EU Policy regarding management of Bluetongue disease, prevention and control measures

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SE Europe Ministers ad-hoc BT Meeting, Podgorica-25 Jan 2017
EU Policy on Bluetongue

☑ Recent history of Bluetongue in the EU (2006-todate)
☑ Bluetongue in the Balkan area in 2014 (results of the 2014 BT CVET missions)
☑ Current Bluetongue measures in the EU
☑ Current EU Bluetongue policy
☑ Future Trends - Concluding remarks
Bluetongue outbreaks in 2006 (ADNS)

Bluetongue outbreaks in 2007 (ADNS)
Bluetongue outbreaks in 2008 (ADNS)

- BTV 8
- BTV 1
- BTV 16

Bluetongue outbreaks in 2009 (ADNS)

- BTV 8
- BTV 1
- BTV 16, 1

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Bluetongue outbreaks in 2010 (ADNS)

Bluetongue outbreaks in 2011 (ADNS)

Legend

- **BT outbreaks 2010**
- **BT outbreaks 2011**

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Bluetongue outbreaks in 2012 (ADNS)

- BTV 1
- BTV 1, 4
- BTV 1, 2, 4, 9
- BTV 4, 16

Bluetongue outbreaks in 2013 (ADNS)

- BTV 1
- BTV 1, 4
- BTV 4
- BTV 1, 2
Bluetongue outbreaks in 2016 (ADNS)

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Legend
- BT outbreaks in 2016

2016- SANGO GIS
Last update: 16 January 2017

Bluetongue outbreaks 1-19 Jan 2017 (ADNS)

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Legend
- BT outbreaks

2017- SANGO GIS
Last update: 16 January 2017
Recent history of Bluetongue in the EU (2006-todate)

- Occurrence of BT in areas –countries for the first time ever
- Occurrence of BT in areas where the disease was least expected (based on the scientific knowledge available at that time)
- Incursions of various serotypes of BT virus, using various types of vectors
- Occurrence of new serotypes in areas previously affected areas that had managed to clear the disease and were classified as Bluetongue-free
- Recurrence of the same serotype(s) in areas from where they had been previously cleared
This map includes information on the bluetongue virus serotypes circulating in each restricted zone, which permits, for the purposes of Articles 7 and 8 of Regulation No 1266/2007, the identification of the restricted zones demarcated in different Member States where the same bluetongue virus serotypes are circulating.

* as defined in Article 2 (d) of Commission Regulation No 1266/2007 (geographic areas where surveillance and/or protection zones have been demarcated by the Member States in accordance with Article 8 of Council Directive 2000/75/EC."

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BT zoning – end of 2015

**Bluetongue**

Restricted zones* as of 10 December 2015

This map includes information on the bluetongue virus serotypes circulating in each restricted zone, which permits, for the purposes of Articles 7 and 8 of Regulation No 1258/2007, the identification of the restricted zones demarcated in different Member States where the same bluetongue virus serotypes are circulating.

### Zone (serotypes)

- **F(8)**
- **G (1,2,4,16)**
- **H (1,4)**
- **J (1)**
- **T (1,2,4,8,16)**
- **X (4,16)**
- **Z (1,16)**
- **A2 (1,2,16)**
- **A3 (4)**
- **A4 (1,4,8,16)**
- **A6 (1,4,16)**

*as defined in Article 2 (6) of Commission Regulation No 1258/2007 (geographic areas where surveillance and/or protection zones have been demarcated by the Member States in accordance with Article 8 of Council Directive 2000/75/EC).

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BT zoning – end of 2016 (no change to date)

Bluetongue
Restricted zones* as of 22 December 2016

This map includes information on the bluetongue virus serotypes circulating in each restricted zone, which permits, for the purposes of Articles 7 and 8 of Regulation No 1266/2007, the identification of the restricted zones demarcated in different Member States where the same bluetongue virus serotype are circulating.

