



# ANIMAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Working Group of the  
Advisory Group on the Food Chain

## Sheep Pox outbreak in Spain

## Update and current State-of-play

**European Commission**

Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety

Unit G2-Animal Health

*Brussels, 02 June 2023*

# Sheep Pox & Goat Pox (SGP) in Spain:

- **Ocurrence and evolution**
- **Overview – measures**
- **Observations - Conclusions**

First outbreak (*Benamaurel, Granada, Andalucía*)

**Outbreak 2022/1**

*(19/09/2022) a holding with 314 sheep and 11 goats, grazing in own pastures.*

**CID (EU) 2022/1639**

**PZ:** 3km radius (21d)

**SZ:** 10km radius(28d)

First occurrence after approximately 50 years !

**Possible origin:**

North Africa? (working hypothesis)



## *SGP in Spain: Occurrence and evolution*

### More outbreaks in Andalucia (Granada) – Spread to Castilla – La Mancha (Cuenca)

**Outbreaks 2022/2- 9**

*(26-29/09/2022)*

**CID (EU) 2022/1913**

**PZ:** 3km radius (21d)

**SZ:** 10km radius(28d)

Long distance “leap”  
from Granada to  
Cuenca (appr. 200 km  
North)



# *SGP in Spain: Occurrence and evolution*

## Internal spread in Andalusia (Granada) and Castilla – La Mancha (Cuenca)

**Outbreaks 2022/10-16**

*(05-13/10/2022)*

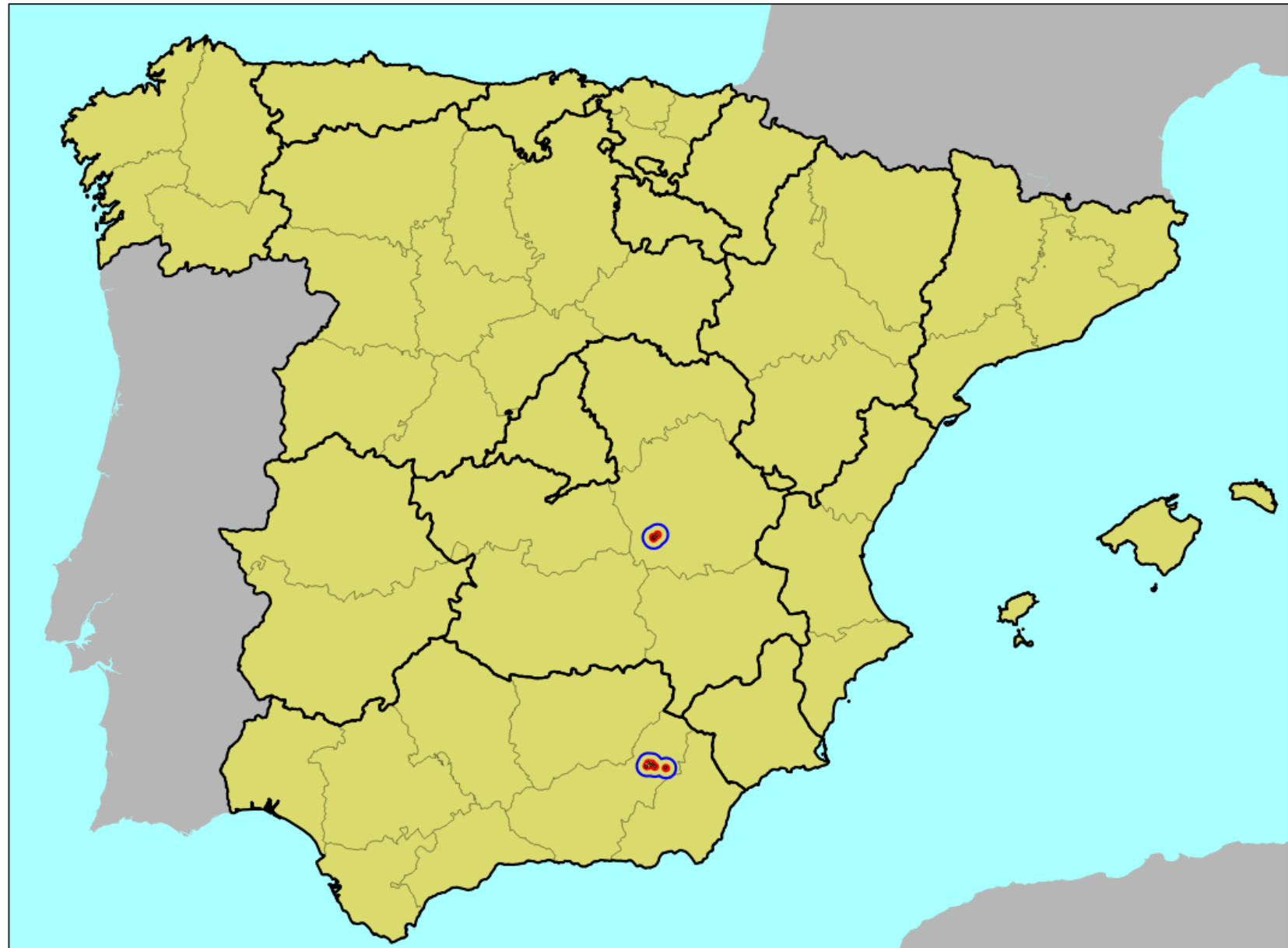
**CID (EU) 2022/2004**

**PZ:** 3km radius (21d)

**SZ:** 10km radius(28d)

**EUVET Expert visit**

*(17-18 Oct 2023)*



Further spread in Andalucia (Granada , 1st outbreak in Almeria)

**Outbreaks 2022/17-21**

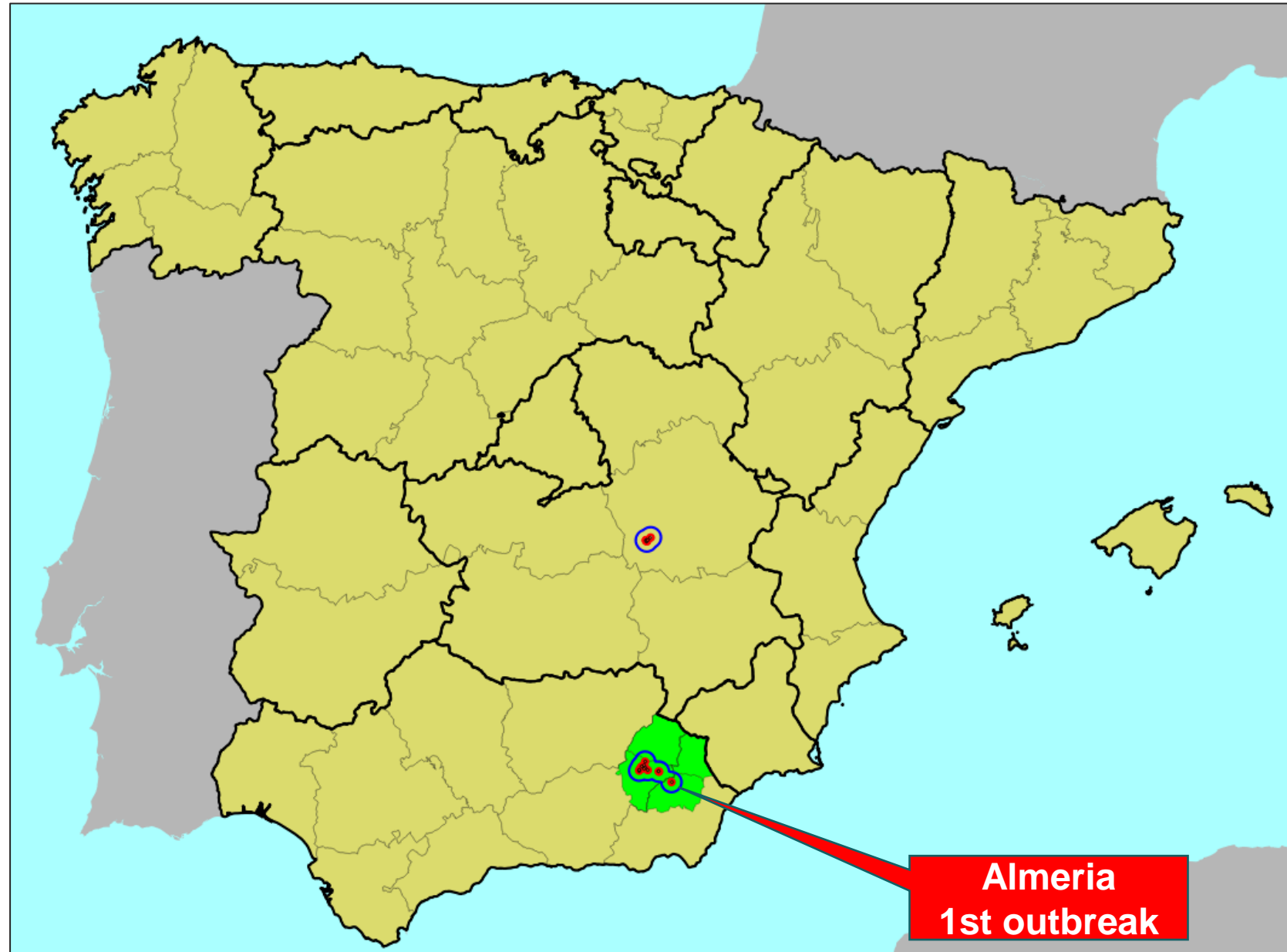
*(19/10-8/11/2022)*

**CID (EU) 2022/2333**

**PZ : 3km radius (21d)**

**SZ : 10km radius(28d)**

**FRZ: 4 “Comarcas”, 2 in province of Granada and 2 in the province of Almeria, (until 16/1/2023)**



2 more outbreaks in Castilla – La Mancha (*Cuenca*)

