

EN
E-000482/2022
Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.4.2022)

Lyme borreliosis is endemic, occurring in some parts of Europe¹. Lyme borreliosis is a notifiable disease in most EU countries², with 3.734 cases reported by 24 countries³, in 2020. Five countries (Denmark, Greece, Luxembourg, Romania and Sweden) did not report cases of Lyme disease that year.

No requests of support for information and awareness-raising campaigns on Lyme disease were received. The Commission supports the Vectornet⁴ network that produces maps of ticks⁵ distribution by species and ways to avoid infections.

Lyme disease diagnostics depend on the infection stage, starting with enzyme immunoassay or immunofluorescence assay and, when positive, confirmation with a Western blot analysis. Antibiotic prophylaxis is recommended after a tick bite, when high exposure is confirmed. Antibiotic therapy is indicated, associated with specialized care, following the Lyme Borrellia disease complications (cardiac, neurologic or articular).

¹ https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Organisation-vector-surveillance-control-Europe_0.pdf

² <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/media/en/publications/Publications/Tick-borne-diseases-meeting-report.pdf>

³ <https://atlas.ecdc.europa.eu/public/index.aspx?Dataset=27&HealthTopic=56>

⁴ The European network for medical and veterinary entomology, <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/about-us/partnerships-and-networks/disease-and-laboratory-networks/vector-net>

⁵ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/disease-vectors/surveillance-and-disease-data/tick-maps>