



Mission of the EUVET to Belgium

(7-8 January 2019)



Reason of the mission: evolution of ASF situation in Etalle area;

Terms of reference of the EUVET mission to Belgium

1. 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, especially as regards comprehensive management of the restricted areas.
2. The experts should report exclusively to the Commission services and the Belgian authorities. Continuous contact should be guaranteed between the team, the Commission services and Belgian authorities.
3. The experts should provide a written report with conclusions and recommendations aimed to the competent authority. A report to the Commission and the Member States in the framework of the Standing Committee on Plant, Animal, Food and Feed should be delivered.
4. The experts 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.

Expert and rapporteur: Vittorio Guberti (ITA)



Epidemiological findings:

The **ASF wave** reached the western border of Part II;

Passive surveillance reveals the **endemic persistence** of the virus in both the **eastern** and **central** areas;

The number of dead positive found animals (**321**) is in the **expected** range;

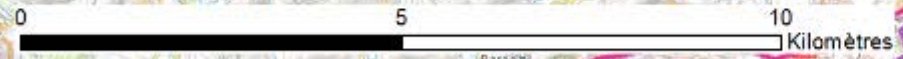
More than **60% of carcasses** have been detected; if so, about **550-600 animals died because of ASF** and approximately **100-130 carcasses are still in the forest.**

F

West direction

Légende

week	41	46
37	42	47
38	43	48
39	44	49
40	45	50





More than **60% of carcasses** have been detected; if so, about **550-600 animals died because of ASF** and approximately **100-130 carcasses are still in the forest.**

Few positive animals have been found **outside the hard core area** but still in Part I, in the vicinity of the high way; the **risk** posed by these positive animals is considered **low** when compared with the western part;



PPA 04/01/2019 22:34

ZI = 731 prélèvements :
288 positifs
384 négatifs
29 non valides
21 non applicables
4 douteux
3 en cours d'analyse
2 emportés par Rendac
avant analyse

Polygone infecté = 14 734 ha
Plus grande distance = 25 720 m

ZOR : 287 détruits :
tous négatifs sauf quelques
non valides ou à confirmer

ZV : 76 sangliers envoyés
pour analyses : tous négatifs
sauf quelques non valides
ou à confirmer

PIEGEAGES : 22 : tous négatifs

Légende

PPA_tests

- Negative
- Negative (culled)

- POSITIVE
- In progress
- DUBIOUS

- Not applicable
- Not valid
- No analysis

Zone noyau

- Zone tampon
- Zone d'observation renforcée
- Zone de vigilance



The achieved **hunting bag** is about **80%** of the previous hunting year;

A **single facility** to collect **samples and store** wild boars to be rendered has been organised;
high standard of biosecurity measures is **guaranteed**;



CONCLUSIONS

There is a high risk that the virus will spread outside the fence at its western edge;

The risk is enhanced by the limited number of wild boar hunted - outside the fence - in the surrounding areas;

Hunting year = dead wild boar (density/forest km²)

46 kmsq

2017 = 229 (5.0)
2018 = 182 (4.0)

Hunting bag = 79,5%

186 kmsq

2017 = 447 (2.4)
2018 = 428 (2.3)

ASF = 95,7%

60% carcass detection = 123%

8 kmsq

2017 = 55 (6.8)
2018 = 67 (8.3)

Huning bag = 121%

Hunting ban

31 kmsq

2017 = 223 (7.1)
2018 = 139 (4.4)

Hunting bag = 62,3%

Total 85 kmsq

2017: 509 (6/kmsq)

2018: 388 (4,6/kmsq)

Total Hunting bag = -23,5%

ZOR Nord Ouest

ZI Centrale

ZI Sud Ouest

ZOR Sud

Decision taken

To build 2 new fences for additional 30 km in order to further reduce the spread of the virus;

To involve directly the personnel of the Forest Department in culling wild boar in the two new fenced areas in order to effectively reduce the wild boar abundance;

To catch intensively wild boar in the whole affected area using traps;

To revise the **logging agenda** in order to allow the commercial use of the forest but ensuring high level of **biosecurity** while maintaining the other **restriction measures**

To maintain an high level of **passive surveillance**

To collect all the carcasses in the entire area through a planned ad hoc search (effort planned 1 person/50 ha)



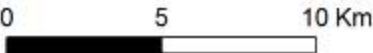
Fence (in red)

High way

New fences
(in yellow)