**Outbreaks 2022/22-23**

*(29/11/2022)*

**CID (EU) 2023/10** *(adopted*

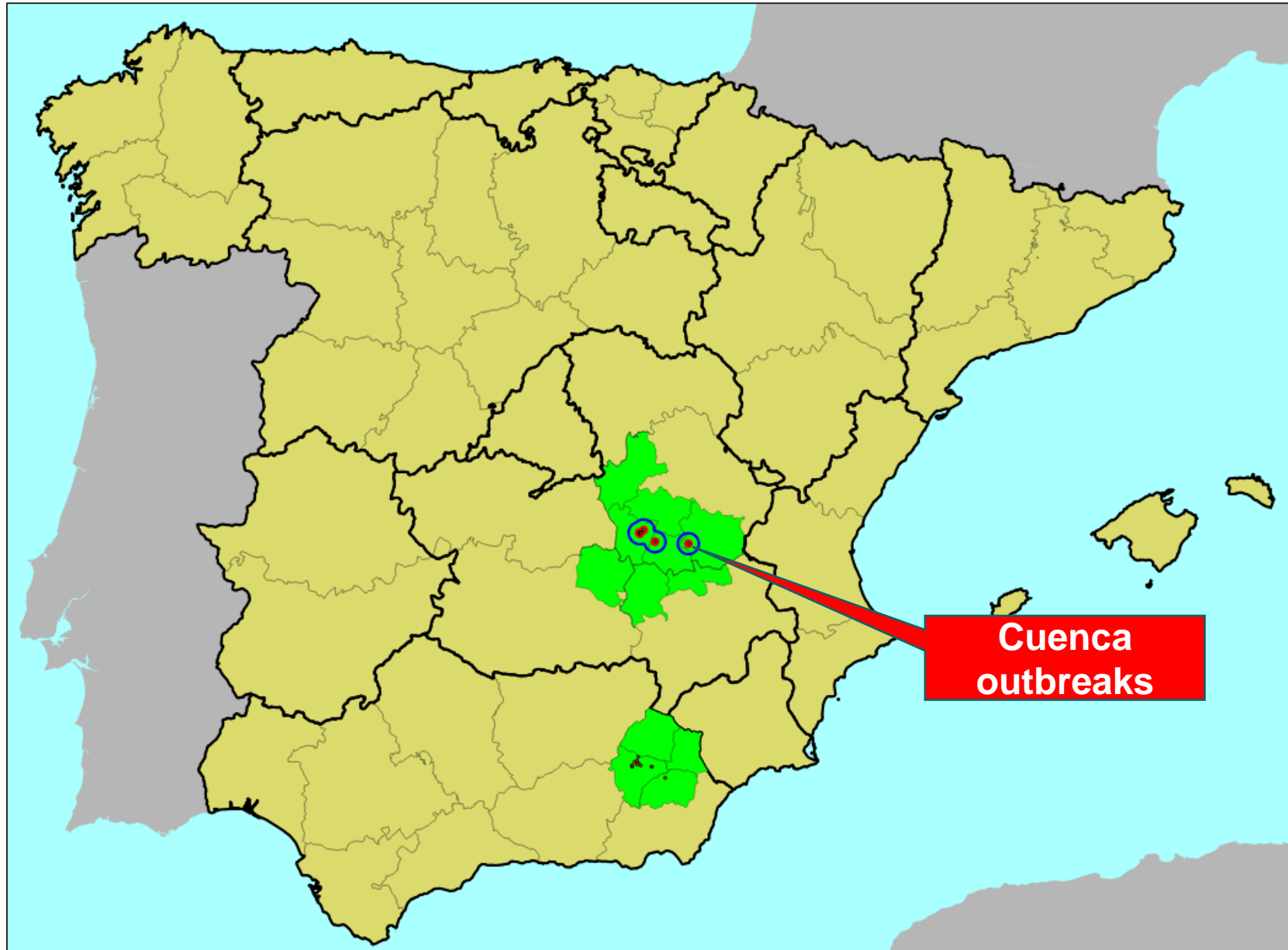
*20 Dec 2022)*

**PZ: 3km radius (21d)**

**SZ: 10km radius(28d)**

**FRZ: same as before in  
Andalucia (until 16.01.2023)**

**+ 10 “Comarcas agrarias”  
in Castilla – La Mancha  
(until 16.02.2023)**





**2 more outbreaks in Castilla – La Mancha (1st outbreak in Ciudad Real)**

**Outbreaks 2023/1-3**

*(24/1-08/02/2023)*

