



# Epidemiological situation: BTV and EHD

DG SANTE/G2

CDG ON ANIMAL PRODUCTION – BEEF AND VEAL

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# 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)

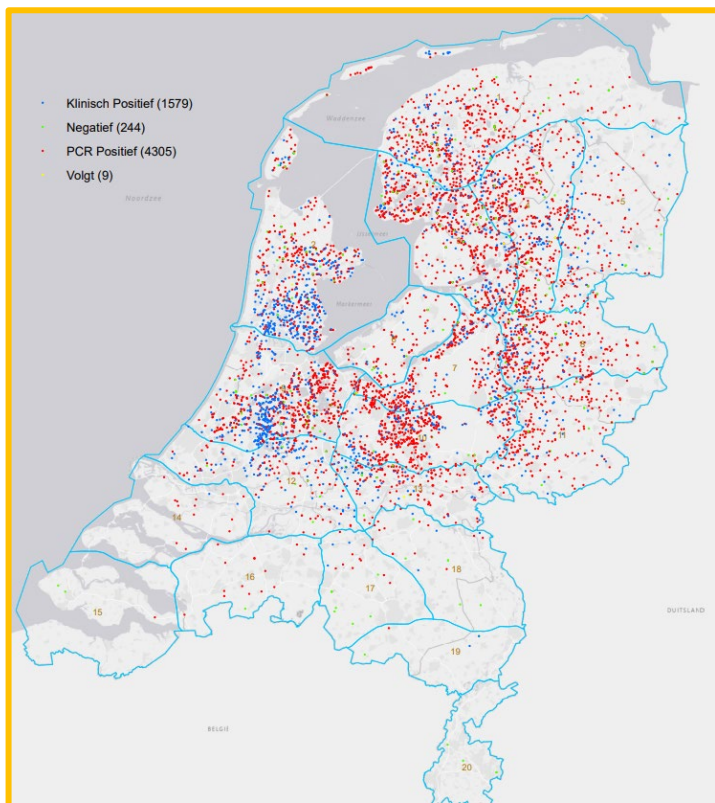
- **Legal background**

- 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

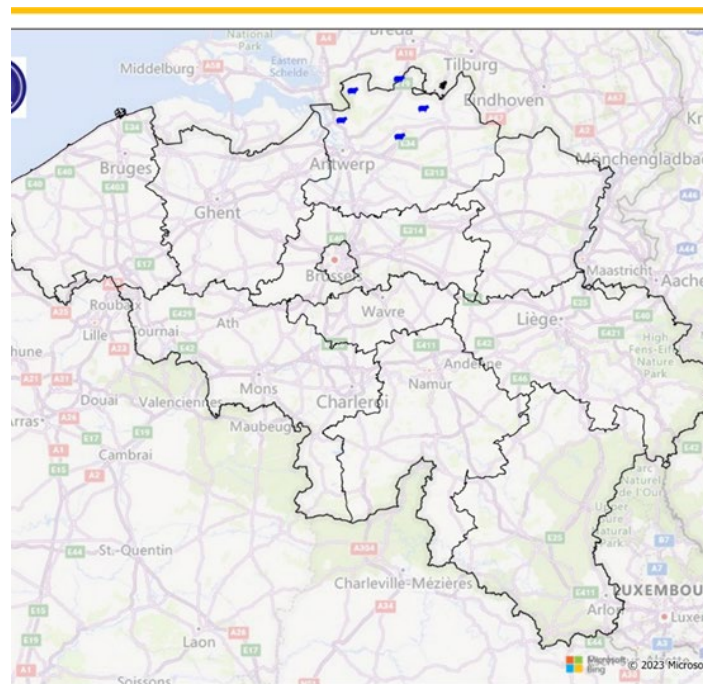
# • 2023 relevant epidemiological facts. BTV-3

