



Mission of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team to ESTONIA

SCOPE of the mission: African Swine Fever in
wild boar in Estonia especially the northern
detection

(12-14 March 2014)

Terms of Reference

1. The expert should provide assistance to the scientific, technical, managerial and practical on-the-spot assistance on the development of the most suitable control and eradication measures for African Swine Fever (ASF) under local conditions, especially as regards wildlife management and other disease control measures such as movement restrictions, surveillance and biosecurity within the framework of Council Directive 2002/60/EC.
2. Taking into account the recommendation of the previous CVET mission on 8-10 October 2014 in Lithuania, the expert should provide targeted support to the Estonian authorities to review the draft plan on the surveillance and possible eradication of ASF.

Terms of Reference

3. The expert should report exclusively to the Commission services and the Estonian authorities. Daily reports should be produced and continuous contact should be guaranteed between the team, the Commission services and Estonian authorities.
4. The expert should report to the Commission and the Member States in the framework of the Standing Committee on Plant, Animal, Food and Feed.
5. The expert shall operate under the provisions laid down in Commission Decision 2007/142/EC and in particular on the basis of the standard rules of procedure for groups of experts.



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Places visited during the mission

Central Veterinary Office, Tallin, 13 and 14 October 2014

Local Veterinary Office, Virumaa, 13 October 2014

Commercial pig farm, Varja, 14 October 2014

Non-commercial farm, Moldova, 14 October 2014

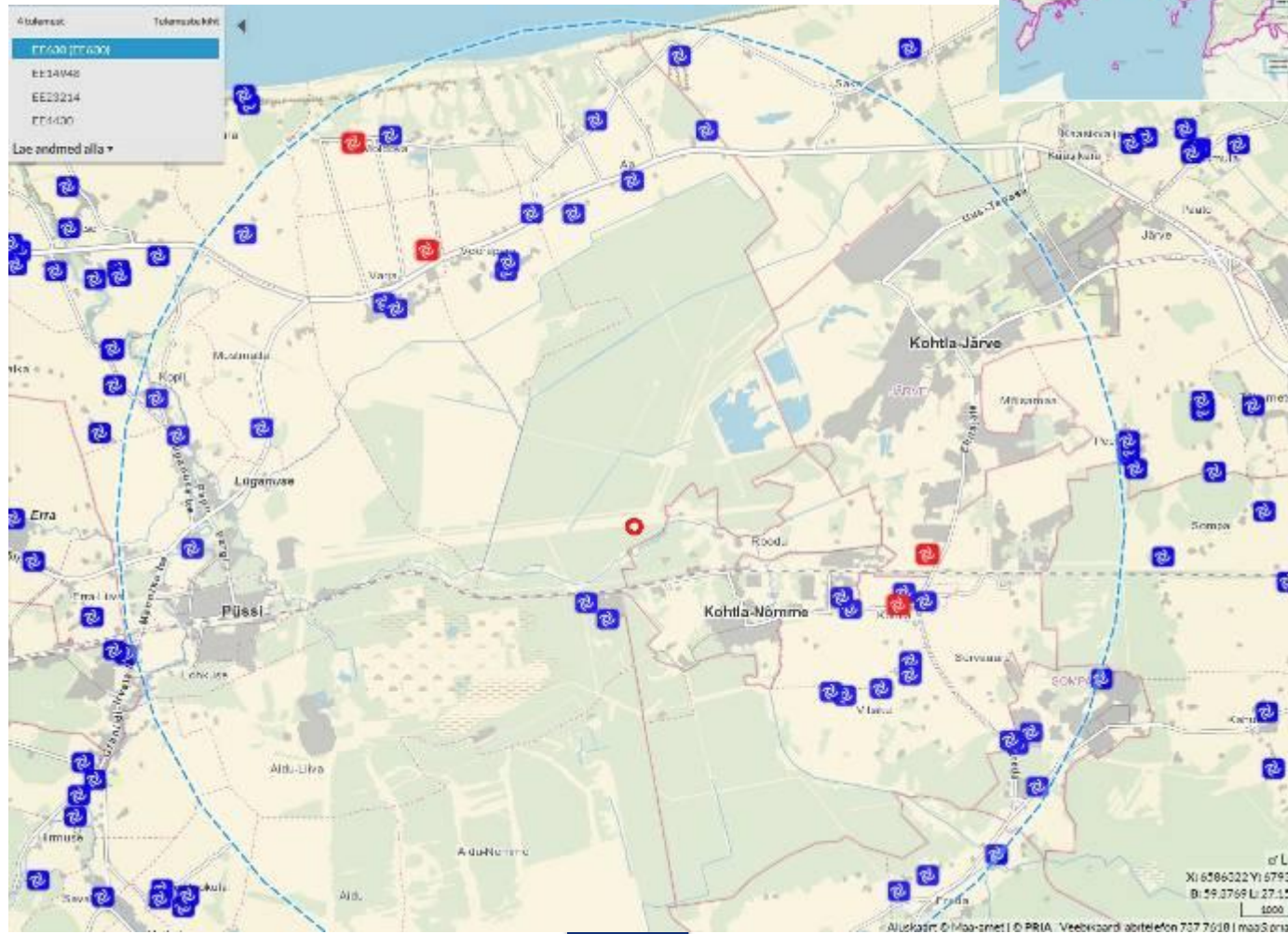
Lüganuse vald, 14 October 2014

CVET members

Vittorio Guberti

Stig Mellergaard

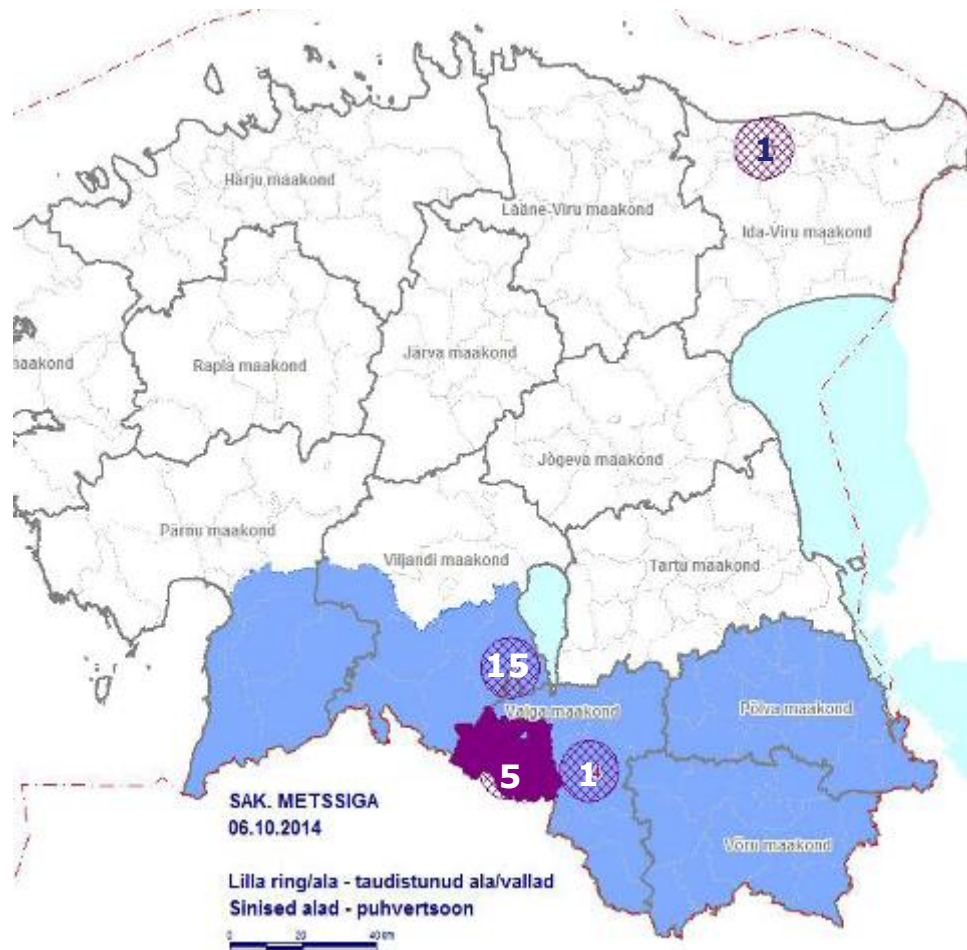
