

Transport of animals: challenges for the meat and livestock traders



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European Livestock and Meat Trades Union – UECBV

The **European Livestock and Meat Trades Union (UECBV)** is the EU voice of national federations representing livestock markets, livestock traders (cattle, horses, sheep, pigs), meat traders (beef, horse meat, sheep meat, pig meat), and the meat industry (slaughterhouses, cutting plants, meat preparation plants).

Today, **UECBV** represents more than **50 associations** of :

- **EU Member States** as well as certain EFTA countries.
- EU trade partners in the meat sector are also associated to the UECBV (**Japan, Norway, Switzerland, Ukraine and United Kingdom**)

3 European Associations

Livestock markets (AEMB)
Casings industry (ENSCA)
Ship suppliers (OCEAN)

In total, some **20,000 firms** of all sizes and over **230,000 jobs** are represented within the UECBV through its national member federations.



WHAT IS UECBV?

UECBV is the **European Livestock and Meat Trades Union**. It represents the national federations of the:

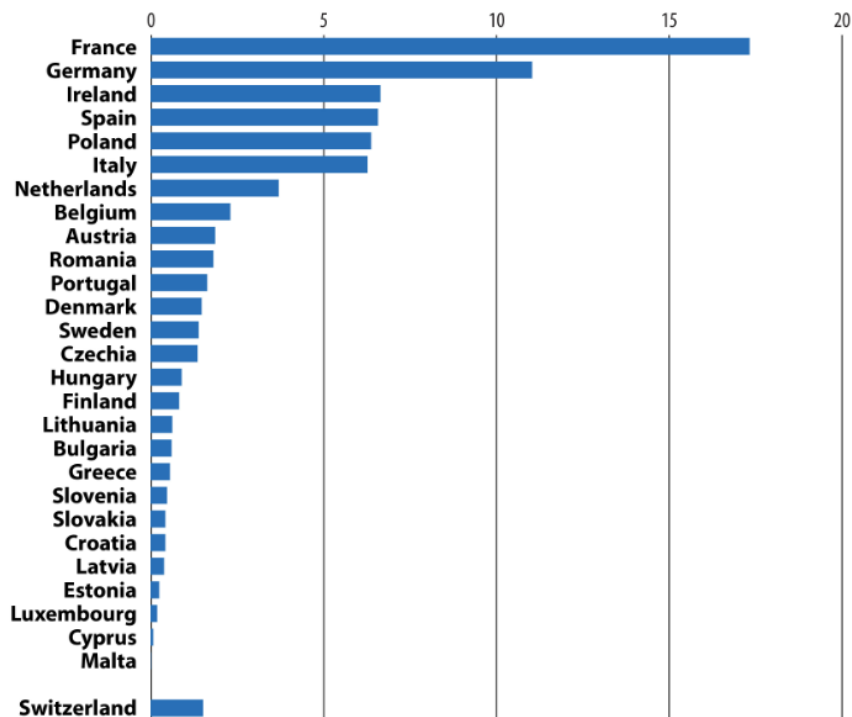
- livestock traders
- livestock markets
- meat industry: slaughterhouses, cutting and preparation plants
- wholesale meat traders
- international meat traders

UECBV focuses on **cattle, beef / horses, horsemeat / sheep and goats, sheep and goat meat / pigs, pork.**

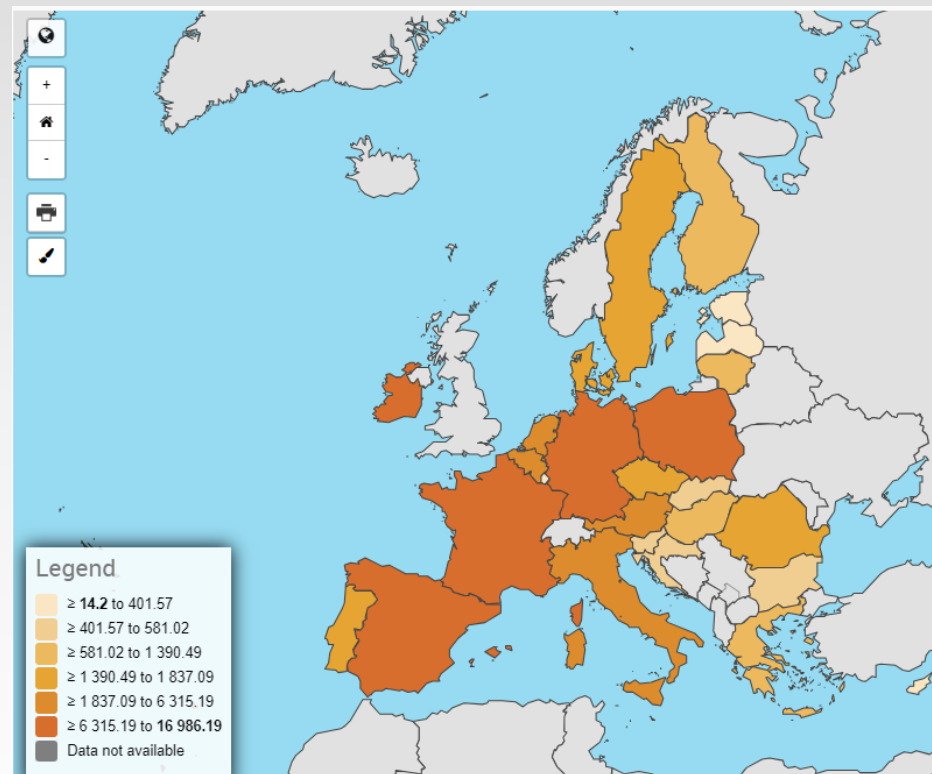
EU Livestock numbers – Bovine - 74.8 million heads

Bovine animal population, 2021

(in millions)



