



Epidemiological situation: BTV and EHD

DG SANTE/G2

CDG ON ANIMAL PRODUCTION – BEEF AND VEAL

8 March 2024

Introduction

- BTV and EHD are similar (virology and epidemiology)
- BTV is present in the EU/ EHD was absent until late 2022
- Both diseases are regulated at EU level
- But with different degree of EU intervention

Infection with bluetongue virus (serotypes 1-24)

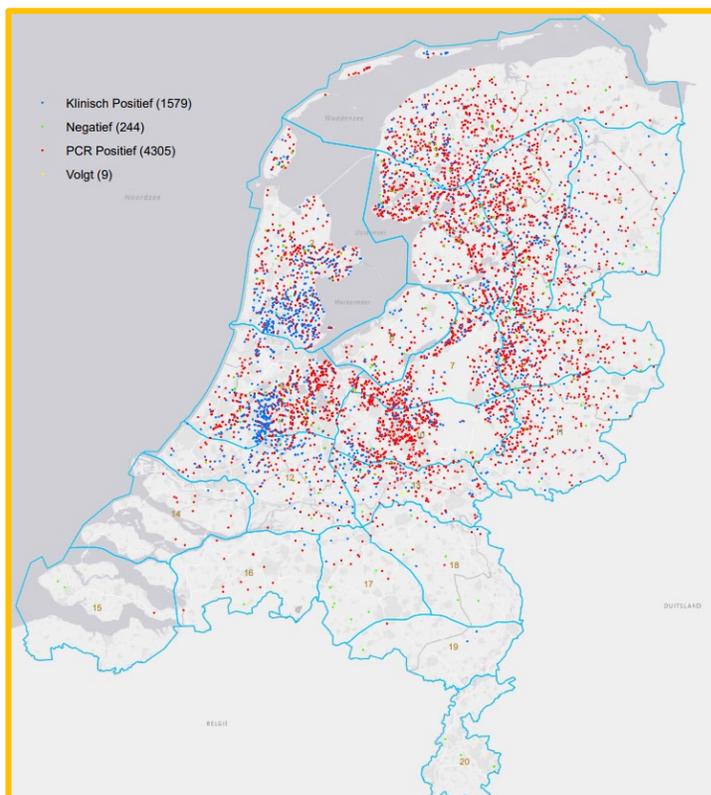
- **Legal background**

- BTV is a disease regulated Regulation (EU) 2016/429 on transmissible animal diseases ('Animal Health Law') that partially changes the previous approach
- The new approach has moved from a disease of immediate eradication to a disease that may be subject to optional eradication programmes with the objective of gaining the disease-free status (listed disease categorised as C in CIR (EU) 2018/1882)
- This means that it is up to each Member State to decide if it wants to achieve disease free status by eradicating BTV in its territory, or a part of it, or not
- Member States or zones thereof with a BTV free status or with an approved programme are listed in CIR (EU) 2021/620
- BTV is also categorised as D in in CIR (EU) 2018/1882: there are EU rules to prevent its spread by movements between Member States or from third countries

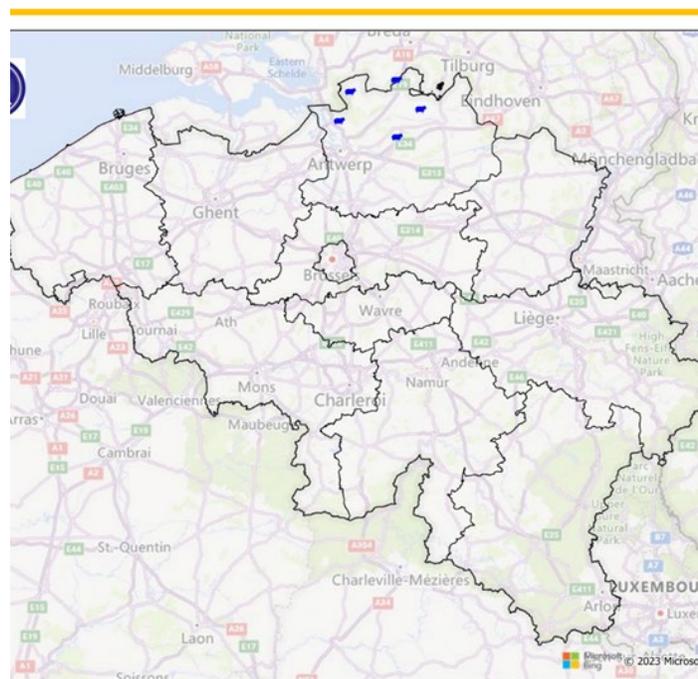
• 2023 relevant epidemiological facts. BTV-3

