



Ministry of Agriculture
& Rural Development

Long Distance Transport of Livestock by Sea The Israeli Experience

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Background

- Cattle and sheep are imported exclusively by sea
- The majority are intended for fattening
- Animals are imported both for Israel and the Palestinian Territories
- The number of live animals imported annually is rising

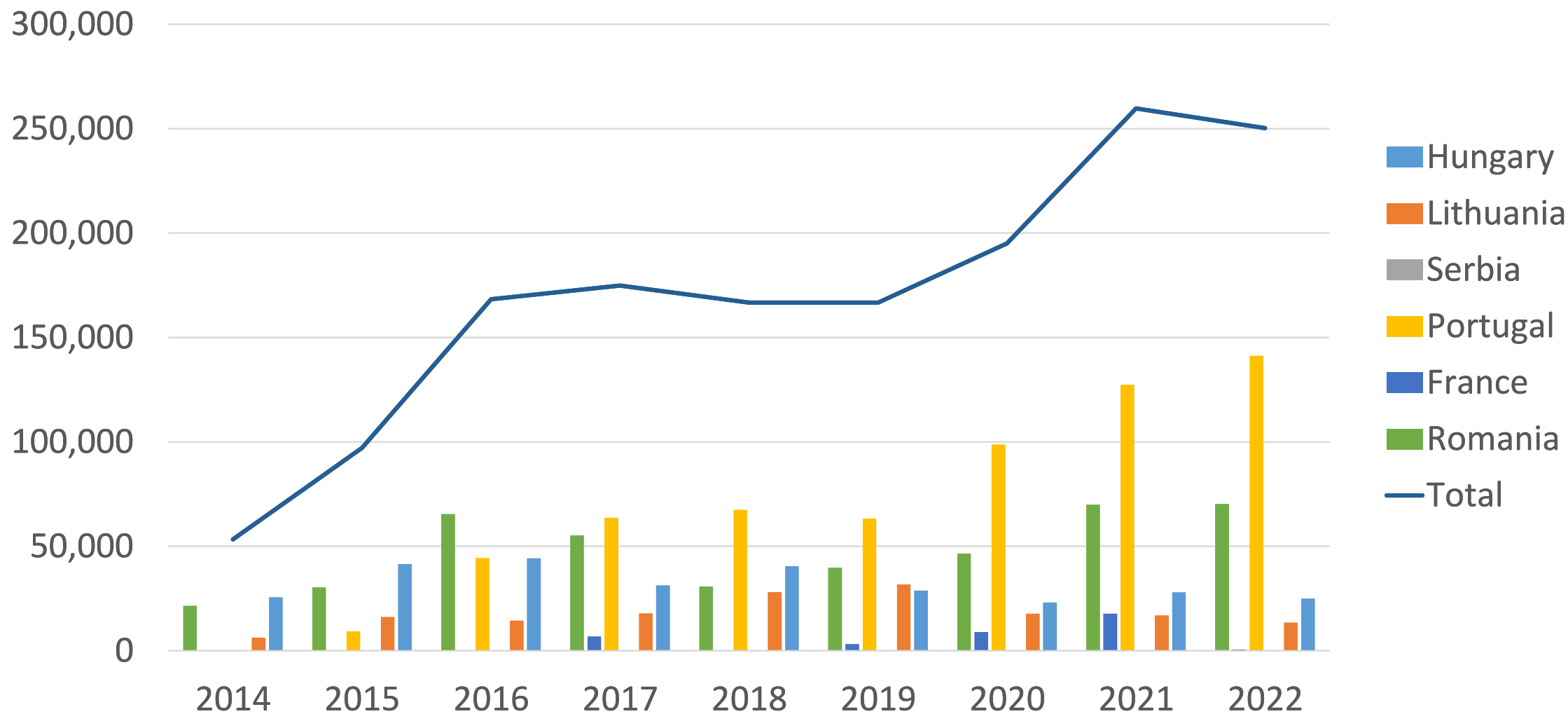
Background

- Three ports, most livestock vessels arrive from Europe
- Health and welfare requirements are the same for Israel and the Palestinian Territories