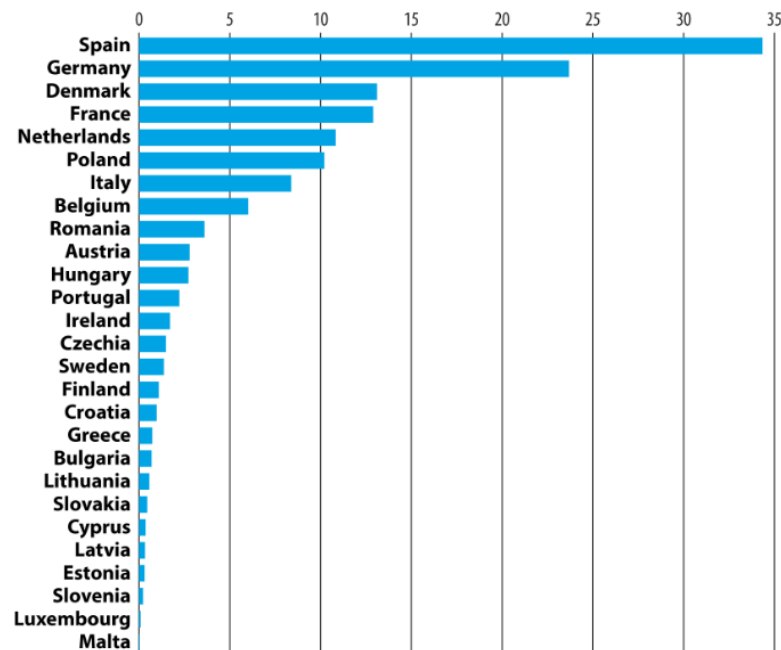
ec.europa.eu/eurostat



EU Livestock numbers – Pigs – 134.5 million heads

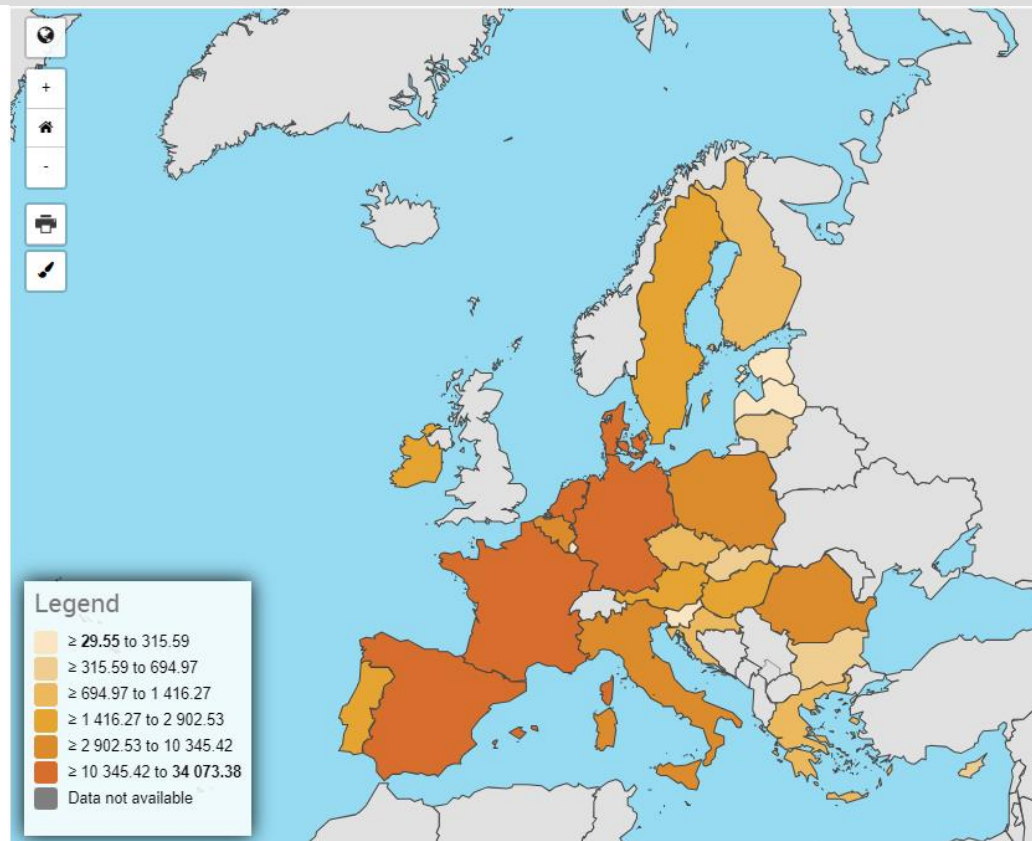
Pig population, 2021

(in millions)