Zone (serotypes)
- F(8)
- G (1,2,4,16)
- H (Not specified)
- I(1,4)
- J (1)
- T (1,2,4,8,16)
- X (4,16)
- Z (1,16)
- A2 (1,2,16)
- A3 (4)
- A4 (1,4,8,16)
- A6 (1,4,16)

* as defined in Article 2 (d) of Commission Regulation No 1266/2007: geographic areas where surveillance and/or protection zones have been demarcated by the Member States in accordance with Article 8 of Council Directive 2008/75/EC.

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BT in the Balkan area in 2014 (2014 BT CVET missions in SE Europe)

CVET = Community Veterinary Emergency Team
[ List of Experts appointed by the EU MS to provide technical assistance/advice (on the spot missions) in countries affected by transmissible animal diseases of particular importance ]

Bluetongue CVET missions in South East Europe in 2014
Romania - Bulgaria: October 2014
Slovenia- Croatia-Serbia: November 2014
Albania : December 2014

EU Policy on Bluetongue

BT in the Balkan area in 2014 (2014 BT CVET missions in SE Europe)

Number of BTV4 outbreaks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Outbreaks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>2463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>6323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EU Policy on Bluetongue

BT in the Balkan area in 2014 (2014 BT CVET missions in SE Europe)

Temporal evolution of infection
**EU Policy on Bluetongue**

**BT in the Balkan area in 2014 (2014 BT CVET missions in SE Europe)**

**Disease Consequences**

- **Mortality reported in the countries visited**
  - Sheep: 0,2-4,6%
  - Goats: 0,1-1,1%
  - Cattle: 0,3-0,9%

- **Other problems reported**
  - Trade restrictions
  - Movement restrictions within the country
  - Problematic return from summer grazing sites
EU Policy on Bluetongue

BT in the Balkan area in 2014 (2014 BT CVET missions in SE Europe)

Conclusions – Technical Recommendations

- BT-4 spread was very quick across the area
- BTV4 epidemic expected to continue in the next year, early in the season (May-June) with a northward spread due to the vector species possibly involved (Obsoletus complex)
- BTV-1 in Croatia: further investigation needed
- BT Vaccination: the key to control the disease (possible multiannual strategy and even preventive vaccination)
- Laboratory capacities and skills in general adequate, some improvement may be needed (entomology)
- Surveillance necessary to monitor BTV4 / BTV1, early detection of other serotypes - identification/seasonality of vectors
- International cooperation

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### Current Bluetongue measures in the EU

#### Core legal framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Article</td>
<td>L 327/74</td>
<td>Official Journal of the European Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22.12.2000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27.10.2007</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2000/75/EC**

*of 20 November 2000*

laying down specific provisions for the control and eradication of bluetongue

**COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1266/2007**

*of 26 October 2007*

on implementing rules for Council Directive 2000/75/EC as regards the control, monitoring, surveillance and restrictions on movements of certain animals of susceptible species in relation to bluetongue
Current Bluetongue measures in the EU (1)

**Measures upon BT suspicion**
- Placement of the suspect holding under official surveillance
- Update of the animals inventory – identification of vector survival/breeding sites
- Vector control measures
- Disposal of dead animals

**Measures upon BT confirmation**
- Disease notification (Dir. 82/894, ADNS)
- Slaughter of animals (optional measure, very rarely applied nowadays)
- Vaccination (decision taken by the MS and E. Commission infor)
- Epidemiological survey (origin, estimated time of entry, vector presence – distribution, animal movements e.t.c.)
- Expansion of suspicion measures
- Establishment of crisis unit
- Establishment of **protection** and **surveillance zones**
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Current Bluetongue measures in the EU (2)

✔ **Measures in the protection and surveillance zones** (= restricted zones)

**Protection zone (min 100 km):**
Exit ban for live ruminants & germinal products + surveillance

**Surveillance zone (min 50 km around protection zone):**
Exit ban for live ruminants & germinal products + surveillance + no use of live vaccines

✔ **Vaccination**
Upon decision of the affected MS and information of the E. Com.

