



The Asian Tiger Mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*): A threat to the life and health of EU citizens.

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Summary

The Asian Tiger Mosquito is considered one of the biggest threats in the European Union in terms of human health, living conditions and diversity in the environment. The Asian Tiger Mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*), considered an invasive species, spread throughout Europe in the late twentieth century. According to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), as of April 2026, the *Aedes albopictus* mosquito has been detected in 384 regional administrative units in 16 EU/EEA countries (ECDC, 2026). This mosquito poses a threat to the EU population due to its ability to carry vector-borne diseases. To prevent this threat, governments have resorted to chemical warfare. However, the findings I have encountered show that these chemical interventions cause serious damage to nature and the environment, and destroy other living things besides mosquitoes. As a different intervention method, eliminating mosquito breeding areas will demonstrate great success in offsetting the increase. In order to ensure the health of the public in a permanent way without harming the environment, it is recommended that research funds be directed to environmentally friendly control methods. In this process, the EU is encouraged to support only environmental policies and to conduct public information campaigns aimed at the destruction of breeding grounds.

KEY POINTS*

1. The spread of the **Asian Tiger Mosquito** in EU member states poses a threat to public health and human lives.
2. The increase of the Asian Tiger Mosquito as an invasive alien species spreading throughout the EU appears to increase **the number of endangered citizens and health risks**.
3. Instead of using chemicals that harm the environment, environmentally friendly population control measures and awareness campaigns about health risks are recommended.

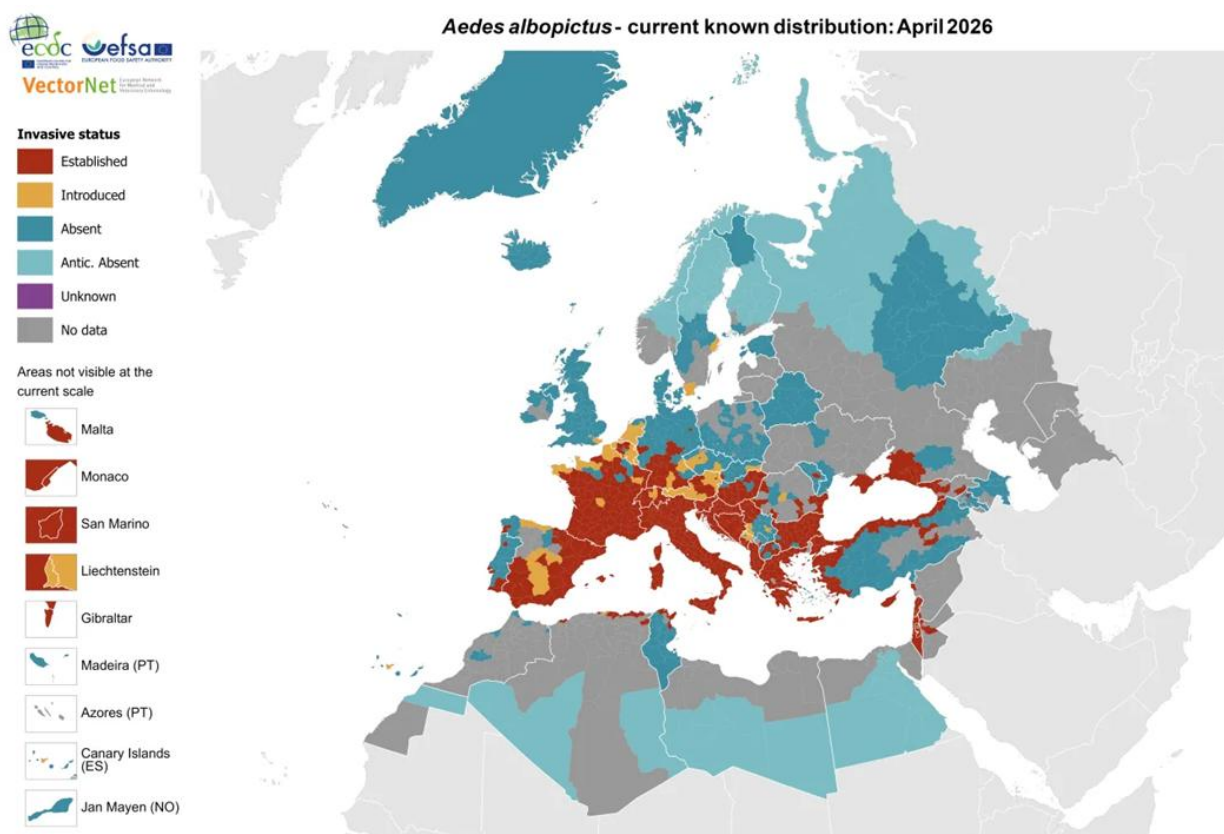


1. Invasive Species: An Increasing Threat to the European Union

The Asian Tiger Mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*), an invasive species, is now a significant problem for the European Union. This mosquito poses health risks to humans, spreads diseases, and can harm both human health and the environment. Due to the impact of climate change, this problem is worsening and becoming a crisis that requires intervention. The European Commission (EC) has added 114 invasive alien species to the list of “Invasive Alien Species of Union Concern”, which also includes the Asian Tiger Mosquito.