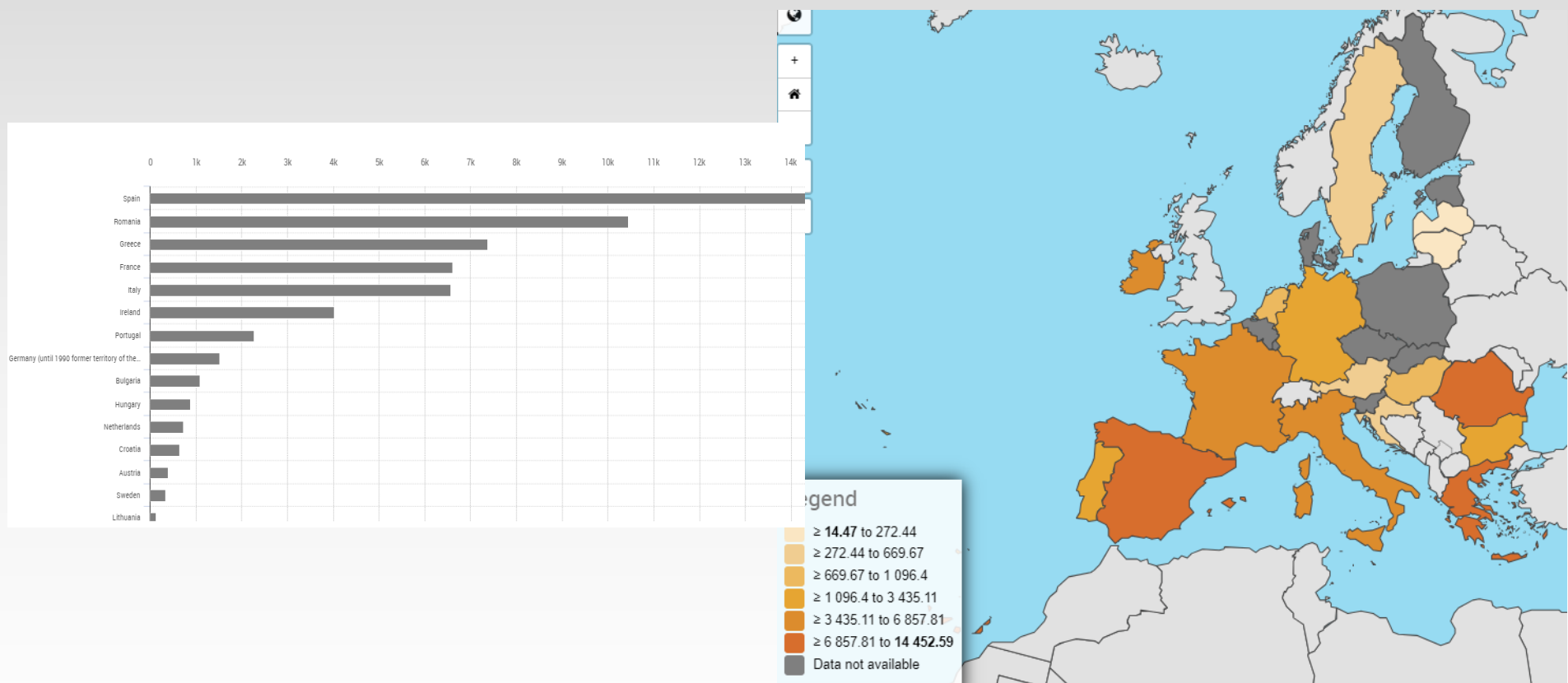


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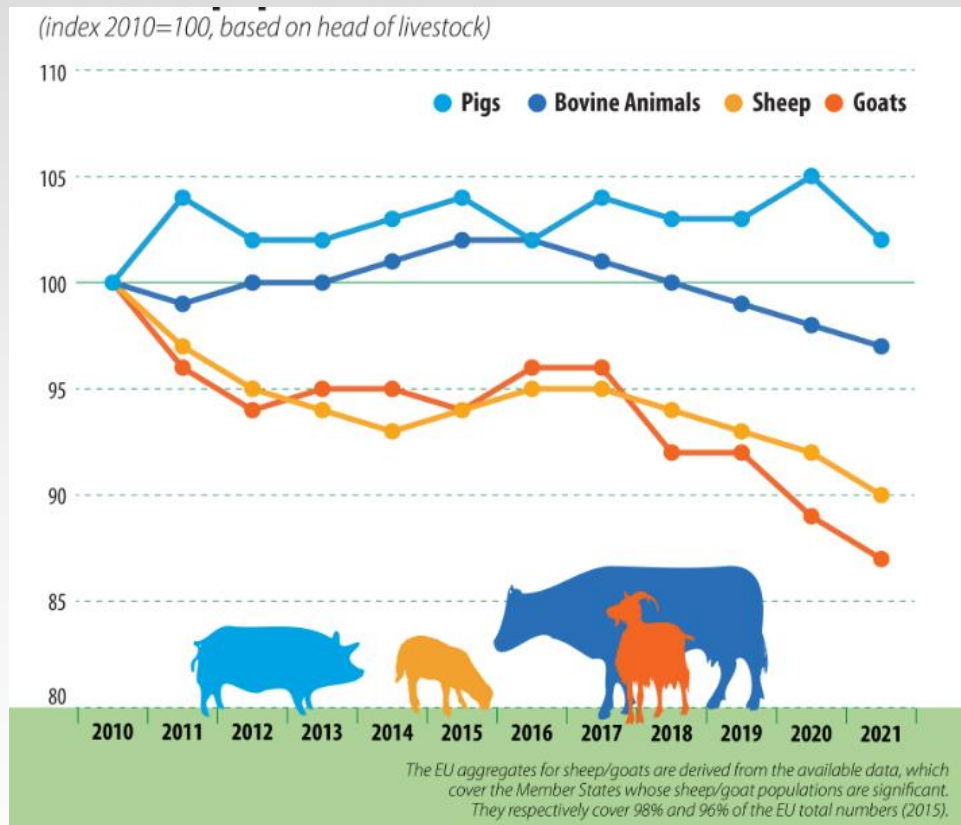
Source dataset: [apro_mt_lspig](#).



EU Livestock numbers – Sheep – 59.5 million heads



EU Livestock population in EU – Evolution 2010-2021



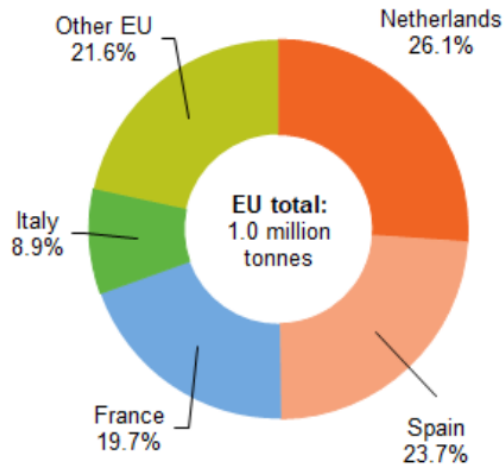
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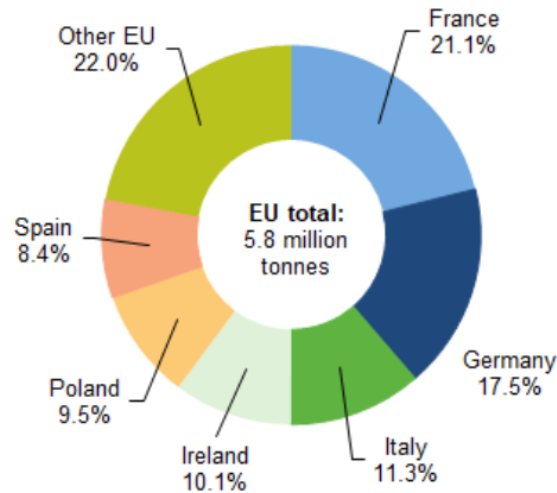
EU Beef and veal production

Share of quantity of EU meat production (%, 2021)