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

BTV-3/start in September 2023

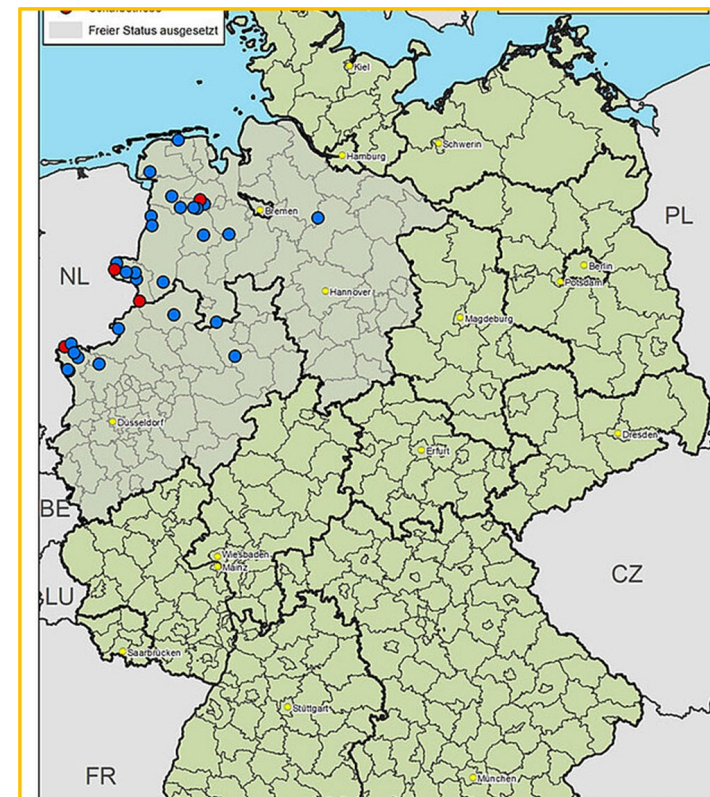


BTV-3/start in October 2023



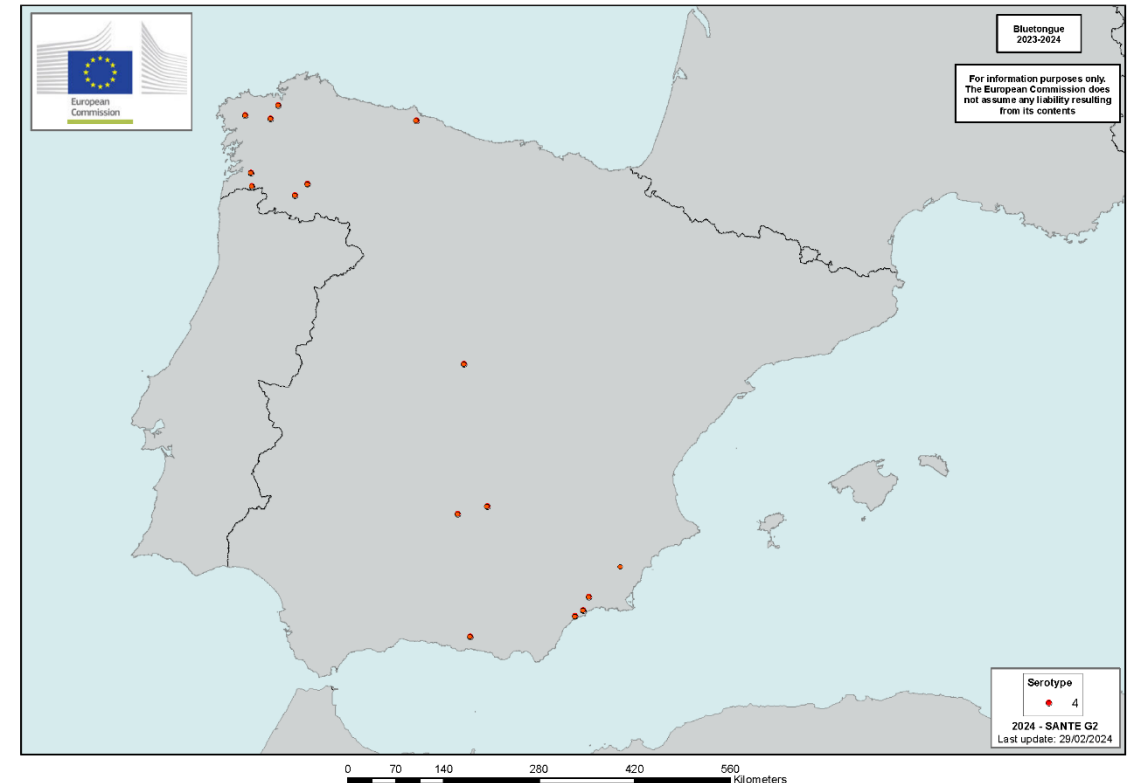
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BTV-3/start in October 2023