Detection and spread of **serotype 3** (BTV-3) in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany (also in UK-GB)

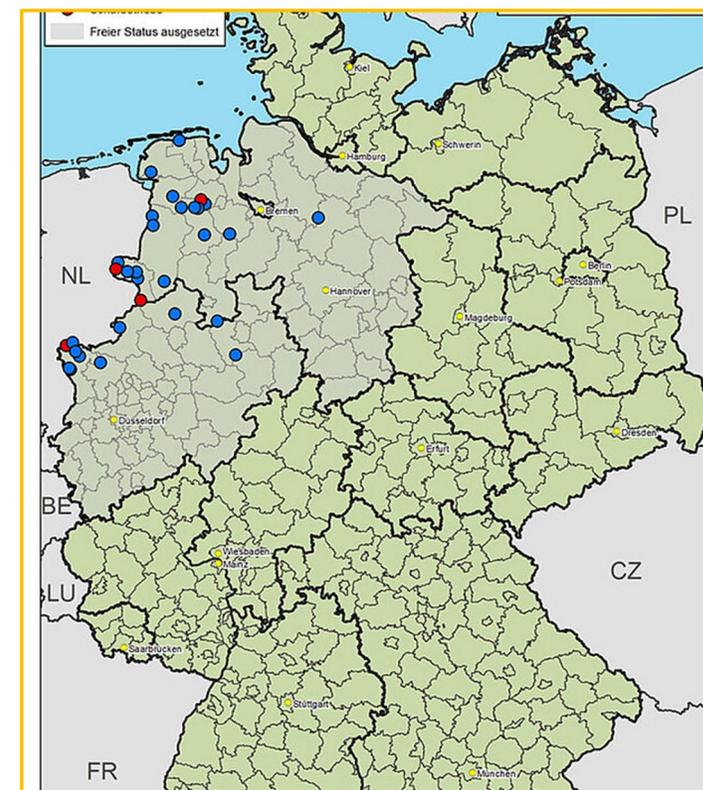
BTV-3/start in September 2023