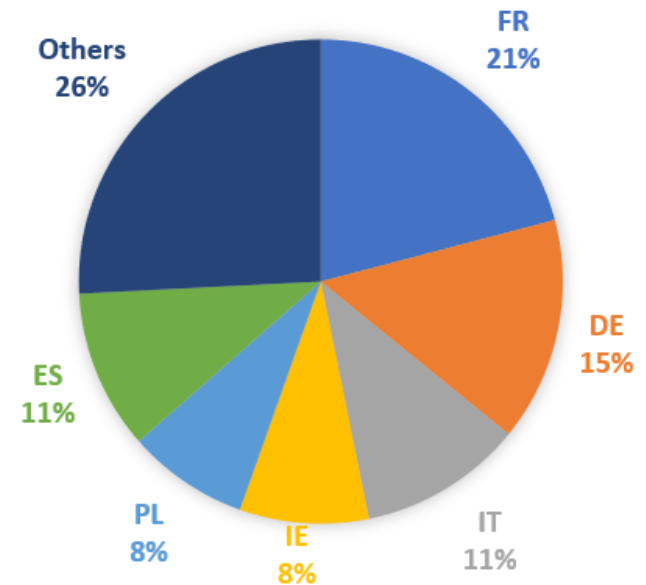
Veal



Beef



BEEF AND VEAL PRODUCTION 6.8 MILLION TONS

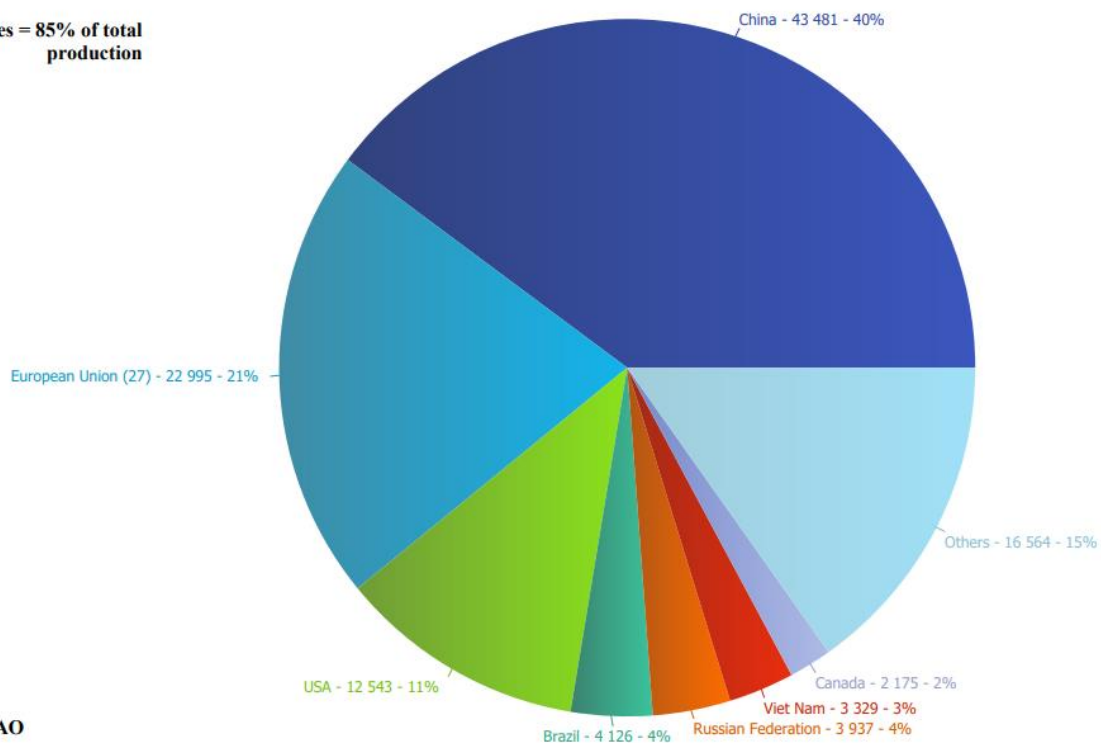


Just a mention for pig meat

World Production of Pigmeat (in 1000 tonnes product weight) (Year 2019)

7 countries = 85% of total production

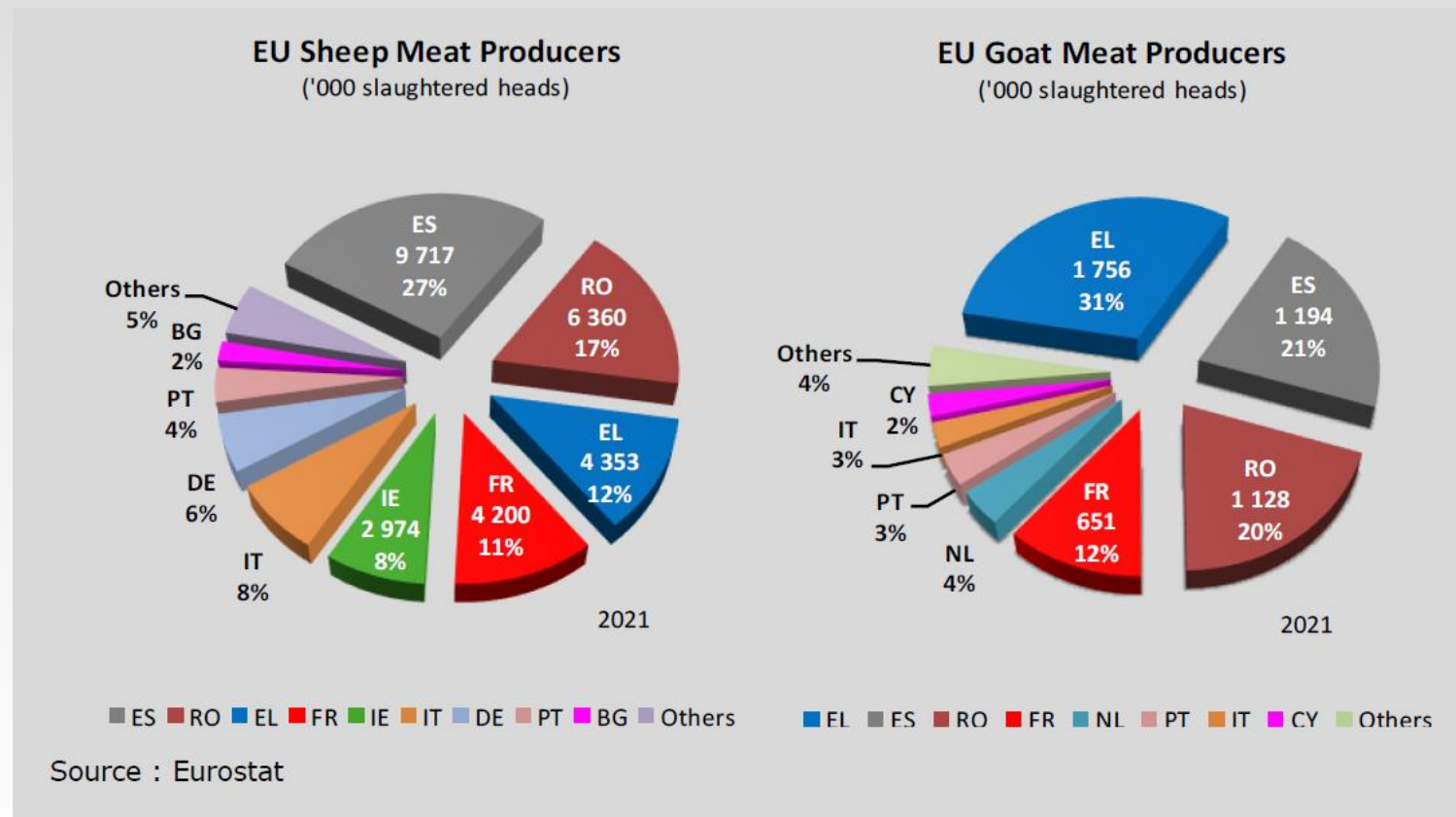
Year 2019
Total = 109150
(-9% over 2018)



