



FESASS

FESASS' views for the Culicoides vector-borne diseases management

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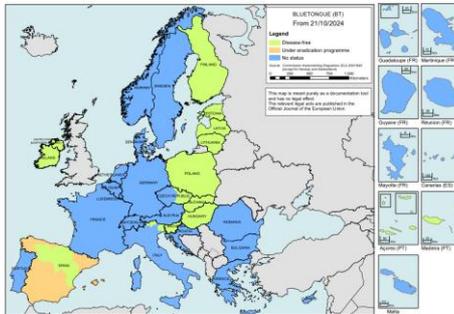
General Assembly of FESASS

Pacheco Centre, Brussels, 28 March 2025



➤ Different epidemiological situations

Between Member States



Inside infected Member States



Mapa 2: Zonas suspendidas por diferentes serotipos del virus de la lengua azul, 15 de noviembre 2024.

➤ Different attitudes in infected Member States

- Surveillance (vectors and disease)
- Vaccination compulsory or free
- Movement management (national and EU)
- Solidarity/compensation

➤ This situation results from:

- the diseases profiles and EU geographic and climate differences
- EU Categorization in CDE (BTV) or DE (EHD)
 - => Importance of subsidiarity
 - => Key role of the sector

➤ Long term eradication seems impossible

⇒ Learn to live with them?

⇒ Improve/adapt the management

➔ **Need for greater coordination**
➔ **& FESASS mobilization**





- **Work started in September 2024**
 - Based on the expertise of our member organisations
 - An internal working group
 - A questionnaire on the situation, the various problems identified and the priorities for the future
- **An initial summary presented to the AHAC and then to Parliament at the end of 2024**
- **A joint working group with experts from the competent authorities**
- **Internal summary report**
- **Presentation to the General Assembly (today)**
- **Then discussion with the CVOs and the Commission**

➤ Short term approach

⇒ Necessity of a strategy for the next campaign (2025)

- To organize it
- To well inform the farmers, veterinarians, vaccines producers and competent authorities
- To facilitate coordination between Member States

➤ Long term approach

⇒ Necessity to take in account the changes

- Increasing risks
- One Health approach
- Interest of vaccination





Mass but voluntary vaccination

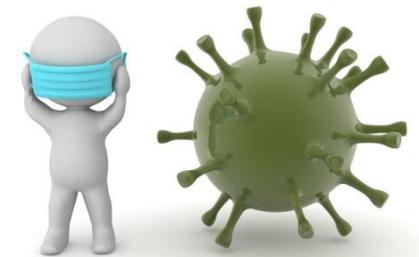
- Voluntary vaccination
 - Choice of each farmer, vet advise (risks and needs)
 - Better use of available vaccines
- Coordination required (MS, Stakeholders organisations, Vaccines Producers) to ensure availability of vaccines
- Requires financial and practical incentives (facilitating trade in live vaccinated animals)
- Need clear, coordinated messages for farmers and vets





➤ Protecting free zones and Member States

- Maintain the zoning/regionalisation policy
- In combination with the vaccination policy (sufficiently large buffer zone)
- Coordination/cooperation between MS in border areas
- Linked with surveillance and movements strategies





Trade must not jeopardise the health status of farms or the country of destination

- Inside of a same Member State
 - ⇒ Necessity to combine vaccination and zoning
 - To curb the spread of the disease
 - To secure the movements

- Between Member States
 - ⇒ Necessity to harmonize the derogations
 - Adapted to the level of risk
 - To facilitate coordination between Member States
 - Improving the rules (better understanding and implementation)

Strengthened surveillance: 3 Priorities cf. Workshop SP presidency

➤ Vectors surveillance

- => To strengthen the prevention (One Health)
- => Seasonally free period

➤ Surveillance of epidemiologic situation

- => To adapt the strategy as soon as possible
- => To assess clinical impacts

➤ Maintaining surveillance in vaccinated areas

- => To evaluate vaccine efficiency

➔ **Better management of the risk**

➔ **Guarantees for trade**



Public and sector shared responsibility

Being adaptable and innovative

- **Targeting the surveillance based on risks**
- **Create a specific data bank**
 - => increased transparency
 - => a work for the EURL
- **An updated map of EU situation**
 - => importance of the data bank
 - => using AI?
- **Use other new technologies**
 - => test new technologies for accurate and faster identification of vectors and virus associated





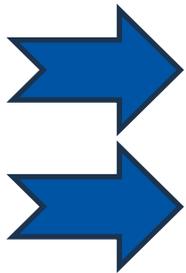
The importance of thinking about long-term objectives

- Eradication or control => EFSA opinion
- Recategorisation E or ED or EDC + different according to enzootic and exotic serotypes => EFSA opinion
- Reassess the list of sensitive species => need EHD data and EFSA opinion



Adapting surveillance for early detection

- Same as measures for the 2025 campaign
- Securing financing
- Improve our knowledge of vectors and the pathogenicity of different serotypes

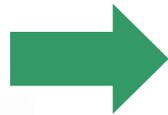


To strengthen preparedness

To proportionate reaction



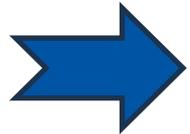
Vaccines: key tools in the context of emerging vector-borne diseases



Better and faster availability of vaccines

- Facilitate the use of new/recent vaccines at EU level before their marketing authorization will be granted (TUA = Reg (EU 2019/6))
- R&D for multivalent vaccines
- Creation of a data base to centralize of all genetic sequences of orbiviruses strains available
- More antigen, vaccine and diagnostic reagent banks
- Develop a partnership between stakeholders and producers to better precise and secure the vaccine demand

- **EU and international cooperation and coordination**
 - Adapt the international standards on vector-borne diseases
 - Develop One Health cooperation on zoonotic vector-borne diseases to increase synergies in the research and surveillance



Key role of EU Commission and WOAH

- **Increasing resistance**
 - Develop genetic resistance (“Tropicalisation” of the herd)
- **Use natural immunity if feasible to secure movements**
 - Create a new movement derogation based on a positive PCR + 60 days
- **Extending health funding to other stakeholders**
- **Strengthening international cooperation, especially in the Mediterranean Basin**



FESASS
Fédération Européenne pour la Santé Animale
et la Sécurité Sanitaire



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