BTV-3/start in October 2023

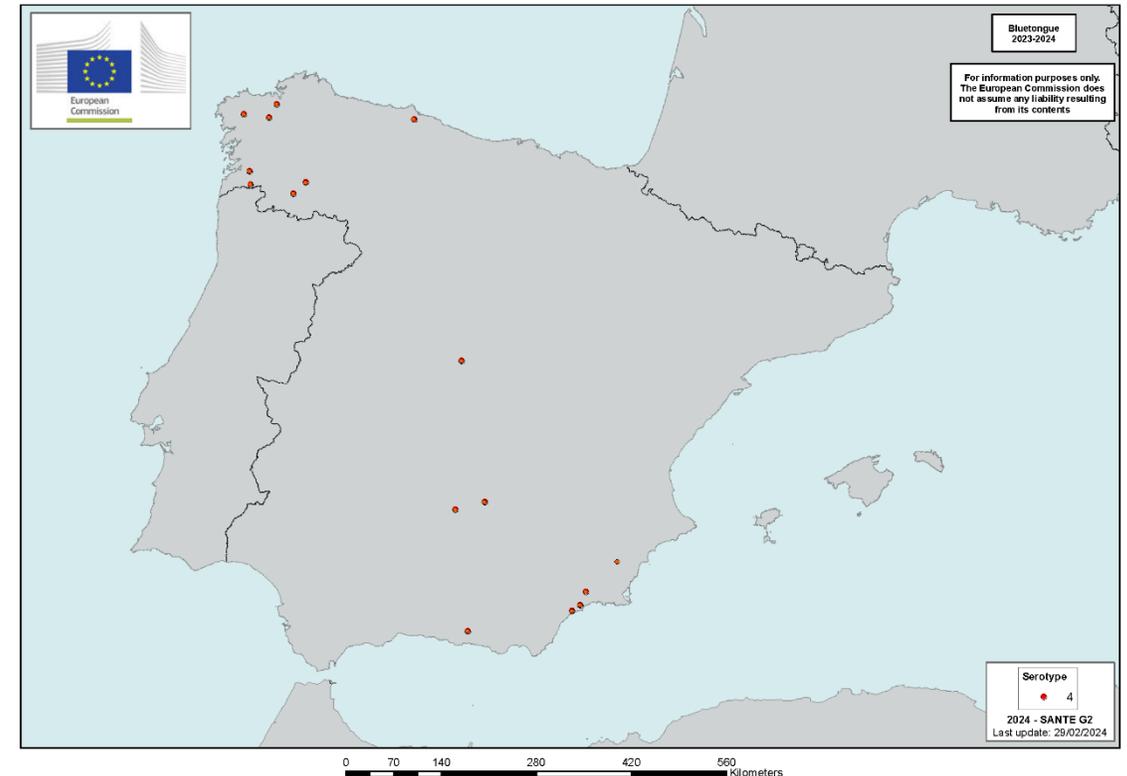


BTV-3/start in October 2023



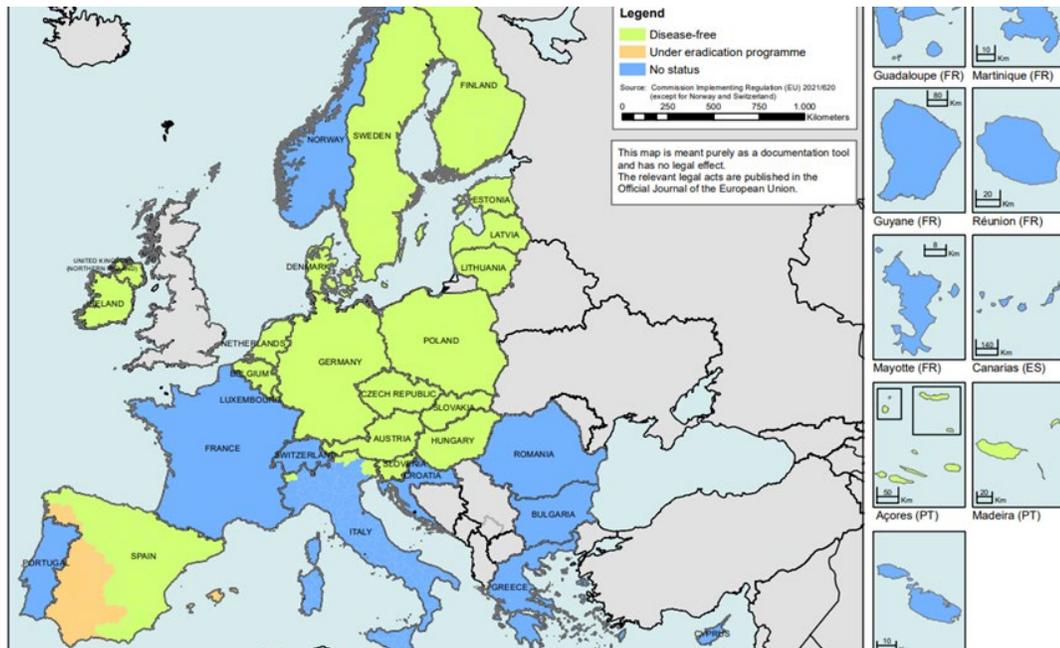
2024 relevant epidemiological facts. BTV-4