Source: FAO

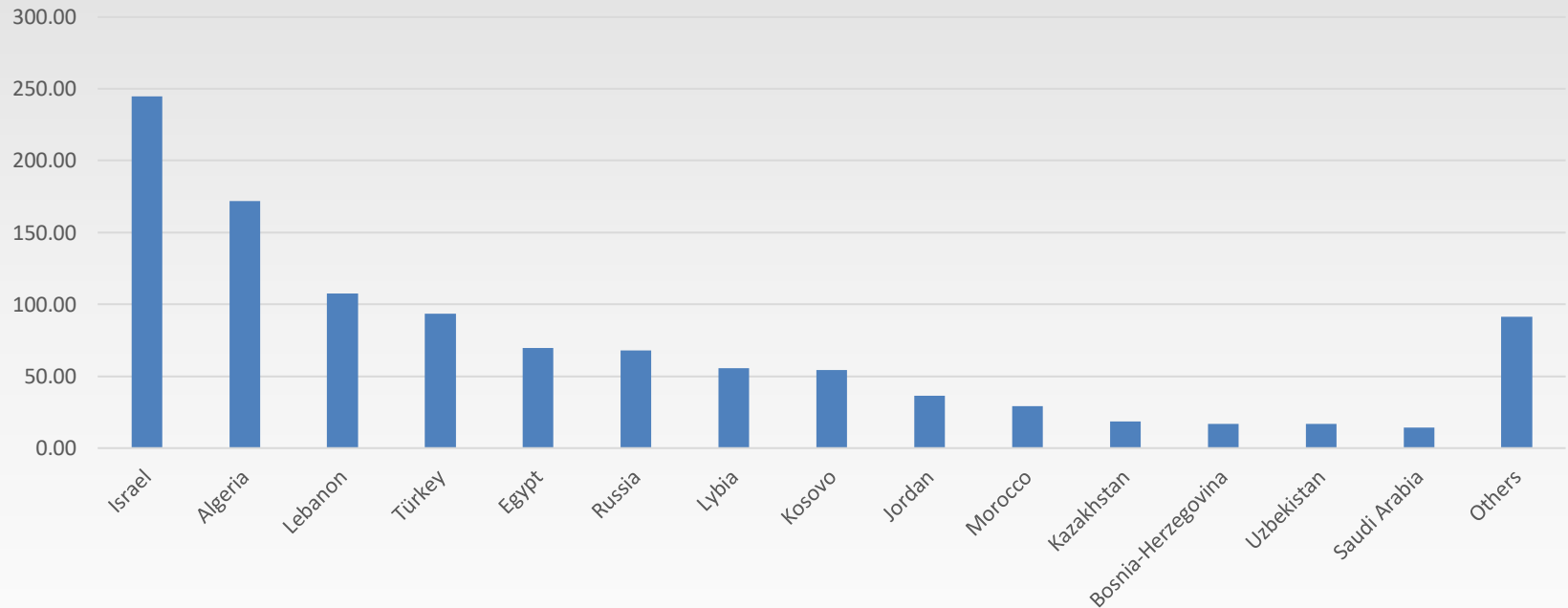
EU data without the UK

EU Sheep and goat meat production – December 2021



UE livestock exports - Bovine

Live bovine Exports 2022 (Million Euros)

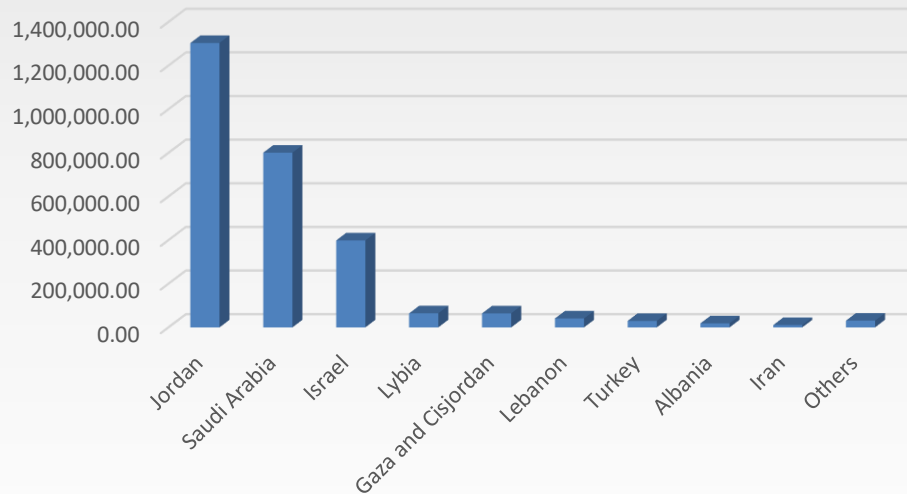


EU exports of Sheep and Goat

Total value of sheep and goat exports: **350 million euro.**

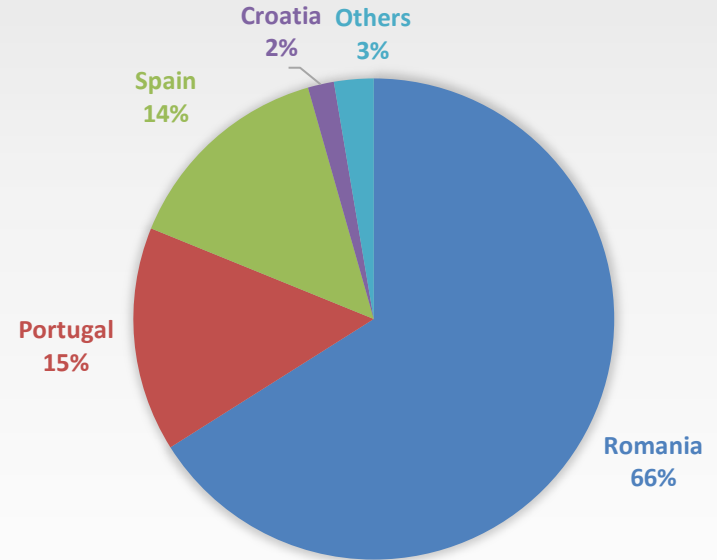
Total heads exported in 2021:
2,761,580 heads

UE Live small sheep and goat exports 2021 (heads)



Source: Eurostat

HEADS 2021



Europe to become sustainable: the GREEN DEAL



“Our goal is to reconcile the economy with our planet, to reconcile the way we produce and the way we consume with our planet and to make it work for our people.”