Estonia: places visited



Epidemiological situation

- *3 September first confirmed case of ASF in wild boar in Valga*
- *9 September second confirmed case in Viljandi*
- *12-18 September another five cases in Valga and Viljandi*
- *18 September first case confirmed in Ida-Virumaa*
- *19-25 September two cases – 1 Valga and 1 Viljandi*
- *26 September first case in Valgamaa*
- *2-14 Oct 11 cases – 2 in Valga and 9 in Viljandi*

Epidemiological status



Lüganuse vald case

- *Forest area mixture of swamps and dense forest*
- *Affected wild boar 1½ year old female of 30-40 kg*
- *Animal wounded and attacked hunter*
- *Autopsy of the animals showed no signs of ASF*
- *Subsequent laboratory analyses detected ASF*

Epidemiological evaluation

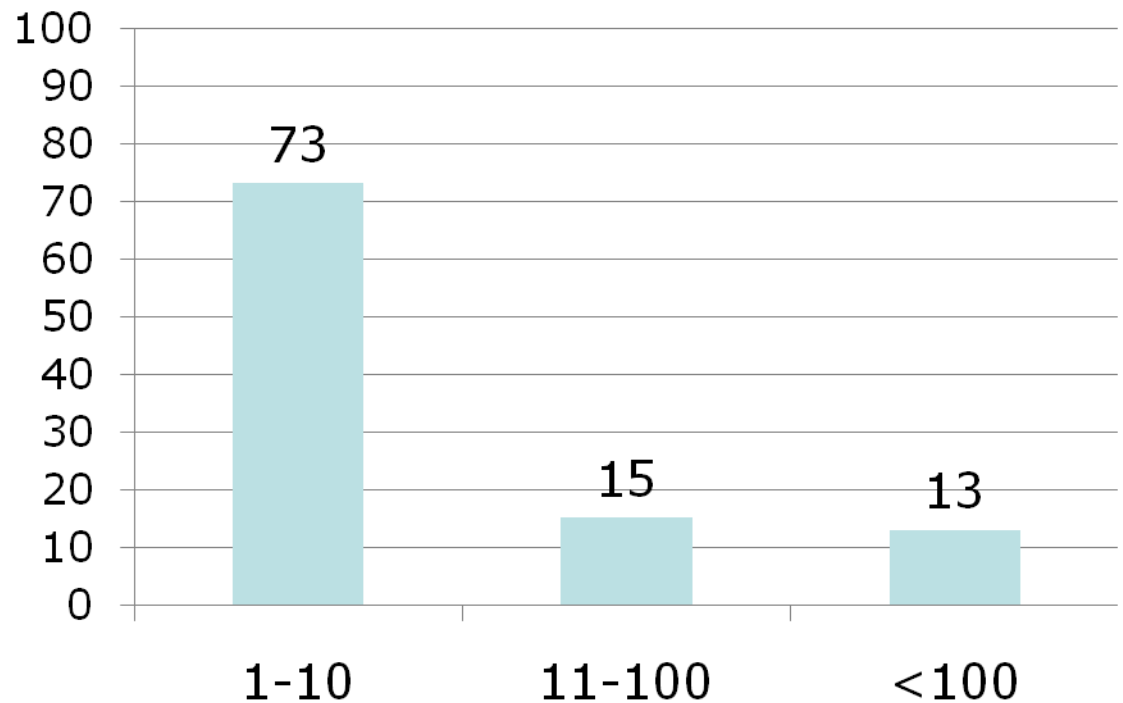
- *ASF infection in southern cluster probably originated from Latvia*
- *Origin of infection in northern cluster unknown*
 - **Three wild boar shot outside 8 km zone - ASF free**
 - **Human introduction???**