- Outbreaks in 2023/2024 that changed the BTV 4 status
 - Galicia-February 2023
 - Castilla la Mancha-August 2023
 - Andalucía, Murcia, Asturias, Madrid and Galicia (further North) -November 2023
 - Valencia early in 2024
 - Eradication of BTV-4 in Balearic Islands

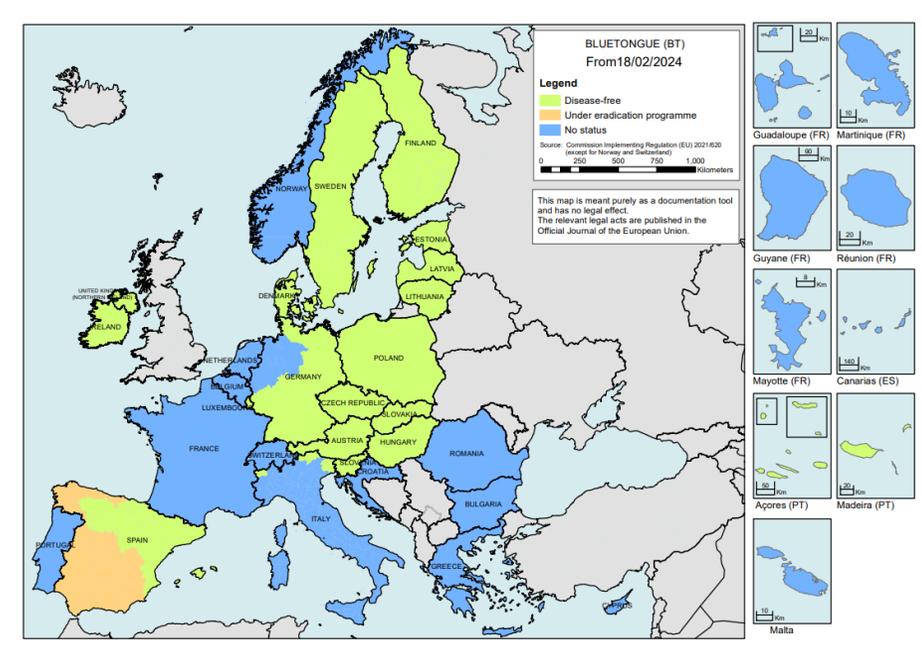


CIR (EU) 2021/620: BTV free areas/areas with an approved eradication programme

Before BTV 3 detection (and evolution of BTV-4)



Following BTV-3 detection (and evolution of BTV-4)



EU policy for infection with bluetongue virus (I)

1. Movement of animals

- EU legislation on intra EU movements prevents the movement of animals from affected Member States
- However, there are other possibilities. Animals can be moved:
 - If properly vaccinated or sourced from a seasonally BTV free area or from vector protected establishment (combined with different testing regimes), amongst others
 - Also, it is possible that a MS accepts animals without any BTV related condition or without any BTV related condition with regard to the serotypes present in their territory (e.g. BE, NL and BTV 3 infected areas in DE do not request BTV-3 conditions)

EU policy for infection with bluetongue virus (II)

2. Vaccination

- Vaccination remains a key tool for BTV eradication and to ensure the safe movement of animals (to other MS and to third countries)
- The Commission welcomes the efforts of the three BTV-3 affected Member States and other interested MS to cooperate between themselves and with vaccine producers on several aspects of combatting the disease, including on vaccine development and procurement

3. Funding

- There are two theoretical possibilities to co-finance **veterinary measures** under the general framework (SMP regulation)
 - Veterinary programmes: BTV is not an eligible disease for 2024 programmes
 - Emergency veterinary control measures: Not a priority. Priority is ASF or HPAI