**CID (EU) 2023/414**

**PZ: 5km radius (30d)**

**SZ: 20km radius(37d)**

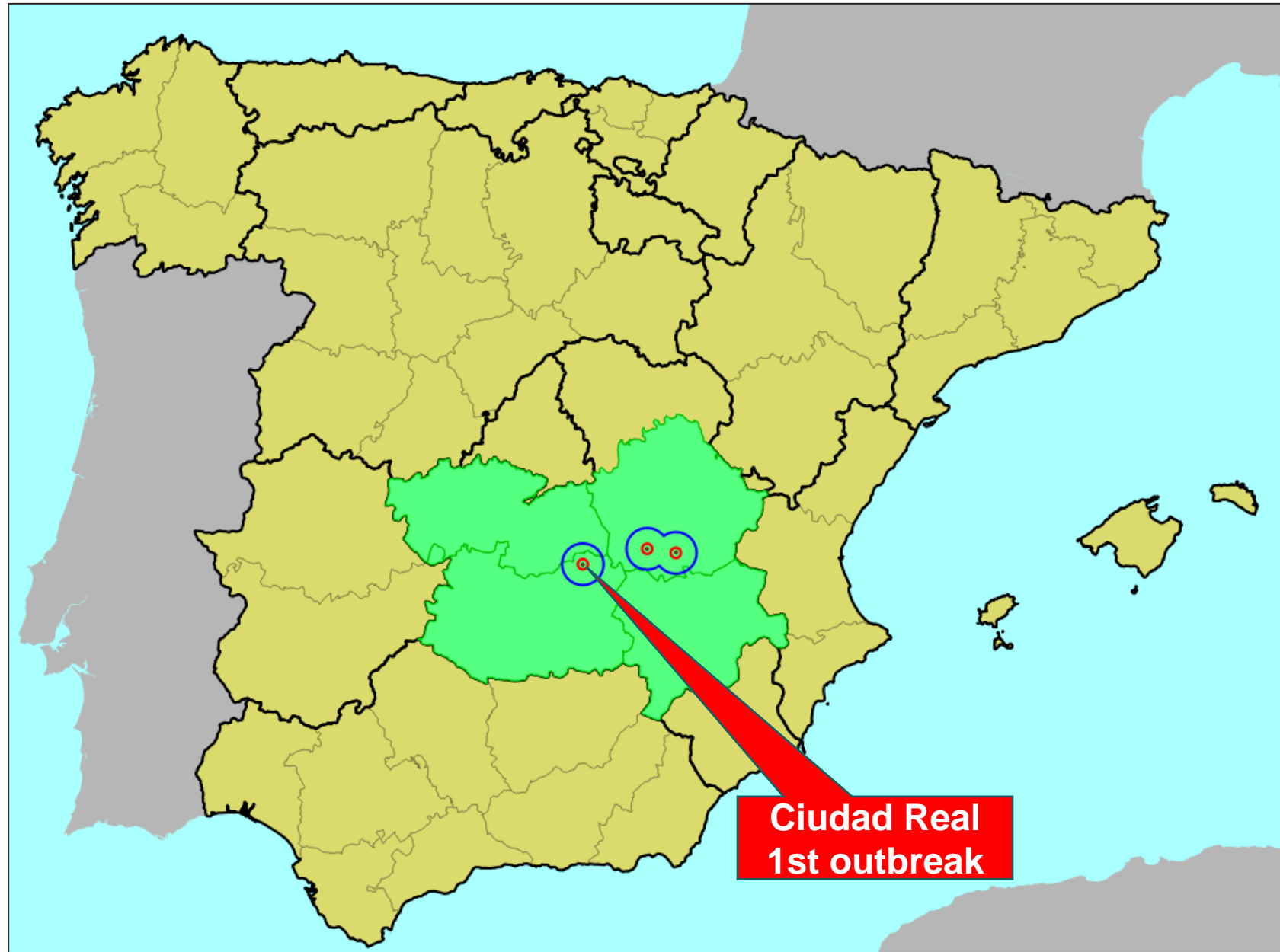
**FRZ: 4 entire provinces in**

**Castilla – La Mancha:**

**Cuenca, Toledo, Albacete**

**and Ciudad Real**

**(until 17.05.2023)**





## SGP in Spain: Occurrence and evolution

### 2 more outbreaks in Castilla – La Mancha (in Ciudad Real)