Domestic pig management

- *Farmers informed about ASF and risk mitigating measures*
- *Since July, all outdoor pig production prohibited*
- *Census and inspection of all pig holdings – 920 - within one month*
- *Biosecurity measures applied*
 - **Disinfection at entrance to stables**
 - **Change of clothes and footwear**
 - **Use of non-heat treated feed originating from infected areas in Russia, Belorussia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland prohibited**

Estonian pig farm structure

- 0.6 % of Estonian pigs kept in holdings with less than 10 pigs





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Wild boar management

- *50 % of Estonian territory covered by forest 22000 km²*
- *Hunting grounds in general 15-20.000 hectares*
- *The Lügánuse vald area 15.000 hectares*
- *Wild boar stock approx. 40 animals – minimum hunting quota 25 animals*
- *Animal increment 1:3 ≈ 45 animals next year*
- *Feeding 35 tons of barley and oats with addition of beet roes ≈ production of 100 domestic pigs*
- *Increment of wild boar stock expected in medium term*



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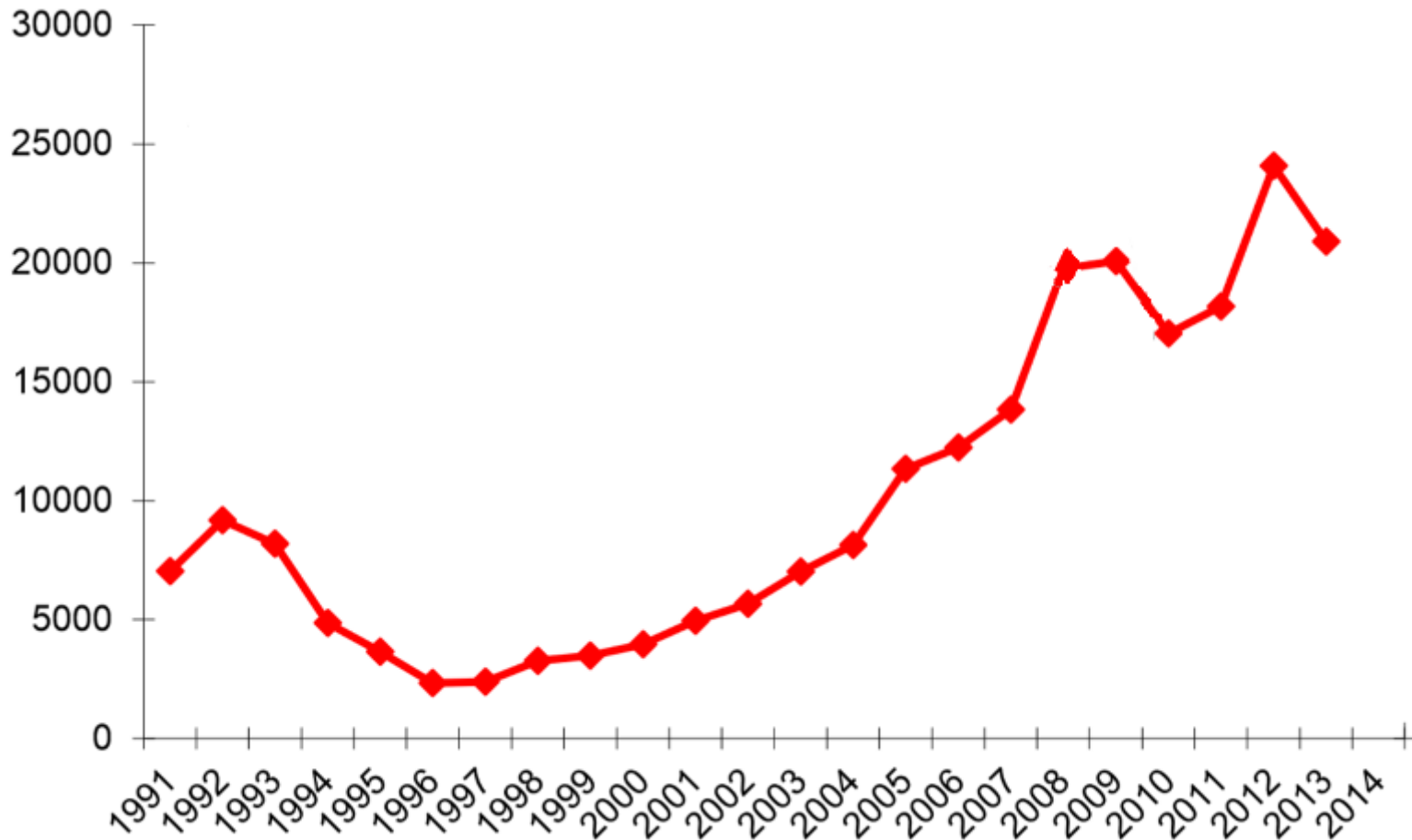
CVET recommend