Infection with bluetongue virus

Summary

- EU animal health rules are proportionate and flexible enough for the Member States to deal with the disease the best they see fit
- BTV is a disease of voluntary eradication
- The Commission's role in ensuring the availability of vaccines is limited and is better addressed at Member State level
- The Commission works in close cooperation with Member States ensuring the safe movements of animals and their products within the EU regularly monitoring the epidemiological situation

Infection with epizootic haemorrhagic disease virus (EHD)

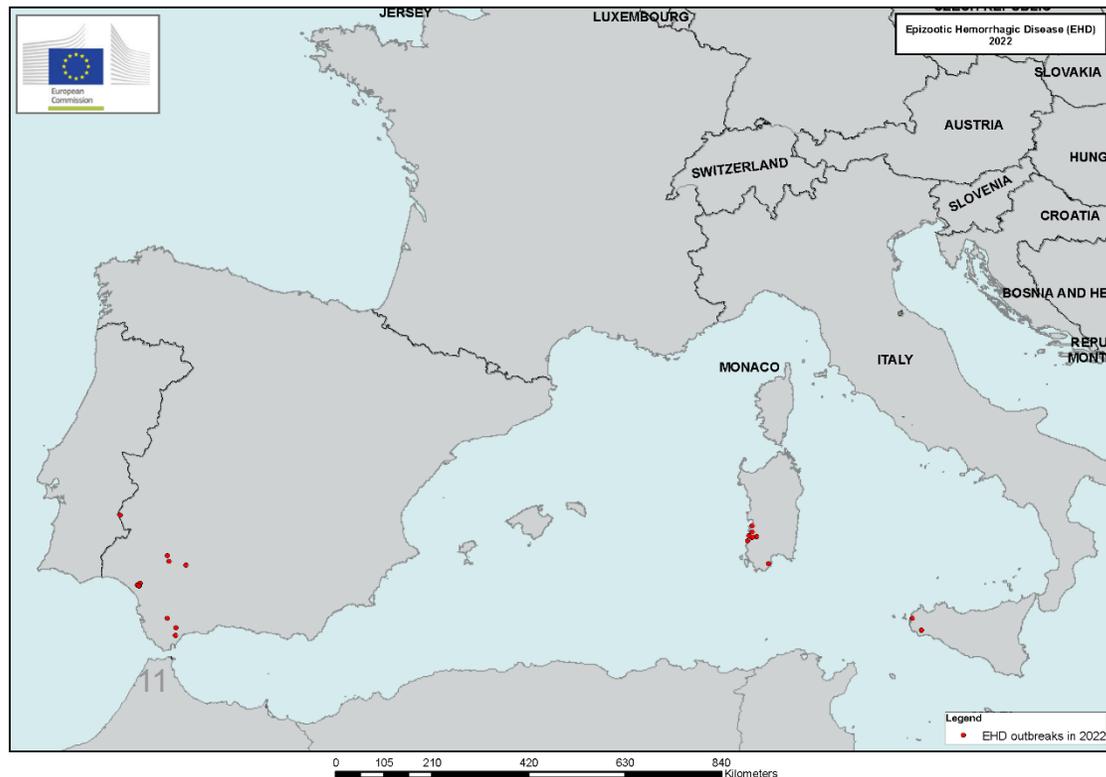
Legal background

- EHD is a disease listed in Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council on transmissible animal diseases
- EHD has been categorised as category D and E disease in CIR (EU) 2018/1882. That means that measures at EU level are limited to:
 - surveillance and notification; and
 - to prevent the disease from spreading on account of movements of animals between Member States or from third countries