**Outbreaks 2023/4-5**

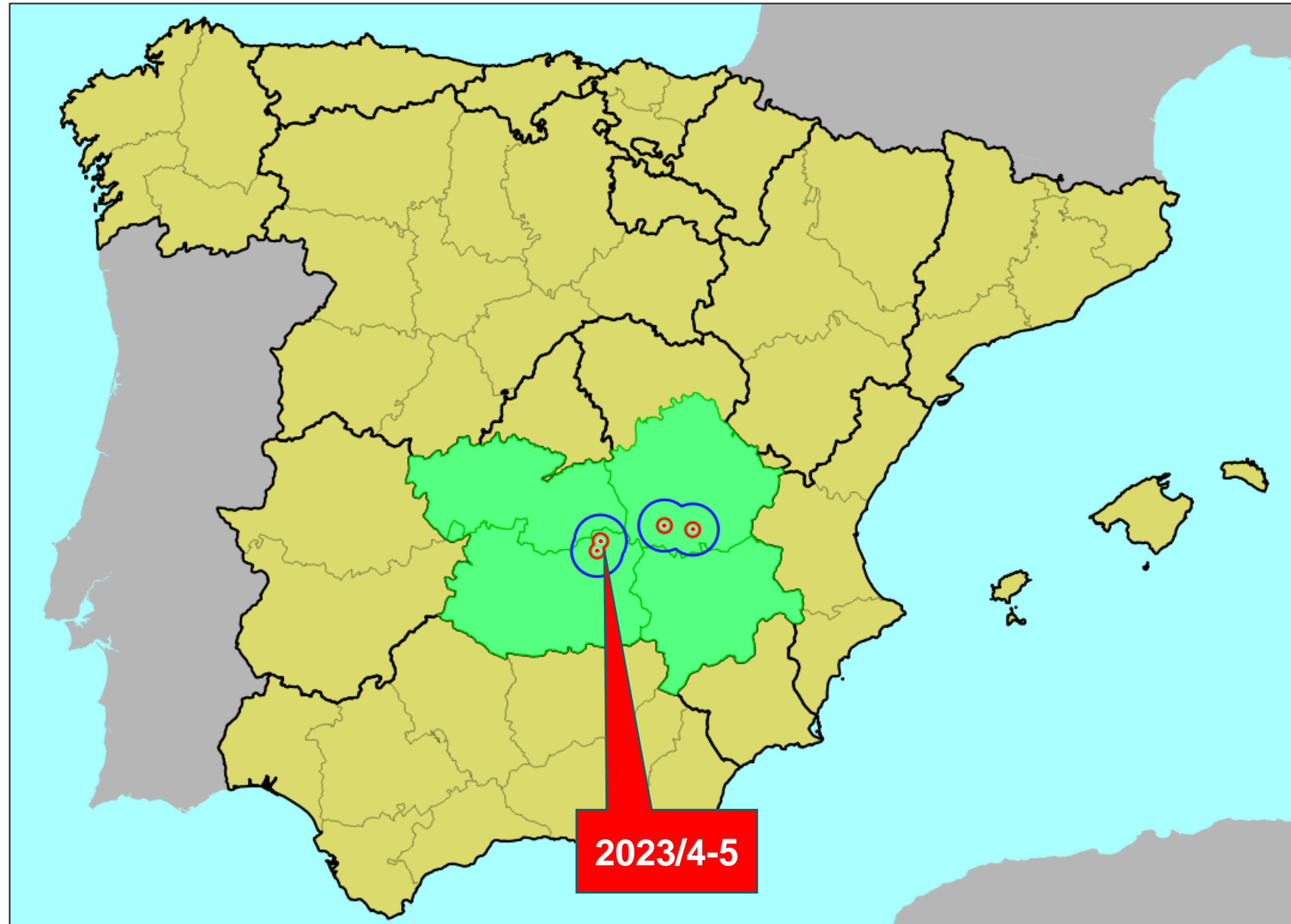
*(22-30/03/2023)*

**CID (EU) 2023/836**

**PZ : 7km radius (35d)**

**SZ : 25km radius(51d)**

**FRZ: same as before, 4  
entire provinces in Castilla  
– La Mancha  
(until 05/07/2023)**



## SGP in Spain: Occurrence and evolution

### 1 more outbreak in Castilla – La Mancha (in Ciudad Real)

#### **Outbreak 2023/6**

(10/04/2023)

