
  - Standardised positive serum
  - Standardised CaPV DNA
  - *Have been sent by CODA-CERVA*

Recommendations (1/2)

- Vaccination campaigns should be carried out in the southern part of the country at risk for introduction of the LSDV: borders with Bulgaria and Serbia
- Second best option: enforce active and passive clinical and laboratory surveillance at the high risk counties and start large scale mass vaccination immediately after the first outbreak
- Investigate trade effects due to vaccination more in detail as derogations can be applied especially for products for human consumption (milk, milk products, meat and meat products)
- Process to purchase the vaccines should be started/finalised without delay
- Database for animal identification and movement records should include data on vaccinations and laboratory test results

Recommendations (2/2)

- Enforced awareness campaigns: abattoir workers, animal traders, drivers cattle transport
- Enforced active clinical and laboratory vigilance in the high risk border regions including a serological survey in the border region between Bulgaria and Serbia
- Safe options for disposal of culled animals should be identified and agreed between ministries of Agriculture and Environment
- Reinforced biosecurity measures should be commonly implemented at each farm at risk
- Strengthen exchange information, harmonisation strategies and coordination control programmes across the region
- Enhancement of the diagnostic capacity:
  - More financial resources should be allocated for PCR materials and reagents

Thank you for your attention!