

**Conclusions from the international workshop  
“Hygiene of wild game meat and its safety within the food chain” which was  
held in Prague from 22 to 24 April 2009**

**Sections**

1. Experience with direct supply of small quantities and training of trained persons.
2. Legal requirements and rules for primary production.
3. Legal requirements and rules for production of wild game meat.
4. Epizootic situation of wild game in certain Member States.

**1. Experience with direct supply of small quantities and training of trained persons**

- The importance of notification of national measures to the European Commission and to all Member States, in order to inform them and allow them to comment was reminded.
- A trained person can perform examination of hunted wild game only if he was present on-the-spot during the hunt.
- Recognition of trained persons from other Member States is currently up to the competent authority. The mutual recognition of trained hunters between Member States would be welcome and would be facilitated mainly by:
  - Up-to-date lists of trained persons;
  - Sharing lists of trained persons between Member States;
  - Harmonised rules for the training in the EC; and
  - International certification of trained persons.

**2. Legal requirements and rules for primary production**

- Intra-community trade with wild game in skin:
  - According to requirements of the EU hygiene legislation, it is necessary to finalise official veterinary inspection before wild game carcasses are

placed on the market and/or sent to another Member State. Trade with un-skinned carcasses is not possible.

- Current rules for trade with carcasses of game in skin should be revised. Discussion on possible trade with skin-on carcasses between Member States should be launched with the following suggestions:
  - The carcass must be examined at least by a trained person and accompanied by a declaration about this examination.
  - If applicable, the carcass must be tested for *Trichinella* in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 2075/2005 in the Member States of origin.
  - The importance of knowledge of the epidemiological situation in the place of origin was emphasised as one of condition for trade between Member States.
  - The post-mortem inspection should be finalised in a game-handling establishment in another Member State.
- Direct supply by hunters, of small quantities of wild game and wild game meat, are subject to national measures, and it is expected that these rules are applicable only on the territory of Member States who adopted relevant national rules.
- For personal use a hunter can cross a border with a small quantity of wild game. However, such amount is very limited.
- The use of different health/identification marks for wild game meat and meat from farmed game should be discussed, in order to differentiate between wild game meat and farmed game meat.

### **3. Legal requirements and rules for production of wild game meat**

1. Wild game meat must be produced and processed in game-handling establishments in accordance with the “hygiene package”
2. Wild game may be supplied in small quantities by hunters directly to the final consumer or to local retail establishments directly supplying the final consumer in accordance with the national measures of Member States.

3. Wild game meat can also be supplied in small quantities by hunters directly to final consumer, or to local retail establishments directly supplying the final consumer in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 and, in addition to that with the national measures of Member States.

#### 4. Epizootic situation in wild game in certain Member States

##### 1. Methods for *Trichinella* testing in wild game meat and accreditation of laboratories for *Trichinella* testing

- Transitional period of 4 years was established in 2005 for the conditional use of trichinostomy in exceptional cases, and for the accreditation of laboratories for *Trichinella* testing, but certain MS are not able to achieve this goal until the end of 2009.
- Possible prolongation of this period could be considered by the Commission if there significant progress is noticed.
- Accreditation is necessary also for laboratories for *Trichinella* testing (difficult for small laboratories and laboratories located at the processing plant).

##### 2. Therapeutic treatment of wild game

- Therapeutic treatment or prophylaxis is not always necessary.
- Some Member States would prefer **not to treat** wild game with antiparasitics:
  - Risk of residues of veterinary medicine in wild game meat.
  - Not harmonised plan – especially in border regions there is risk of hunting wild game during a withdrawal period.
  - The effect of such treatment may not be considered to be sufficient.
- Therapeutic treatment or prevention should be recommended only for some specific diseases - diseases transmissible to human (e.g. rabies) or diseases transmissible to other animals (e.g. classical swine fever).

3. Examination of viscera of small wild game by a trained person can also reveal serious abnormalities in organs with possible negative influence on human health (tularaemia). Meat from small wild game should be eviscerated as soon as possible due to the risk of an increase in pathogenic micro-organisms.