

## Updated Situation Assessment No.20

# Bluetongue virus (BTV-8) in Europe

25<sup>th</sup> July 2017

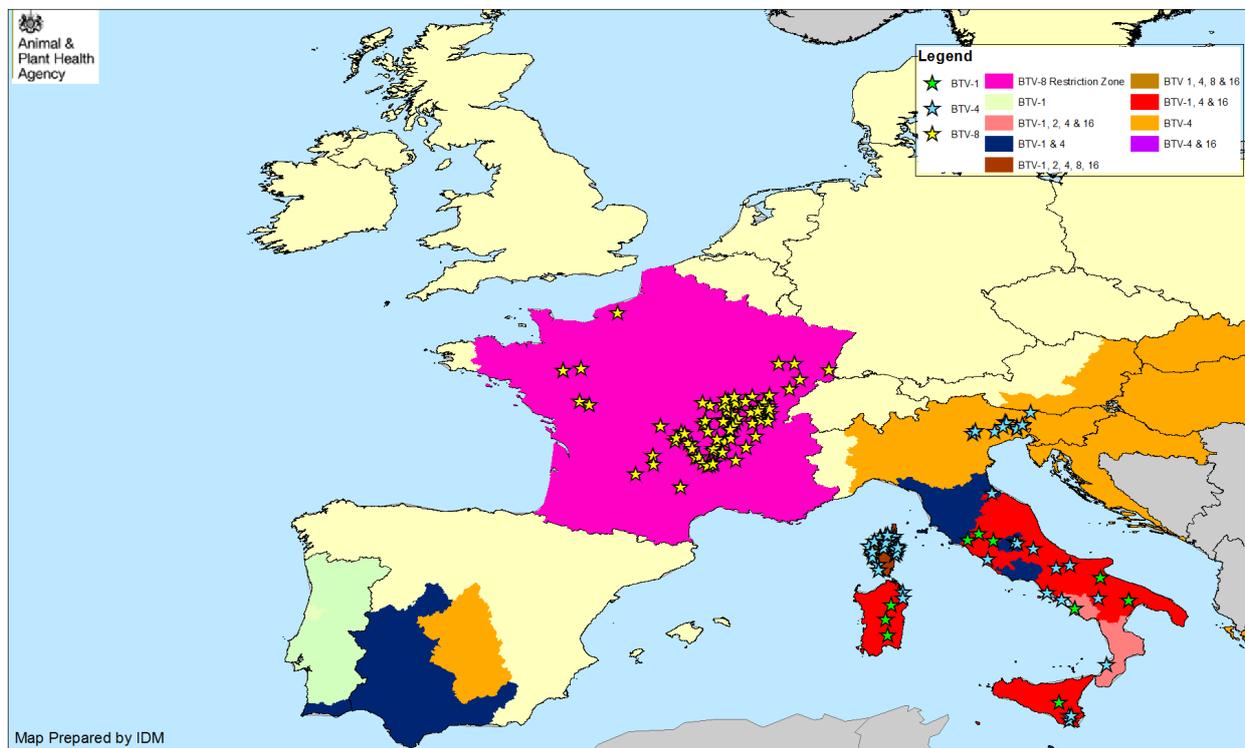
Ref: VITT/1200 BTV-8, BTV-4 and BTV-1 in Europe

### Disease Report

Since our last update, on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017, France has reported just 4 new BTV-8 positive cases. These are a result of pre-movement testing which is in place. Since our last update on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, there has been no expansion of the surveillance zone.

However France has also been reporting BTV-4 in sheep and cattle on the island of Corsica, where vaccination has been mandatory.

Italy has reported BTV-4 in the north of the country as well as BTV-1 and BTV-4 in other regions.



Absolute Scale 1:15,000,000 BTV in Europe since April 2017 and current Restriction Zones\* Date prepared 25/07/2017

0 90 180 360 540 720 Km

\* restriction zones are available on the EC website and not necessarily correctly represented here due to GIS issues

## **Situation Assessment**

There have been very few reports of BTV-8 from France since the last update on 21<sup>st</sup> June however this is similar to the epidemiological situation reported last year where there were only a handful of cases reported in these early months, and generally July onwards is when disease starts to remerge across Europe. Of particular note is that there have been no reports in the northern regions along the coast in France, although this may be in part due to lack of sentinel surveillance testing which is no longer required once an area is within a restriction zone.

Recent meteorological modelling has shown there have been very few days in the last month where the wind has been sufficiently strong or in the right direction to reach the English mainland. The hot temperatures experienced in Southern England in late June and heavy rainfall more recently can reduce the number of active midges.

## **Conclusion**

The risk of BTV incursion into UK population remains at **LOW** to reflect the low levels of infection in northern France.

We will continue to monitor the current situation in France and disseminate any further updates from the French Authorities, particularly with regards to the most recent cases.

BTV-8 vaccine has been available for the GB market since mid-July 2016, and the decision to vaccinate will be taken by the farmer, which the GB authorities have encouraged all of them to consider, in consultation with their private veterinary surgeon.

For information on bluetongue and the vaccine availability in GB, see the latest materials recently posted on line by the National Farmer's Union (NFU) at [www.nfuonline.com/bluetongue](http://www.nfuonline.com/bluetongue) and the latest information to encourage BTV vaccination by the Joint Action against Bluetongue (JAB) campaign.

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