Situation EHD 2022-2023

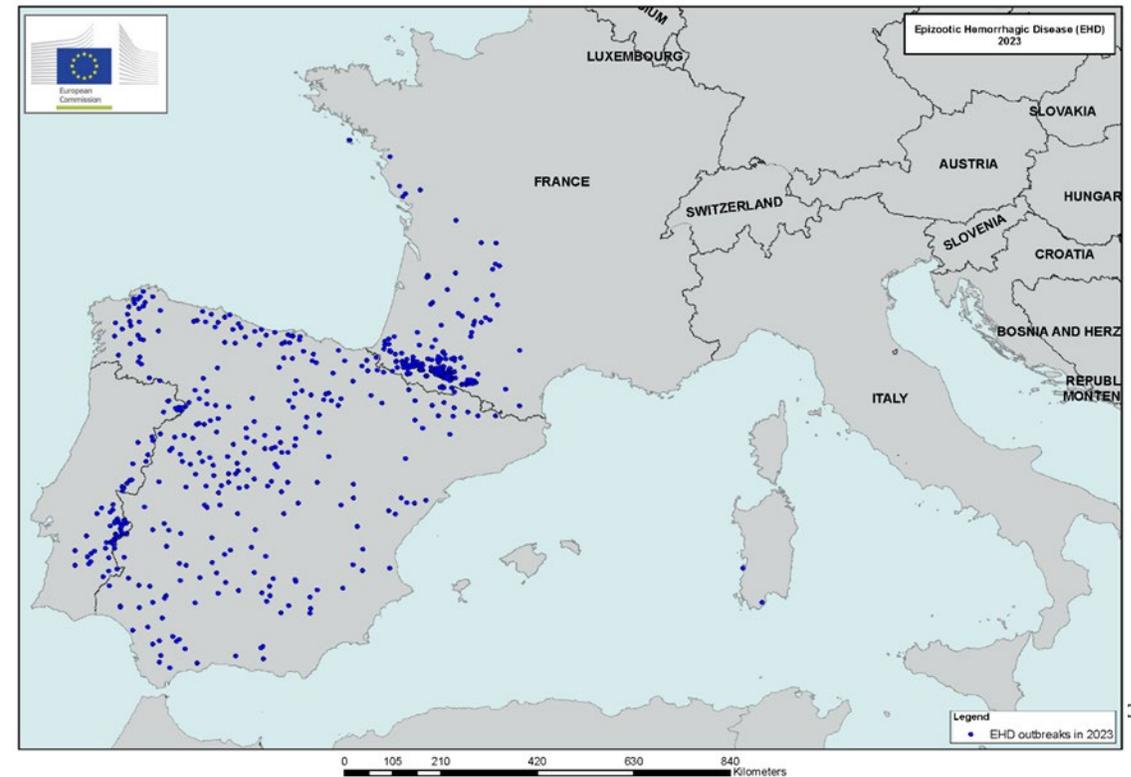
EHD in 2022

- Italy: 10 outbreaks (Sicily and Sardinia)
- Spain: 11 outbreaks (Andalucía and Extremadura)



EHD in 2023

- Spain: 263 outbreaks
- France: 225 outbreaks
- Portugal: 73 outbreaks
- Italy: 2 outbreaks (Sardinia)



EU policy for EHD

1. Movement of animals

- EU legislation on intra EU movements prevents the movement of animals from affected areas where there were outbreaks in the previous 2 years (150 km radius)
- Options for movements based on risk mitigation measures (introduced in 2023)
 - seasonally free area or vector protected establishment combined with different testing regimes,
 - No EHD requirements if MS of destinations agrees, inform other MS and the Commission and accept animals under those conditions from any MS

EU policy for infection with epizootic haemorrhagic disease virus

2. Vaccination

- Vaccination, if available, might be a tool to prevent the disease from spreading on account of movements

3. Funding

- No legal base to co-finance **veterinary measures**

Infection with epizootic haemorrhagic disease virus

Conclusion

- EHD is a disease not subject to EU eradication programmes
- The Commission works in close cooperation with Member States ensuring the safe movements of animals and their products within the EU regularly monitoring the epidemiological situation

Thank you



© European Union 2020

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

Slide ¹⁵ xx: **element concerned**, source: **e.g. Fotolia.com**; Slide xx: **element concerned**, source: **e.g. iStock.com**