✔ **Other measures**

**Surveillance rules** (Reg. (EC) 1266/2007, Annex I)

**Derogations from the exit ban** (Reg. (EC) 1266/2007, Annex III)
Various types of guarantees based on:
the seasonally vector free period, use of vector proof establishments, vaccination, serological testing, virological testing, or bilateral agreements
Current Bluetongue measures in the EU (3)

Other provisions

✓ Appointment of NRL & EU-RL
✓ Criteria for vector protected establishment (Reg. 1266/2007, Annex II)
✓ Criteria for the seasonally-free period (Reg. 1266/2007, Annex V)
✓ Contingency plans

Lifting of measures from restricted zones (Reg. 1266/2007, art 6, par 2)

2. Before taking any decision to remove an epidemiologically relevant geographical area from a restricted zone, Member States shall provide the Commission with substantiated information demonstrating the absence of bluetongue virus circulation in that area during a period of two years, including two full vector activity seasons, following the implementation of the bluetongue monitoring and surveillance programme in accordance with point 3 of Annex I.
Current Bluetongue Policy in the EU (1)

- Disease notification (ADNS)
- Disease surveillance (passive + active), detection of virus circulation + determination of seasonally free period
- Establishment and regular update of the BT restricted zones in the affected MS
- No stamping out policy (unless very special conditions)
- Movements of live animals from the restricted zones (Reg. 1266/2007, Annex III + bilateral agreements)
- Vaccination: the most effective tool, decision to vaccinate rests with the MS concerned (inactivated vaccines preferred, mono- or polyvalent)
- Sharing of information (DG SANTE website: http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/control-measures/bluetongue_en)
- Update of available scientific information through the EU-RL & EFSA (numerous opinions in the past at the request of DG SANTE, one more in progress, due for 2017)
**EU Policy on Bluetongue**

**Current Bluetongue Policy in the EU (2)**

**OVERVIEW: Bluetongue vaccination in the EU**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPULSORY</th>
<th>VOLUNTARY</th>
<th>No program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whole territory</td>
<td>Whole territory</td>
<td>Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Latvia, Sweden, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Estonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part territory (free zone)</td>
<td>Part territory (free zone)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted zone</td>
<td>Restricted zone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FREE COUNTRIES**

- Bulgaria (BTV4), Slovenia (2017, BTV4), Cyprus (BTV8)
- Spain (bovine, ovine BTV8)
- Croatia (BTV4), Portugal (ovines BTV1, BTV4), Spain (bovine, ovine BTV1, BTV4), France (Corsica BTV1, BTV4)
- Austria (BTV4, BTV8), Netherlands (BTV4, BTV8), Romania (BTV4), Slovak Republic (BTV4), UK (BTV1, BTV2, BTV4, BTV8), Germany (BTV4, BTV8), Luxembourg (BTV8), Belgium (BTV 8), France (BTV8)
- Spain (bovine, ovine BTV8)
- Hungary (BTV4), Portugal (bovines, caprine BTV1, BTV4), Spain (caprine BTV1, BTV4)
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EU Policy on Bluetongue

Future trends – Conclusions (1)

Latest EFSA opinion on BT (in progress since Feb 2016)

Commission (DG SANTE) mandate asked questions on:

- Vaccination campaigns, eradication and surveillance measures
- Specific options for safe trade that could be used for exemptions from the exit ban applicable to movements of live animals from a restricted zone
- Protection from BTV vectors and vector based provisions for exemption from the exit ban applicable to movements of live animals from a restricted zone
- Classification and grouping of different BTV serotypes according to their potential impact on animal health
- Listing and categorisation of BT in the framework of the Animal Health Law (will be addressed in a separate scientific opinion published separately)

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Future trends – Conclusions (2)

REGULATION (EU) 2016/429 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
of 9 March 2016

on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health (‘Animal Health Law’)

Listing and categorisation of Bluetongue in the framework of the Animal Health Law and possible review of measures
THANK YOU !!!!

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