



DGV
Direcção Geral
de Veterinária

Ministério da Agricultura,
do Desenvolvimento Rural e das Pescas

Bluetongue

Demarcation of lower risk area
for BTV4



SCOFCAH -2 March 2010

Epidemiological situation

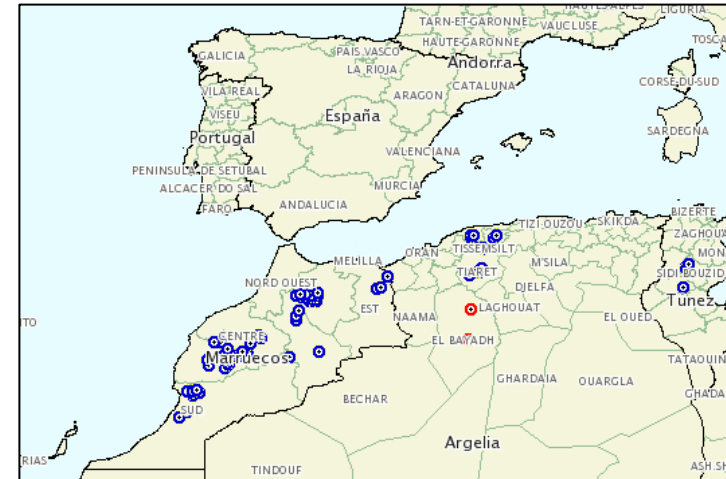
BTV4

- Bluetongue is a mandatory notifiable disease in Portugal since 1956, according to National legislation Portaria n.º 15 959 of 4th September 1956. This mandatory condition is reinforced by National Decree n.º 146/2002, of 21st May 2002.
- Bluetongue virus serotype 4 (BTV4) was first detected in Portugal the 23rd November 2004.
- Since 2004, control and monitoring programs were implemented:
 - Clinical surveillance,
 - Serological and virological surveillance,
 - Entomological surveillance and
 - Vaccination programs
 - BTV4 ovine vaccination
 - BTV4 bovine vaccination
- Last register of sporadic viral circulation of BTV4 in Portugal occurred in March 2008 (2 animals in one bovine holding with 50 animals).

Demarcation of lower risk area

BTV4

- Actually there is a new concern with BTV4 that occurred for the first time in Portugal and Spain in 2004 and is actually eradicated in the two countries.
- BTV4 is presently circulating in Morocco and Algeria



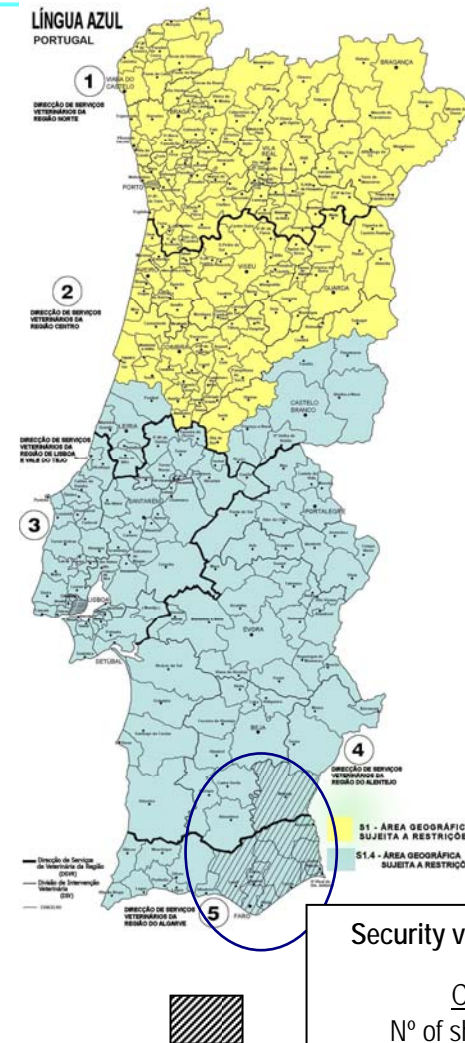
Source of the maps: Spanish Veterinary authorities

- Spain is particularly concerned, by its proximity to those countries, with the reappearance of the disease in its territory and has already decided to begin a prophylactic vaccination campaign for BTV4 in the regions that are neighbours of North of Africa.
- According to historical data, in case of re-emergence of the disease in Spanish territory, it is expectable that, soon after, it will affect also Portuguese territory as it occurred with the emergence of BTV4 and BTV1 in the past.



Demarcation of lower risk area BTV4

- In an articulated strategy with Spain and as an additional guarantee to protect cattle and sheep of the border area and reassure the farmers of those councils, Portugal decided to demarcate a security vaccination area.
- According to Commission Regulation (EC) nº 1266/2007 of 26th October, Portugal intends to demarcate the area that includes the councils Mértola, Alcoutim, Castro Marim, Vila Real de Santo António, Tavira, S. Braz de Alportel, Olhão, Faro and Loulé as a restricted zone BTV4 defined as “lower risk area of BTV4”, considering the demonstrated absence of BTV4 circulation.
- Inactivated BTV4 vaccine acquisition is in course in order to allow vaccination in the actual seasonally vector free period.
➔ This is considered the more adequate period to this vaccination, so that susceptible species are vaccinated before the risk period.





Thank you for your attention