# 2024 relevant epidemiological facts. BTV-4

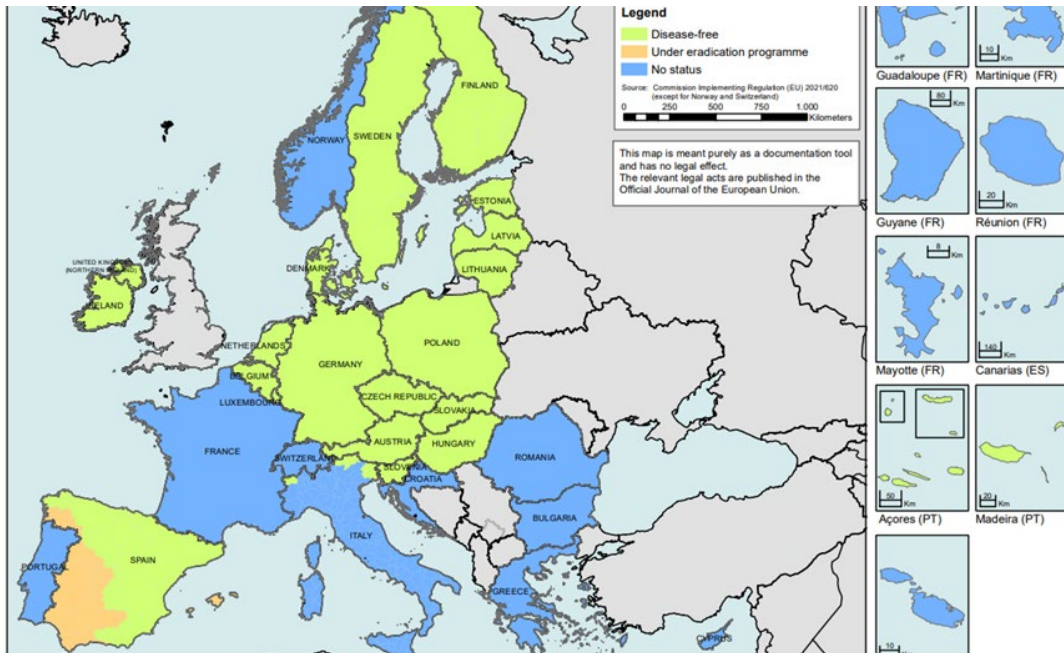
- Outbreaks in 2023/2024 that changed the BTV 4 status
  - Galicia-February 2023
  - Castilla la Mancha-August 2023
  - Andalucía, Murcia, Asturias, Madrid and Galicia (further North) -November 2023
  - Valencia early in 2024
  - Eradication of BTV-4 in Balearic Islands



