

19th March 2006

To: All members of the Management Committee

Cc: The President

From: Vice President Rolf Eriksson

FEDFA met SANCO about CWD surveillance program

EU is going to run a surveillance program for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). During FEDFA's meetings in Brussels March 14th and 15th a group of four representatives from FEDFA met with SANCO's committee organising this program. Heading the meeting for SANCO was Sinead Diedrich from Ireland.

FEDFA's representatives was Johan-Trygve Solheim (Norway), dr Paul Audenaerde (Belgium), dr John Fletcher (UK) and dr Rolf Eriksson (Sweden).

CWD is an illness in deer and belongs to the TSE group of diseases that also contains scrapie and BSE (mad cow disease). So far the disease has only been reported from US and Canada.

The surveillance program will affect farmed deer as well as wild living deer. In countries with more than 10.000 red deer in farms 600 animals over the age of 18 month will be tested during two years starting in the autumn of 2006. Test material is taken from the obex-region at the base of the skull, where the brain goes over into the spinal cord. Tests is also to be taken from the lymph nodes behind the pharynx. In practise this will probably mean that the skull of these deer are to be collected for testing in some way.

Fallow deer are not involved in this program.

Countries to test farmed red deer are **Austria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ireland and United Kingdom.**

In some European countries wild free-living red deer (and white tail deer) will be tested. These countries are **Austria, Czech Republic, Finland (white tail deer), France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.**

Those interested in more details can send me an email (se below) and I will return more material about the program.