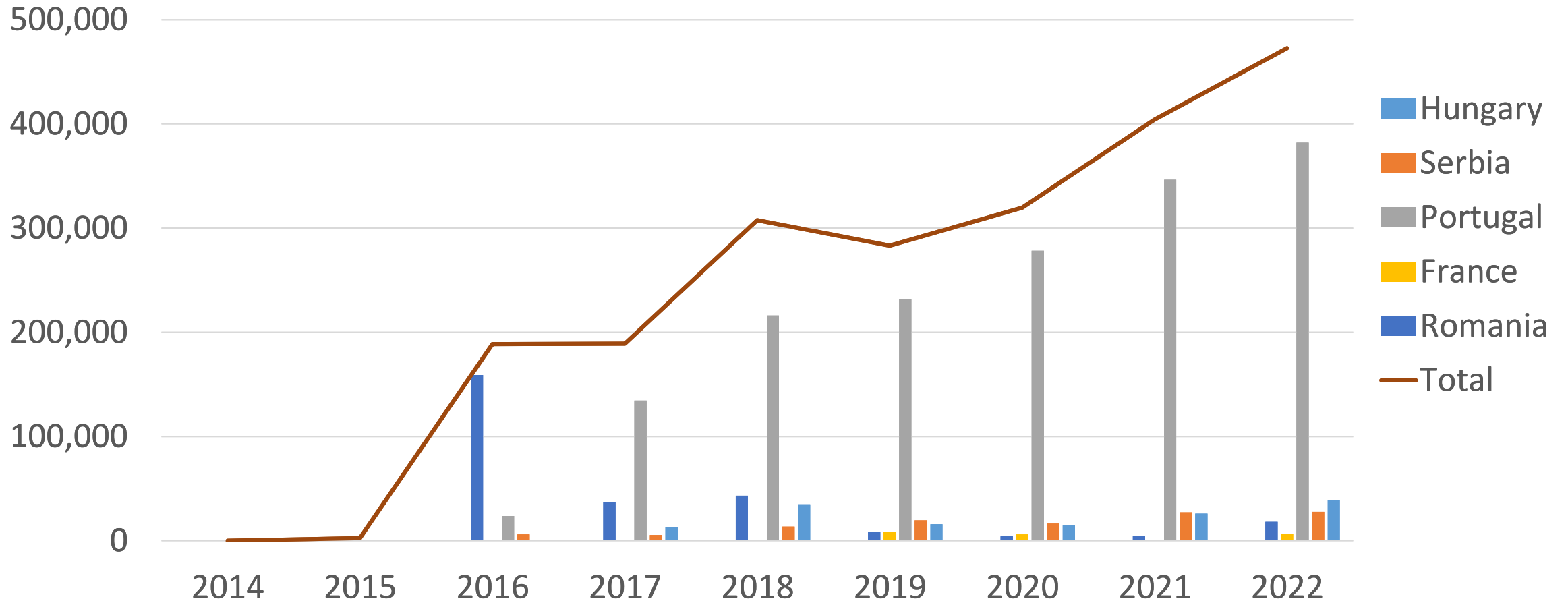


Import of Live Cattle 2014 - 2022





Import of Live Sheep 2014-2022





Livestock Imported 2022-2023

2022

- Cattle 2022 – 277,646
 - Sheep 2022 – 541,941
- } Total 819,587,
mortality ~0.1%

2023

- Cattle Jan-May 2023 – 110,831
 - Sheep Jan-May 2023 – 253,597
- } Total 364,428



Relevant Regulations & Procedures

- **Animal Diseases Ordinance 1985 (o. 1945)**
 - Animal Diseases Regulations (Importation of Animals) 1974
 - Animal Diseases Regulations (Regulation of Animal Movement in Israel) 1982
- **Animal Welfare Act 1994**
 - Livestock Transport Regulations 2006
 - Poultry Transport Regulations 2011
- **Veterinary Services Procedures and Instructions**



Relevant Regulations & Procedures

Prior to import

- Requirement for import license
 - Exporting country
 - Intended use
 - Quarantine station
 - Max. number of animals for import
 - Other requirements (including welfare)



Relevant Regulations & Procedures

Upon arrival

- Veterinary inspection of documents
 - Health certificates
 - Import licences
 - Cargo manifest
- Meeting with ship captain for updates
- Documentation check
 - Livestock vessel authorization
 - Journey log
 - Mortality report



Relevant Regulations & Procedures

Upon arrival

- Ship audit
 - Clinical presentations
 - Animal welfare
- Permission to begin unloading



Manual audit form for livestock vessel

1. General
2. Decks
3. Protection against environmental conditions
4. Food & water
5. Unloading
6. Land transport & handling

Common Welfare Issues

- Dirty conditions, lack of bedding
- Poor ventilation
- Poor maintenance of ships
- High stocking density
- Injury and illness
- Absence of stockman/unqualified
- Rough handling