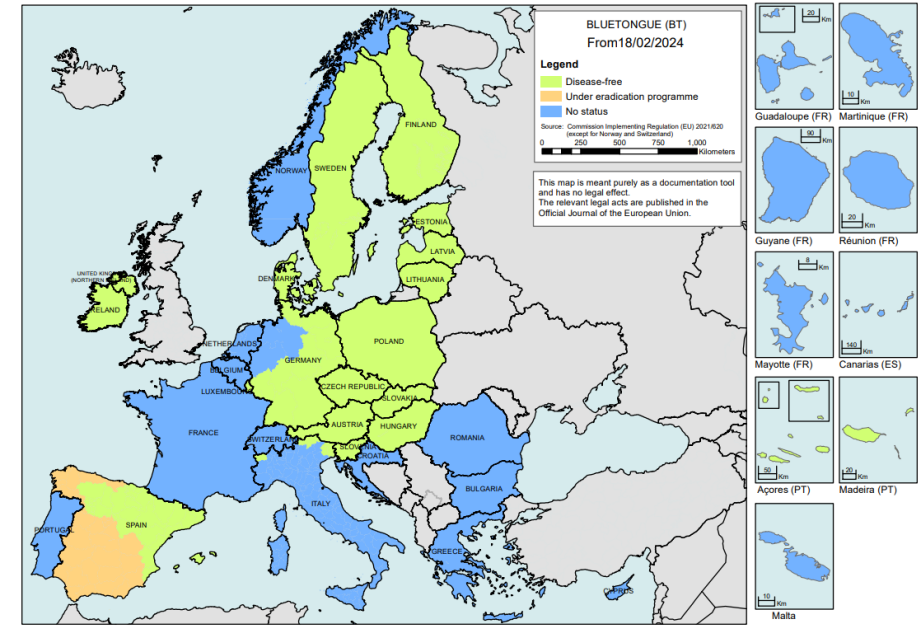


# CIR (EU) 2021/620: BTV free areas/areas with an approved eradication programme

## 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)

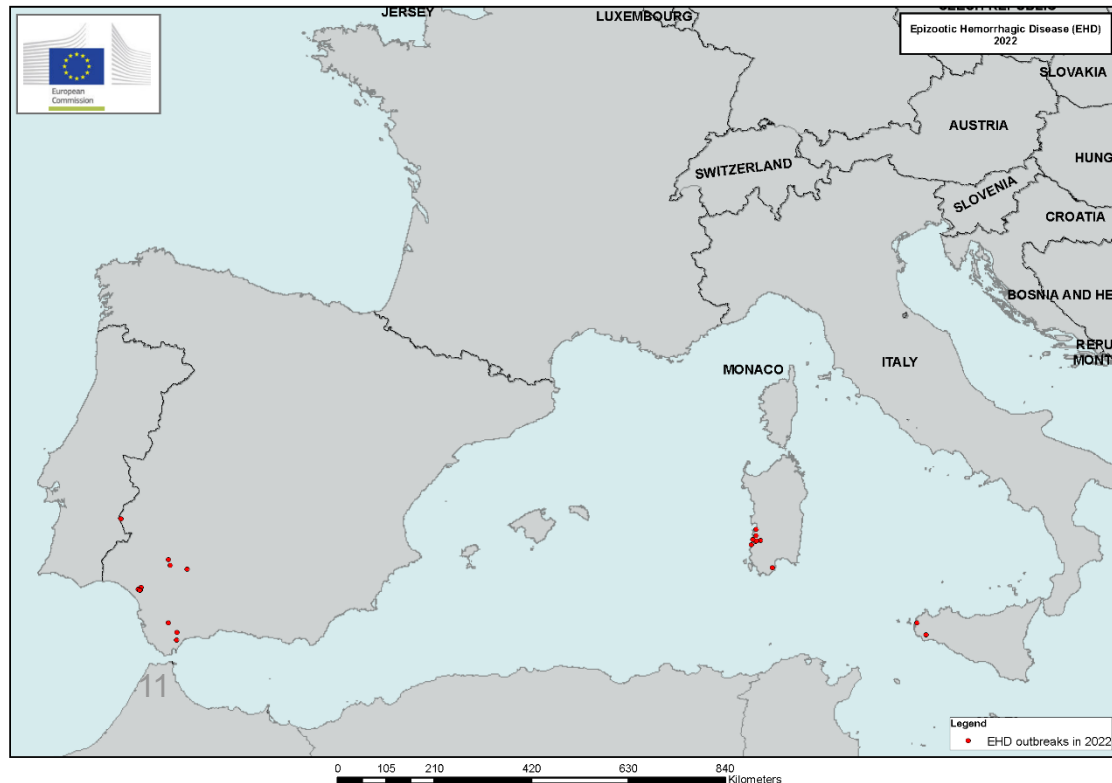
## Legal background

- 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

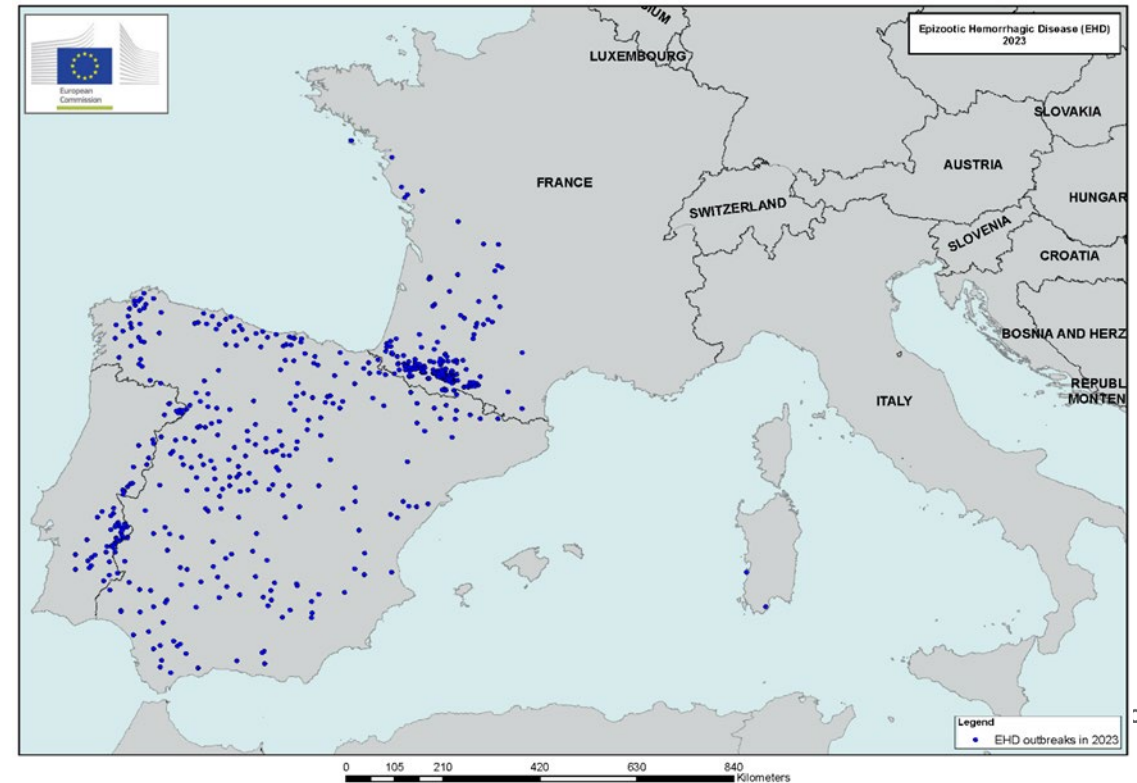
## EHD in 2022

- 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



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