

EN

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Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
(15.11.2024)

1. Infection with bluetongue virus (BTV) is a disease regulated by Regulation (EU) 2016/429 on transmissible animal diseases¹. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882² categorises BTV as a category C disease, and hence, it is subject to optional eradication by Member States. The decision to eradicate the disease and vaccinate may vary by Member State; therefore, the Commission is not planning to launch an EU vaccination campaign.

As a disease subject to optional eradication, EU funding for BTV, including vaccination, is not envisaged for 2024 nor for 2025 to 2027 for BTV eradication programmes in accordance with EU rules³, neither for BTV emergency measures given that financial resources are allocated to the control and eradication of other major priority animal diseases.

2. Outbreaks of BTV are notifiable through the EU Animal Disease Information System⁴ making the Commission and competent authorities aware of the disease situation in order to take the relevant measures to prevent the spread of the disease. The situation is also regularly discussed, including in the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed⁵. All these actions ensure coordination between the Commission and the Member States.

3. There is a Union legal framework to control BTV, including measures applicable to the movement of animals within the EU⁶. Movements to other Member States must be safe and the animals must either come from free zones or comply with risk mitigation measures (vaccination and others) and certification providing for safe movement. Adequate implementation of the legal framework is the responsibility of the competent authorities of the Member States that may be subject to audits conducted by the Commission.

¹ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/429/oj>

² http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2018/1882/oj

³ Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing a programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European statistics (Single Market Programme) and the work programmes (adopted as Commission Implementing Decision C(2022) 3467 of 2.6.2022 for 2023-2024) and Commission Implementing Decision C(2024) 2098 of 2.8.2024 for 2025-2027).

⁴ https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/animal-disease-information-system-adis_en

⁵ https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/committees/paff-committees_en

⁶ https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/surveillance-eradication-programmes-and-disease-free-status/bluetongue_en