Legend

- Clotures_PPA_20181129
- Cloture_ouest_doublee_ok
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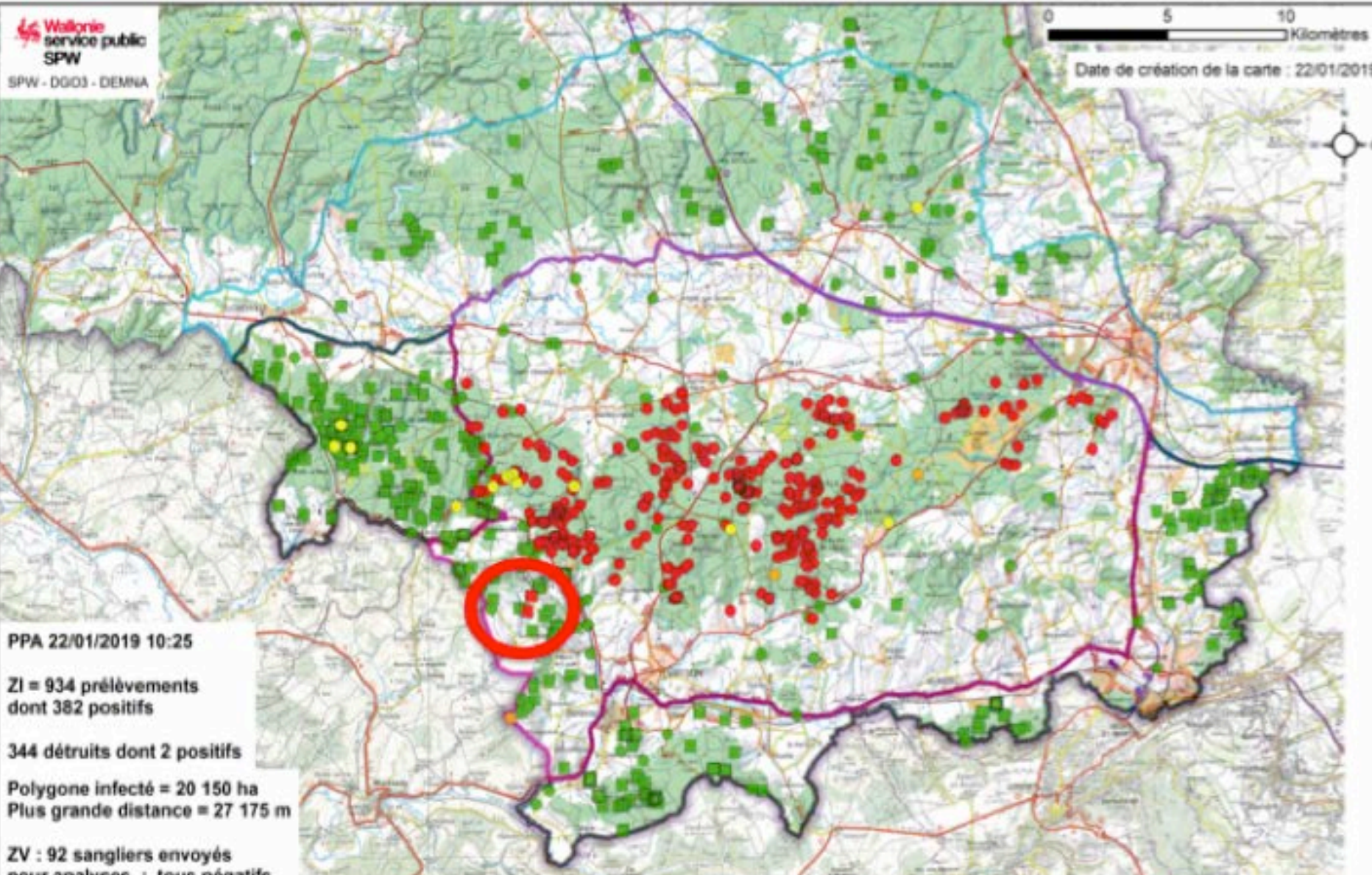


Post scriptum

In the evening of 9th January, 2 new cases have been reported outside the Part II

It was recommended to maintain the same strategy since:

- At present there are no available and feasible alternative actions;
- Few cases outside the fenced area have been also observed in Zlin (Czech Republic) without preventive a successful control of the virus;



PPA 22/01/2019 10:25

ZI = 934 prélèvements
dont 382 positifs

344 détruits dont 2 positifs

Polygone infecté = 20 150 ha
Plus grande distance = 27 175 m

ZV : 92 sangliers envoyés
pour analyses : tous négatifs
sauf quelques non valides
ou à confirmer

PIEGEAGES : 51 : tous négatifs
(45 en ZOR et 6 en ZT)

Légende

PPA_tests

- Negative
- Negative (culled)

- POSITIVE
- POSITIVE (culled)
- In progress

- DUBIOUS
- Not applicable
- Not valid
- No analysis

- Zone tampon et noyau
- Zone d'observation renforcée
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Final remark: The working atmosphere during the mission was very good. The colleagues from Belgium gave all their support and assistance to facilitate a fruitful mission.
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