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Bluetongue (BTV-1) in France

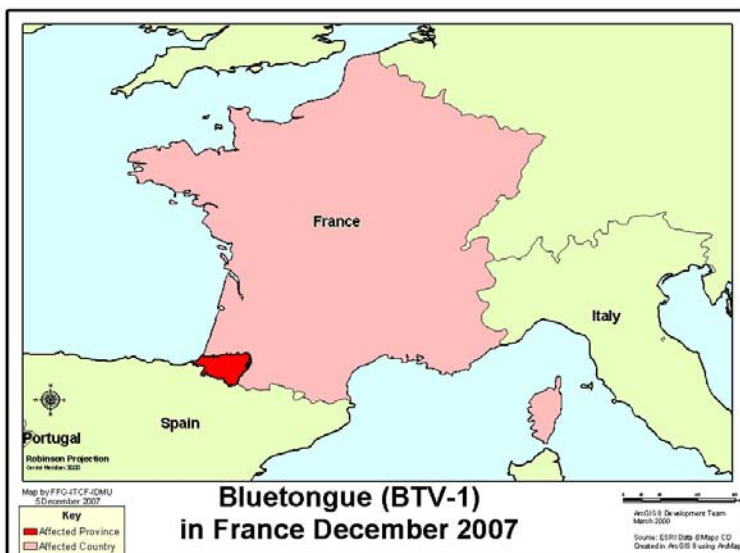
Note: Defra's International Trade Core Function (ITCF) monitors outbreaks of high impact diseases around the world. Bluetongue (BT) is among those diseases of major concern.

1 Disease Report

The authorities in France have reported two outbreaks of bluetongue (BTV-1) in the south of France (Pyrenees Atlantique) bordering the regions in the north of Spain where BTV-1 was detected recently (see map) (European Commission, 2007).

2 Situation assessment

BTV 1 was reported for the first time in Spain in mid 2007 in the areas already under restriction following the detection of BTV 4 in southern Spain in late 2004. BTV1 was also recorded for the first time in Portugal in mid September 2007.



BTV1 was reported from countries in north-west Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia) and Sardinia in 2006. This new detection of BTV1 is in the south of France adjacent to the areas in northern Spain which recently reported the first cases of BTV1. Further details on the recent outbreak in Spain may be found

at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/monitoring/pdf/btv1-spain071107.pdf> .

TRACES (EU electronic notification system) shows that no live ruminant animals and genetic materials have been imported into the UK from the BTV-1 affected area of France during the past 2 months. The EU FMD safeguard measures in force on the UK since early August 2007 have prevented the import of ruminant animals from other EU member states during most of that period. Any susceptible livestock imported into the UK from France after the lifting of restrictions will have been subjected to pre- and post-export testing for BT.

3 Conclusions

On the basis of the information available at this stage, the likelihood of a BTV1 introduction by legal trade from the affected area of France to the UK is considered negligible.

We continue to monitor developments and will re-assess the situation as new information become available.

4 References

European Commission. (2007). Bluetongue – bluetongue serotype 1 detected in the south of France. FAX 196 (22/11/2007 14:00). Directorate D – Animal Health and Welfare. Brussels, D BVG (07) D/412792.