Ursula von der Leyen

President of the European Commission

Europe to become sustainable: the GREEN DEAL



Within Green Deal: Farm to Fork Strategy



F2F Strategy includes 27 action plans, amongst them:

Evaluation and **revision of the existing animal welfare legislation**, including AW on farms, animal **transport**, slaughter of animals and labelling. Proposal coming on Q3.

F2F: Animal welfare rules revision – some history

- **Green Deal → Farm 2 Fork Strategy (2020) → revision of the AW legislation**
 - **Fitness Check:** to evaluate the current legislation.
 - **6 July 2021:** Inception Impact assessment roadmap → includes policy options on farm, transport, slaughter, and labelling level. Public consultation until 24th August.
 - October 2021 to January 2022: public **consultation** for **citizens** and stakeholders on fitness of rules. Contributions **59281**.
 - September 2022: **Fitness Check concluded:** AW legislation needs to be modernised (published on early October 2022)
 - **September 2022:** EFSA publishes opinions on AW during transport for Bovines, Equines, Small ruminants, and animals transported in containers

F2F: Animal welfare rules revision – some history

- **Revision of the AW legislation → some policy options**

- **Farms:**

- Prohibitions of cages/stalls: laying hens, rabbits, pullets, broiler breeders, **sows**... (ECI foresees also **individual pens for calves**).
- Increased space allowances
- Mutilations

- **Slaughter:**

- Ban of CO₂ for stunning pigs

- **Transport:**

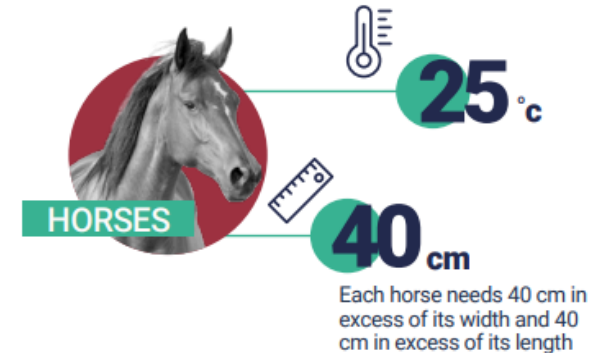
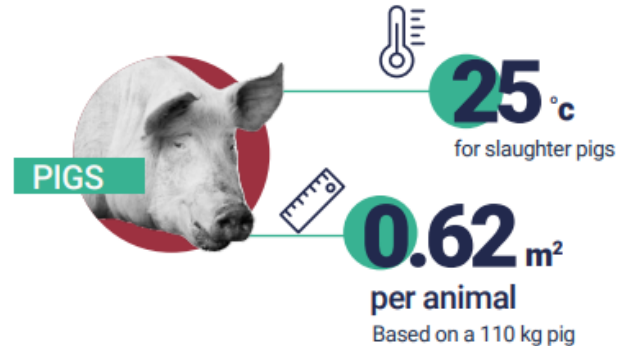
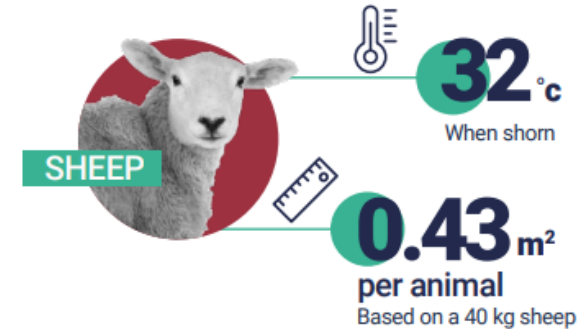
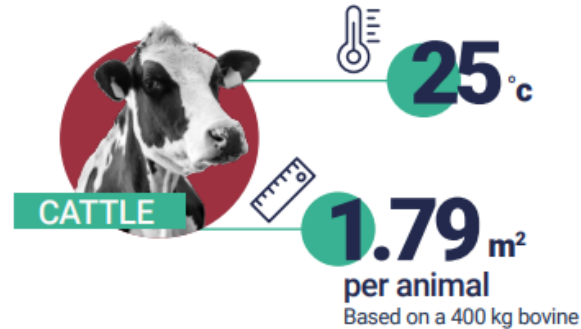
- Spaces allowances, travel times and travel conditions
- Exports to third countries (banning, **specific conditions such as assurance systems**, clarifying rules).
- Unweaned and other vulnerable animals (prohibition or refining conditions)



F2F: Animal welfare rules revision – some history

- Revision of the AW legislation → EFSA's Opinions on transport

More space, lower temperatures, shorter journeys: these are some of the key recommendations to improve animal welfare during transport, included in new scientific opinions by EFSA.



F2F: Animal welfare rules revision – in addition

- **In parallel we also have:**

- **ANIT** (European Parliament - Committee of Inquiry on the Protection of Animals during Transport): June 2020 to January 2022. A Report and Recommendation were issued. **Red tapes not trespassed** in recommendations: **exports, calves, journey** times limited to 8 hours.
- **EU Platform** on Animal Welfare:
 - Mandate 2017-2021
 - Mandate 2021-2025. Six subgroups: Transport, Slaughter (Killing), Labelling, Poultry, Calves and dairy cows, Pigs
- European **Citizens** Initiatives:
 - **End of Cage Age**: succeeded: >1,000,000 signatures → voted on EP → mandate to the COM for a proposal at the end of 2023.
 - **End of Slaughter Age** → ongoing (until June 2023), probably will not succeed.
 - **Vegan Meal** → recently registered, not yet open.

F2F: Animal welfare rules revision – in addition

- **In parallel we also have:**

- JUDGMENT OF THE COURT 23 April 2015:

Article 14(1) of **Council Regulation (EC) N° 1/2005** of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) N° 1255/97 must be interpreted as meaning that, in order for **transport involving a long journey** for domestic **Equidae** other than registered Equidae, and domestic animals of **bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine** species which commences on the territory of the European Union and continues outside that territory to be authorised by the competent authority of the place of departure, the **organiser of the journey must submit a journey log which, in the light of the arrangements for the journey as planned, is realistic and indicates that the provisions of that regulation will be complied with, including for the stages of the journey which are to take place in the territory of third countries,** that authority being empowered, should that not be the case, to require changes to those arrangements to ensure compliance with those provisions throughout the journey.