European Union (EU) Regulation No. 1143/2014 focuses on preventing such invasive alien species from entering Europe, detecting them early, rapid eradication them and controlling the spread of species. Climate change creates more favorable conditions for some invasive species to establish themselves in new regions. The Asian Tiger Mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) also prefers warm and humid climates.

Case in Point: Climate change and suitable breeding areas in urban areas have allowed the mosquito population to spread permanently from the Mediterranean basin towards Central and Northern Europe.



2- Spread of the Tiger Mosquito and Its Health Threat

The Asian Tiger Mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) is considered an invasive species that is rapidly spreading across the European Union and poses a threat to public health.

According to the data of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) dated April 2026, 384 regions and 16 countries within the EU/EEA (European Economic Area) are continuing their activities (ECDC, 2026).

In the latest reports I have received, it clearly shows us that the Asian Tiger Mosquito is creating new habitats in countries such as Bulgaria, France, Greece, Portugal and Romania.

The main danger posed by this species is not only that it is spreading rapidly between countries, but also that it is a very serious carrier for serious diseases such as Dengue fever (Dengue Decongestant) and Chikungunya.

Experts from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) show us that climate change and increasing air temperatures are the most basic factors that allow this species to move north.

As a result of this, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) points out that in European countries where there are suitable climatic conditions and there are mosquito communities carrying the disease, the likelihood of cases of diseases occurring in individuals who have not traveled abroad increases.

This situation makes controlling mosquito populations a top priority.



3- The EU's Less Toxic and Environmentally Friendly Approach

Chemical drug methods have been used for many years in order to reduce the number of mosquitoes during disease outbreaks spread by tiger mosquitoes. However, for many years, the constant and improper use of chemical drugs has left many creatures under threat, except mosquitoes as a focal point; I have observed that it has also caused the destruction and loss of habitat of creatures that are not targeted but face severe consequences, such as bees, butterflies and other creatures. At the same time, the contamination of underground water sources by chemicals and their Decontamination leave us with a deep dilemma between endangering public health and maintaining the life spans of living beings. At this point, the European Union's *Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability* (Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability) aims to protect people's health and the environment from dangerous chemical drugs and the consequences they will cause. Thus, it aims to ensure that all living beings can continue their lives in a safe habitat.



The *Zero Pollution Action Plan* (Zero Pollution Action Plan), which supports this policy, appears as a target to reduce the use of chemical drugs and the environmental risks arising from them by at least 50% by 2030. In the face of these goals and environmental imperatives, it is no longer sustainable to continue the fight against mosquitoes with chemical spraying alone, it is a danger. Among the future management plans, ideas should be considered that will primarily focus on eliminating artificial water sources such as potting pads, buckets, Decrepit car tires and open water tanks in urban and rural areas.

This environmentally friendly approach idea, which aims to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds and protect the environment, aims to minimize serious damage to other creatures and the environment that will both reduce the increase in mosquitoes and to minimize serious damage to the environment.



My Recommendations:

1. The first step should not be chemical intervention!

Member states of the European Union (EU) should identify mosquito breeding sites and focus on their elimination before resorting to chemical interventions.

2. More attention should be paid to environmentally friendly methods and research support should be provided.

EU research funds should be directed towards methods that protect human health from mosquitoes without harming biodiversity.

3. A regular monitoring system should be developed for mosquitoes spreading in Europe.

The ECDC and member states should be able to regularly monitor the increase and spread of *Aedes albopictus* and evaluate mosquito data by comparing it with disease data.

4. Public awareness-raising policies should be implemented.

The EU should carry out public awareness activities to inform the public that stagnant puddles around houses, gardens and areas used by the public in everyday life can create breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

5- When chemical control is unavoidable, it should be applied specifically and only against mosquitoes.

When the use of medicines is mandatory, the methods of administering medicines should be as targeted as possible and should comply with the EU's goal to reduce the risk arising from chemical medicines.

FOOTNOTES *

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The content of this policy brief lies entirely with the author. It does not reflect the official opinion of Çağ University.