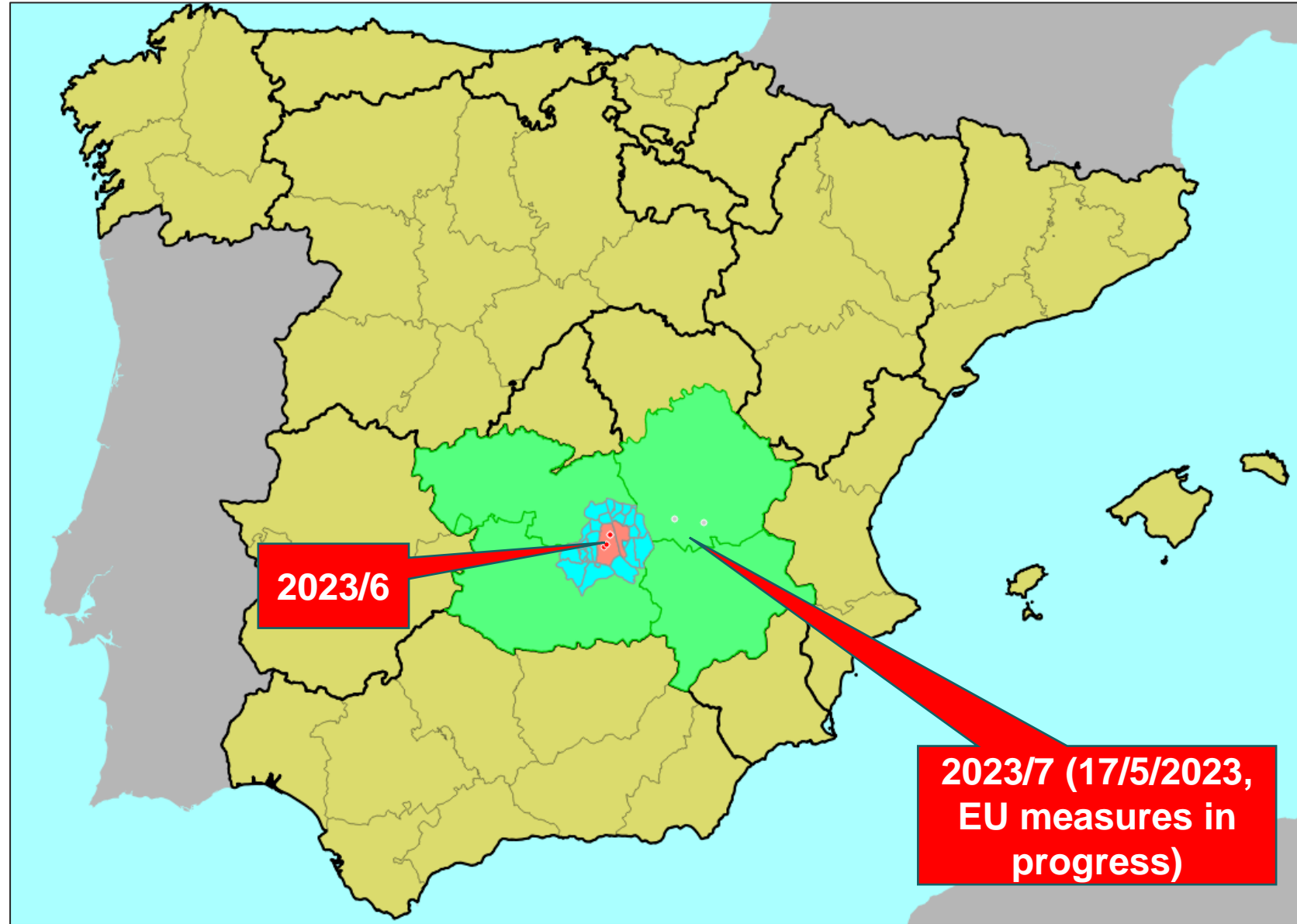
#### **CID (EU) 2023/872**

**PZ:** all municipalities within  
10km radius (44d)

**SZ:** all municipalities within  
30km radius(59d)

**FRZ:** same as before, 4  
entire provinces in Castilla  
– La Mancha  
(until 31/07/2023)

**EUVET Expert visit**  
(24-26 May 2023)



## Current situation – Overview

**2022: 23 Outbreaks** distributed in 2 distinctive clusters:

- **Andalucia: 13 outbreaks**, last outbreak reported in early Nov 2022
- **Castilla - La Mancha: 10 outbreaks**, last outbreak reported in late Nov 2022