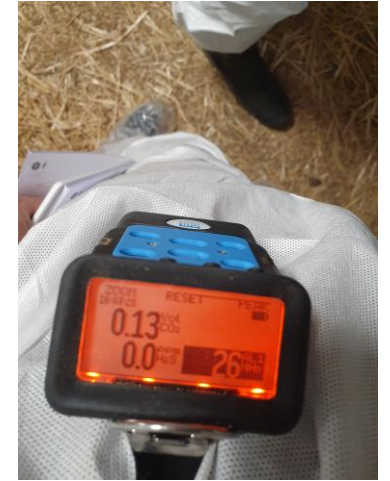
(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



Examples of severe cases of:

- (1) High stocking density
- (2) Poor ship maintenance (a burst pipe in one of the stalls)
- (3) Poor ventilation and/or bedding management (high levels of Ammonia)
- (4) Dirty conditions and lack of bedding



Common Procedural Issues

- Lack of emergency/contingency plan
- Poor ongoing communication with vessel throughout the journey
- Absence of Veterinarian on journeys of 10+ days
- Delayed berths/unloading at Israeli port
- Inadequate communication with exporting country:
 - Manual audit form in Hebrew
 - Non-standardized indicators



What happens in case of non-compliance?

Measures taken against the importer:


- Administrative measures
- Legal measures

Communication with exporting country

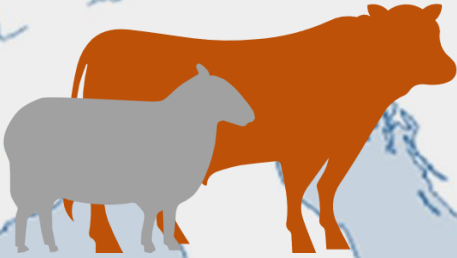
- Request for investigation
- Suspend imports from exporting country or ban the vessel
- The exporting country can also ban the ship from sailing from that country

Example I: the Gulf Livestock 2

 Portugal

 July 22, 2021

4,498





3,436


 Israel

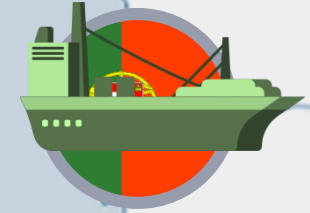
 July 31

 12:00 AM

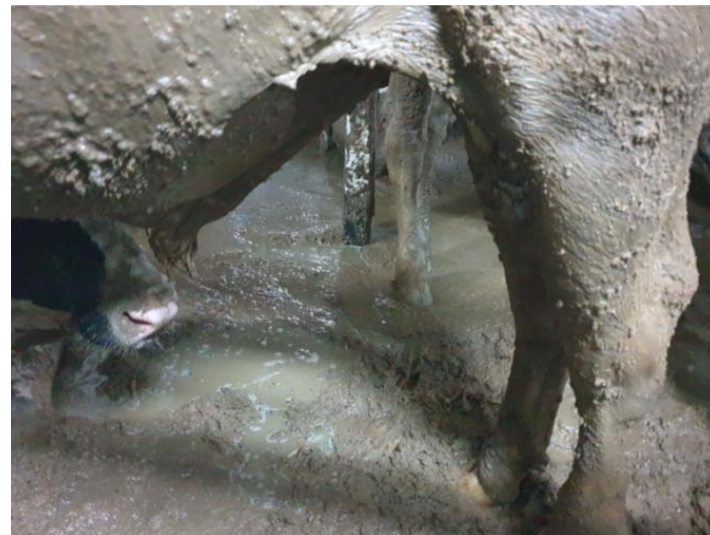
 23 sheep (0.5%), 6 cattle (0.2%)

 Unloading 07:00 am – 10:00 pm

 August 2, 03:00 AM



- Audit findings:
 - Dirty animals
 - Wet bedding and lack of bedding
 - Ammonia levels of 36 ppm
- Request for investigation by Portugal Veterinary Services on August 26, 2021
- **Suspension of transporter and Vessel** by Portuguese authorities



Photos of some of the severe findings of this case



Example II: the Shorthorn Express

- Multiple member states involved in transport
- Arrived in Israel on 27 May, 2022
- Severe violations were found:
 - Absence of feed and water for a prolonged period of time
 - No treatment of sick/injured animals
 - Ammonia levels exceeding 50 ppm
 - No trained stockman
- A trial journey was approved upon addressing all issues on October 22, but violations reoccurred
- The Israeli Veterinary Services banned the vessel from entering Israel



A look to the future

- Collaboration with the exporting country is key
- Digitalization of audits
- Training for stockman/animal handlers
- Veterinarian on board for journeys 10 days or longer
- Ship maintenance as an aspect of animal welfare needs to be emphasized
- Continuous monitoring of environmental conditions on-board
- Stricter measures taken against non-compliance



Thank You
for Listening