- *A common population management system for the Baltic region should be developed in order to facilitate wild boar management especially in relation to disease eradication*

CVET recommend

- *Winter supplementary feeding (sustaining feeding) of wild boars should stop in the infected area in order to reduce the wild boar population density*
- *This should*
 - **Reduce wild boar encounter rate and reduce risk of spread of ASF**
 - **Facilitate a die-out of the ASF infection**

Hunted wild boar in Estonia



CVET recommend

- *A standardized procedure for collection of data on population structure (i.e. age) and few relevant demographic parameters of the wild boar population should be established*
- *Should be combined with results of laboratory analyses*
- *Such a list, preferably in electronic format, should be shared among the institutions involved in ASF management*

Biosecurity during hunting

- *Hunters informed about biosecurity measures since March 2014*
- *Wild boars shot within restricted areas have to be examined and sampled by official veterinarians*
- *Sampling conducted on-spot or at hunters premises*
- *Carcass stored at hunters premises until laboratory analysis finalized*
 - **Risk for contamination**

Handling of ABPs

- *ABPs from wild boars shot within restricted area have to be buried covered with 1 m soil either in forest or at hunters premises*
- *During winter time CA will provide municipalities within restricted areas with containers for collection of ABPs*
- *Containers stored at specific fenced localities*
- *ABPs collected at regular intervals and sent to rendering*

CVET recommends

- *Shot animals at least in the infected areas should be brought to a hunting collection point and be dressed and sampled for the presence of ASF*
- *Carcasses should be stored with full identification until released after negative test.*
- *In case of positive ASF test all carcasses at the collection point should be destroyed*

CVET recommends

- *All animal by-products from wild boar, at least in the restricted area, should be collected in containers and treated at rendering plants all year round in order to prevent the risk of scavenging animals digging up the ABPs and spreading the potentially infected material.*



CVET's general recommendations

- *Further evaluation of the data on ASF in wild boar available from Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia in order to obtain:*
 - **An estimate of a possible wild boar threshold density of ASF extinction in previous infected areas;**
 - **An estimate of ASF lethality in wild boars**
 - **An assessment of which management strategy (based on available demographic parameter estimates) could be applied to effectively decrease the wild boar population size in risk areas**

CVET's general recommendations

- *The development of a Baltic/north European ASF database to which hunters on national basis may have online access, to ensure a rapid registration of all shot animals and the diagnostic results*
- *These data should on regular basis be transferred to the EU CSF central database in order to facilitate scientific use of the data*

CVET's general impression

- *Risk mitigating measures in place in domestic pig holdings – general information, biosecurity*
- *Relatively low no of non-commercial pig farms compared to neighbouring countries*
- *Biosecurity in wild boar hunting areas could be improved*
- *Reduction in feeding of wild boar needed if effective ASF eradication should be obtained*

Wild boar management in northern Europe seems with the existing feeding habits to tend to be a wild boar “production” under natural conditions





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