



# Mission of the Veterinary Emergency Team (EUVET) to Belgium

(11-12 October 2018)

# Objective

- **Reason: Second EUVET mission 11. – 12. 10. 2018**
- **ToR:** provide assistance to the scientific, technical, managerial and practical on-the-spot assistance on the refinement of the most suitable control and eradication measures for African Swine Fever (ASF) under local conditions, especially as regards epidemiological investigations and comprehensive management of the restricted areas.
- **Expert:** Petr Šatrán (CZ) and Ago Pärtel (EE),

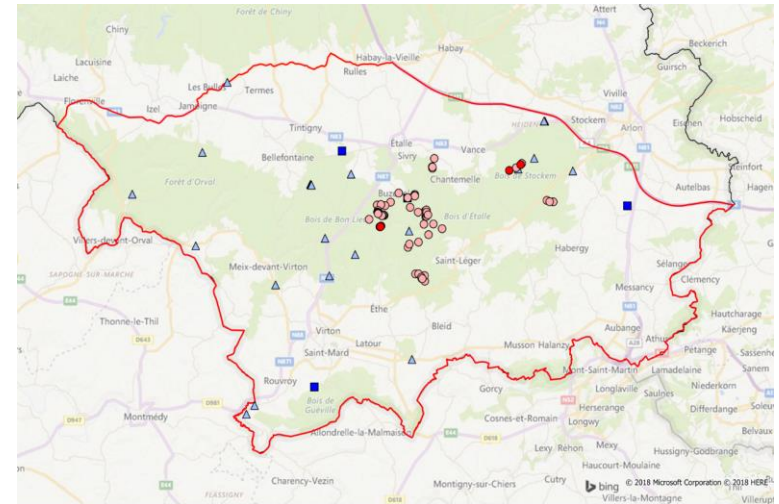
# Agenda

***Arlon 11. 10. 2018*** updating of the epidemiological situation; **meeting with the local competent authorities local and federal levels** and discussion on the possible control/eradication measures to be implemented in the area; visiting of the collection centre for death wild boar sampling, visiting forest in the infected area; meeting and discussion with Wallonia agricultural minister Mr. René Collin

***Gembloux 12. 10. 2018*** meeting with the **Country and District Veterinary Services, local professional Hunters; representatives from Germany, France, Luxembourg and Netherlands discussion** on the wild boar management, wild boar hunting methods and on the possible ASF control strategies;

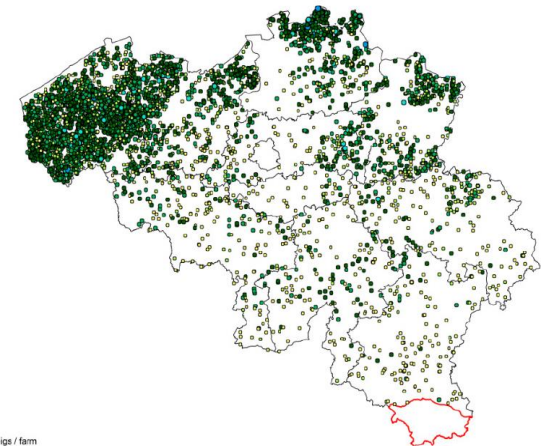
# ASF IN Belgium

- On **13<sup>th</sup> September** Sciensano confirmed ASF virus by PCR test.
- After confirmation of the disease the infected area has been established. The size of. In the infected are the **ban of feedinginfected area is 630 km<sup>2</sup> and hunting has been imposed.**
- Intensive searching for dead wild boar.
- Up to 10th October in total 139 carcasses has been found, **111 in the infected area and 75 (67%)** from them where PCR positive for ASF virus.
- According to order of the Federal Minister of Agriculture from 27. 9 to 2. 10. **all domestic pigs in the infected zone were culled.** At the time of mission according to information of local authority, there is no domestic pig in the infected area.



10-10-2018

● positive (new) ○ positive ▲ negative (new) △ negative ■ in progress ■ infected zone



number of pigs / farm  
 ● > 10.000  
 ● 5.001 to 10.000  
 ● 1.001 to 5.000  
 ● 501 to 1.000  
 ● 101 to 500  
 ● 1 to 100

## Findings and Conclusions

- The collection centre for collection and sampling of death wild boar has been established. The collection centre is equipped with refrigerator, laboratory containers, and disinfectants.
- Collection of the carcasses in the infected area is carry out by civil protection under biosecurity condition.
- After collection, the carcass is transported to the collection centre where samples for laboratory testing are taken by official veterinarian. Samples are send to the laboratory for testing and cadavers are send to the rendering plant in Virton.

# Findings and Conclusions

Collection centre



Civil protection car



## Findings and Conclusions

- For identification and registration of cadavers' mobile application has been done. Picture, localization and number of seal is send to the system after finding. Data about finding, sampling and result of testing are on line and updated.
- For the aging of cadavers, system of 5diferent levels of decomposition has been done.
- Call centre to notify dead wild boar has been established.



## Findings and Conclusions

According to data received during discussion, 5 cadavers in level 5, late decomposition, only bones has been found. According to this information is high probability that the infection of ASF has been introduced on the territory of Belgium earlier than in September 2018.

For the time being searching, collection and sampling of death wild boars is done by local authorities. Incentives for broader involvement of farmers and hunters are not foreseen at the time of visit.





## Findings and Conclusions

Passive surveillance should be carry out intensively and continuously throughout the infected area to describe the truly infected area and to understand epidemiological developments in the area.

This activity should be done by motivated people with local knowledge.

The team recommended to find possibilities for incentives for better involvement of hunters and farmers.

## Findings and Conclusions

Hunting and culling of wild boar in infected zones should be done at the end of epidemic phase after appropriate training of person and setting of biosecurity measures.

Close cooperation and exchange of information with neighbouring countries are needed. The individual measures introduced by the Member States should be adopted across the area in a coordinated manner.

# Thank you for your attention!

The EUVET team wish to thank all colleagues from Belgium for their support and help given.

The working atmosphere during the mission was excellent.