F2F: Animal welfare rules revision – in addition

- **In parallel we also have:**

- EU Animal welfare today & tomorrow - **Stakeholder's** conference. 9th December 2021. Keynote speech from **Dr Jane Goodall**



F2F: Animal welfare rules revision – what's next?

Revision of the **AW** legislation: next steps



- Q3-2023: EC Proposal
- Q1-2024: EP Committee vote
- H2-2024: EP Plenary Vote
- H2-2024: Council for discussions
- H2-2024: Final Legislative act

But why the EU needs to keep transporting live animals?

Within the EU

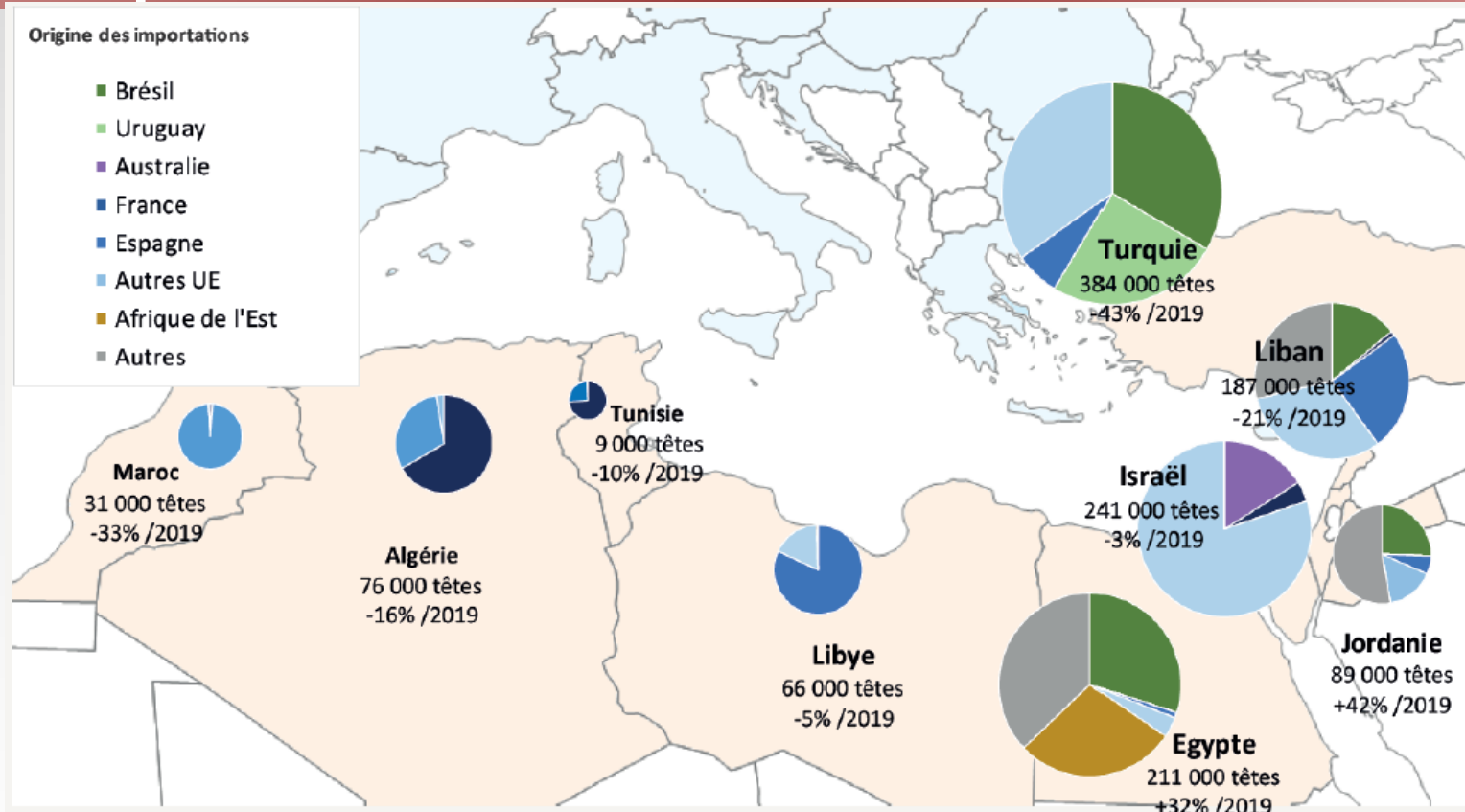
Breeding
Fattening
Slaughter

High level of specialisation of Member States and regions.