**2023: 7 outbreaks**, all in Castilla – La Mancha, latest reported in 17 May 2023, no outbreaks in Andalucia

**Total susceptible animals in all outbreaks to date:**

**50.346 sheep and 2.199 goats**

**Average size of affected holdings:**

**Andalucia: 250 heads**

**Castilla – La Mancha: 2.900 heads**

# Current situation – Overview

## **Control measures : Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687**

- ❑ **Affected farms (outbreaks):** stamping out , cleaning and disinfection etc.
- ❑ **Establishment of protection (PZ) and surveillance zones (SZ) around outbreaks (restricted zones)**
- ❑ **In the restricted zones :**
  - **Census of all farms and susceptible animals** (species, categories, number of animals/establishment).
  - **Restriction on the movement and official control of animal and risk products movements, including reproductive materials and ABP.**
  - **Prohibition of fairs, markets, exhibitions** and other concentrations of livestock.
  - **Enhanced biosecurity and passive surveillance.**
- ❑ **Safeguard measures : Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2333**

Description of the restricted zones (= PZ and SZ around outbreaks) + Further Restricted zones and additional measures therein.

## Current situation – Overview

**Additional safeguard measures: Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2333**

*[latest amendment : CID (EU) 2023/872 ]*

### **Protection zone** and **Surveillance Zone**

Movements of small ruminants allowed only for slaughter, exclusively in slaughterhouses within the same PZ or SZ, after clinical inspection at the place of origin.

### **Further Restricted Zone**

Movements of small ruminants outside the FRZ allowed only for slaughter, after clinical inspection at the place of origin.

### **In all above cases:**

movements of animals to the slaughterhouse has to take place in sealed lorries, subject to cleaning and disinfection, before and after transport, under official supervision.

# Current situation – Overview

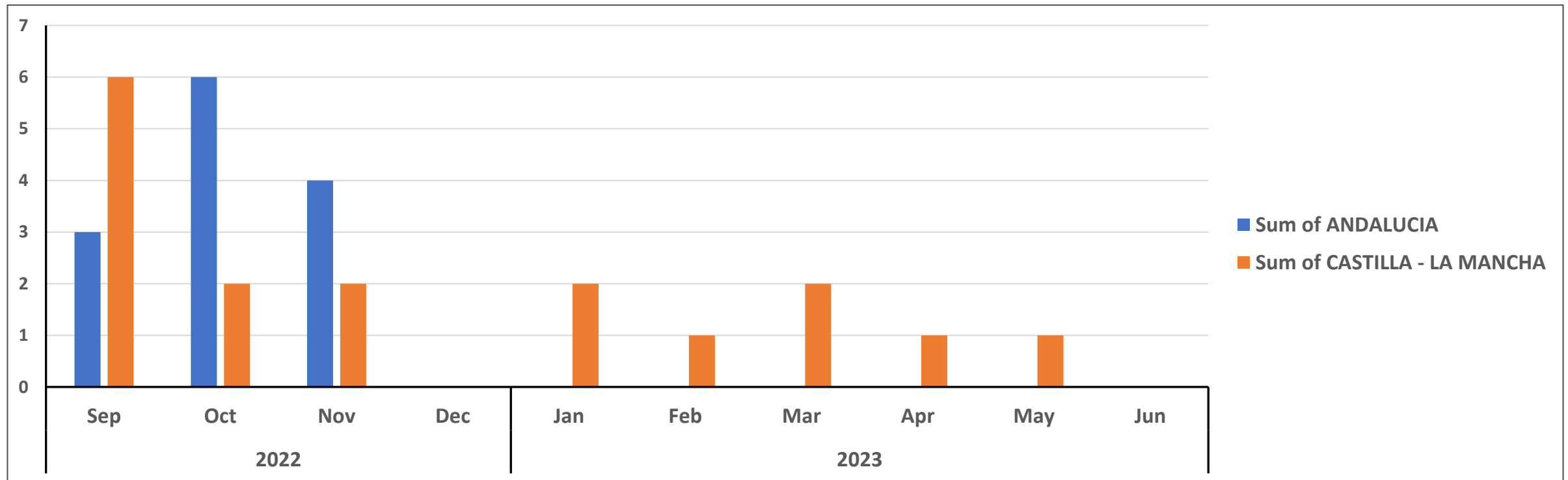
## Additional Information

- Samples sent to the EURL (Sciensano, Belgium) for phylogenetic analysis to try to identify possible origin of the strain circulating in Spain. **Some regions of the genome connect to strains from North African origin.**
- **Origin of the virus remains unknown** at the moment, investigations ongoing
- **Systematic active surveillance conducted by the OVS** of affected regions (clinical + laboratory) in all holdings in the PZ and the SZ (emphasis on suspect and risk-contact farms).
- In some cases **animal transport vehicles** and **unregistered animal movements** have been cited as possible sources of disease spread
- In Castilla – La Mancha SGP control further hampered by **close and complex interconnections between holdings/related enterprises.**
- **No risk movement identified to other member states.**
- **EU additional support : EU VET missions (17-18 October and 24-26 May)**  
(cooperation of field and EURL experts with Spanish veterinary authorities)