Outside the EU

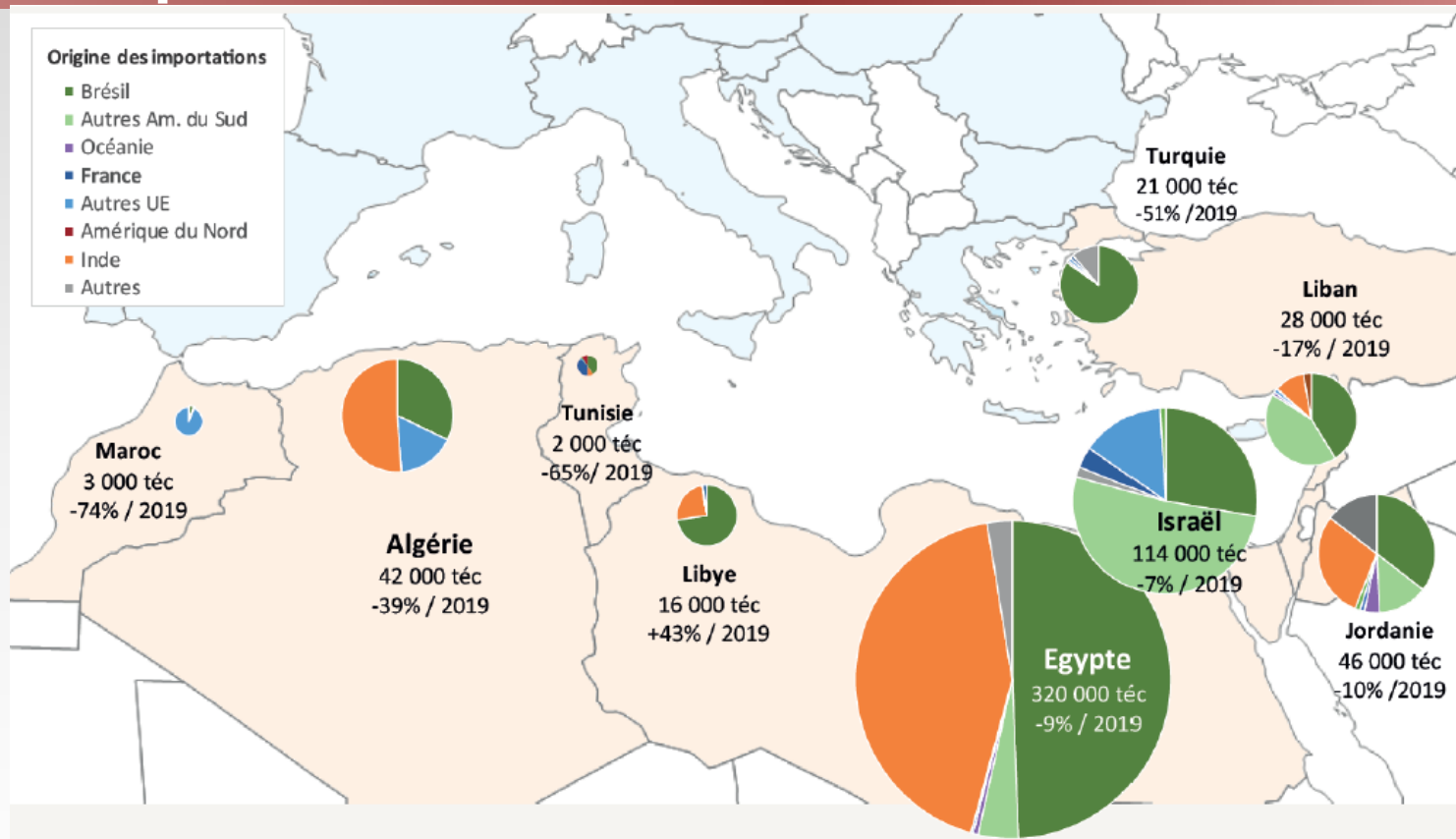
Specific needs of third countries (importing meat instead of live animals)

Imports of bovine in Mediterranean Countries



Source: Effets possibles de l'arrêt des exports de bovins vivants européens vers les pays tiers (2021)

Imports of beef in Mediterranean Countries



Source: Effets possibles de l'arrêt des exports de bovins vivants européens vers les pays tiers (2021)

What can we improve in long distance transport?

General transports

- Real time tracking (position, environmental conditions in truck or vessel, road accidents alerts, weather conditions alerts)
- Contingency plans
- Increasing of minimum age for calves / transitiona period
- To identify animal welfare indicators
- Training of personnel involved with animal transport

Exports to third countries

- Stricter conditions in exports, even during the trip in the third country
- Transparency / Auditing transport conditions, means of transport
- Stock person on board of vessel (trained)

Final reflections

Green Deal, F2F Strategy and the revision of the AW legislation are probably the **biggest challenge** the livestock and meat industries in Europe are facing **since BSE crisis**.

The impact of some policy options would be devastating for farmers, livestock traders but also for meat and dairy industry.

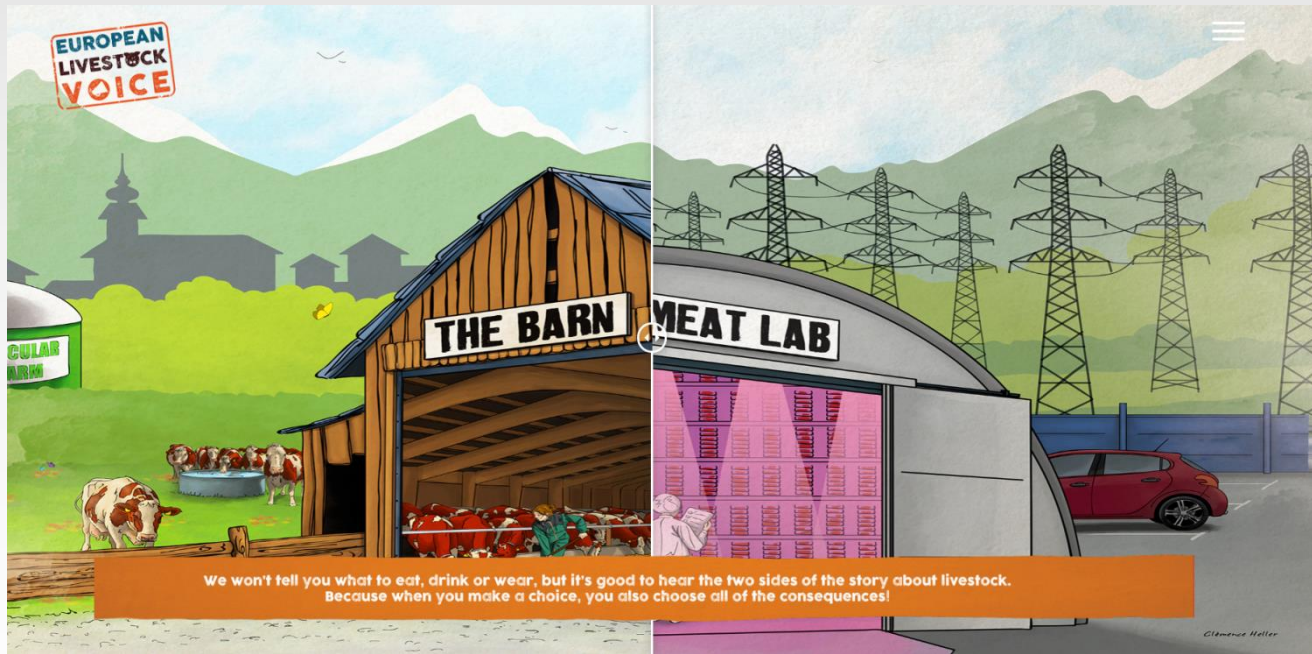
Banning live exports would have a negative impact for the EU operators, while it would increase the global number of animals transported for long distances, under worse conditions, not covered by EU regulations, and with a bigger carbon print.

More science evidence is needed for sound policy making, and also for deidentifying AW indicators.

The livestock traders are committed to improve the conditions of animal transport, while ensuring the activity will continue and also meeting the expectations of EU citizens.

Meat Image – Communication

#MEATTHEFACTS www.meatthefacts.eu



Thank you for your attention



UECBV

European Livestock and Meat Trades Union

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