# Observations until 02/06/2023

Measures have been effective in that:

- To date **the disease has not escaped from the Further Restricted Zones**
- There are **less outbreaks in 2023 compared to 2022**
- **Outbreaks in 2023 recorded only in Castilla-La Mancha** (no outbreaks in Andalucia)



**However, it is estimated that strict implementation of control measures will be required for some additional time, in order to fully eliminate the disease**



# Additional information

Additional info presented at the PAFF Committee website (section Animal Health and Welfare):

[https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/committees/paff-committees/animal-health-and-welfare\\_en](https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/committees/paff-committees/animal-health-and-welfare_en)

Information related to the disease, made available by the Spanish authorities, can be found at the following link:

[https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/ganaderia/temas/sanidad-animal-higiene-ganadera/sanidad-animal/enfermedades/viruela-ovina-caprina/viruela\\_ovina\\_caprina.aspx](https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/ganaderia/temas/sanidad-animal-higiene-ganadera/sanidad-animal/enfermedades/viruela-ovina-caprina/viruela_ovina_caprina.aspx)

**LA VIRUELA OVINA Y CAPRINA ES UNA ENFERMEDAD MUY GRAVE QUE HA APARECIDO EN ESPAÑA Y AFECTA A GANADO OVINO Y CAPRINO EN NINGÚN CASO SE TRANSMITE A LOS SERES HUMANOS**

¿Cómo podemos saber si nuestras ovejas o cabras pueden haber contraído la enfermedad?

**1 Examine diariamente a los animales de su granja; principalmente las ovejas, pero también las cabras**

- > En la cabeza
- > En el abdomen
- > En el pecho
- > En las axilas
- > En el área genital
- > En la base y bajo la cola
- > En el muslo
- > En cualquier otra parte del cuerpo del animal sin pelo



**2 Buscar cuidadosamente lesiones de estos tipos:**

Enrojecimiento, vesículas llenas de líquido, o bien rotas con puntos rojos de la piel, otras heridas, lesiones cicatrizadas en forma de puntos negros, llagas



Oveja con externas lesiones en forma de papulos (o máculas a grandes rasgos) distribuidas por todo el cuerpo, en especial en la zona del abdomen



Lesiones en forma de papulas en la base y debajo de la cola



Lesiones granuladas en forma de papule



Lesiones características en órganos internos (hígado, páncreas...)



Lesiones enrojecidas y en fase de cicatrización en el hocico



Lesiones avanzadas, en fase de cicatrización, cicatrizadas por todo el cuerpo y abdomen



Lesiones granuladas en forma de papulos distribuidas por el abdomen y la zona inguinal



Lesiones en forma de vesículas y papulas en la base del muslo

**3 SI SE DETECTA CUALQUIERA DE ESTOS SÍNTOMAS O LESIONES COMPATIBLES CON LA ENFERMEDAD COMUNIQUE DE FORMA INMEDIATA A LOS SERVICIOS VETERINARIOS OFICIALES ESTOS HALLAZGOS Y SIGA SUS INSTRUCCIONES**

SI SOSPECHA QUE SUS ANIMALES PUEDEN HABER CONTRAÍDO LA ENFERMEDAD, **NO ESPERE Y AVISE DE FORMA INMEDIATA A LOS VETERINARIOS** TODO EL GANADO DE SU REGIÓN PUEDE ESTAR EN RIESGO

Para más información, póngase en contacto con las autoridades veterinarias locales de su zona

¿Cómo debemos actuar para prevenir la entrada de Viruela Ovina y Caprina en nuestras explotaciones?

- > Evitar o reducir al mínimo posible las visitas externas a nuestra explotación, así como nuestras visitas a otras explotaciones de ovejas y cabras.
- > Evitar compartir personal, maquinaria, herramientas, pienso, material de cama y otros materiales entre explotaciones.
- > Reforzar la limpieza y desinfección de nuestros vehículos, en especial las ruedas y bajos, tras la entrada y antes de la salida de nuestra explotación
- > Comunicar a los Servicios Veterinarios Oficiales cualquier movimiento sospechoso de ser ilegal en la zona del que tengamos conocimiento

## Conclusions - Lessons for the future

**Emerging diseases like Sheep Pox and Goat pox can still return, even a very long time after their last occurrence !**

**All countries should be always prepared and vigilant for all emerging diseases, even those eradicated a long time ago !**

# Thank you



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