

Long distance transport: future challenges for the industry



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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 **live cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and horses and its meat**

European Livestock and Meat Trades Union – UECBV

Today, **UECBV** represents **50 associations** out of :

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

3 European Associations

Livestock markets (AEMB)

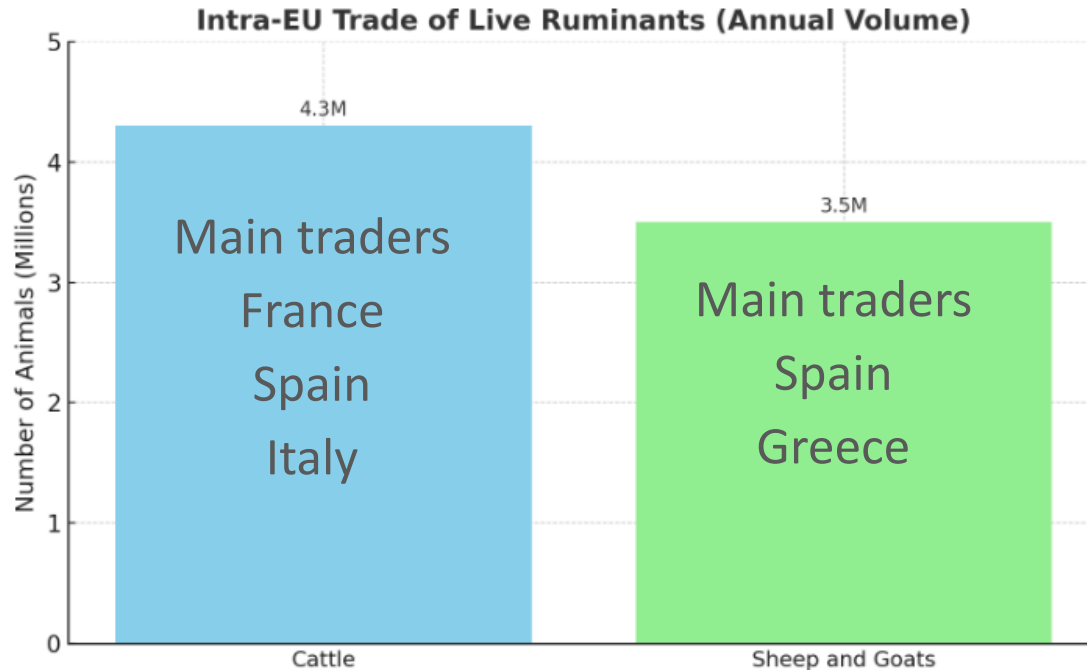
Casings industry (ENSCA)

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.



Livestock trade – a key activity European farmers



Why long-distance transport is needed?

Long distance transport: more than 8 hours

Intra EU

- Journey time includes loading and unloading from 8h transport → 5 hours effective journey → 300km can be “LDT”
- LDT can be performed within a member state
- Specialised regions – clustered regions

Why long-distance transport is needed?

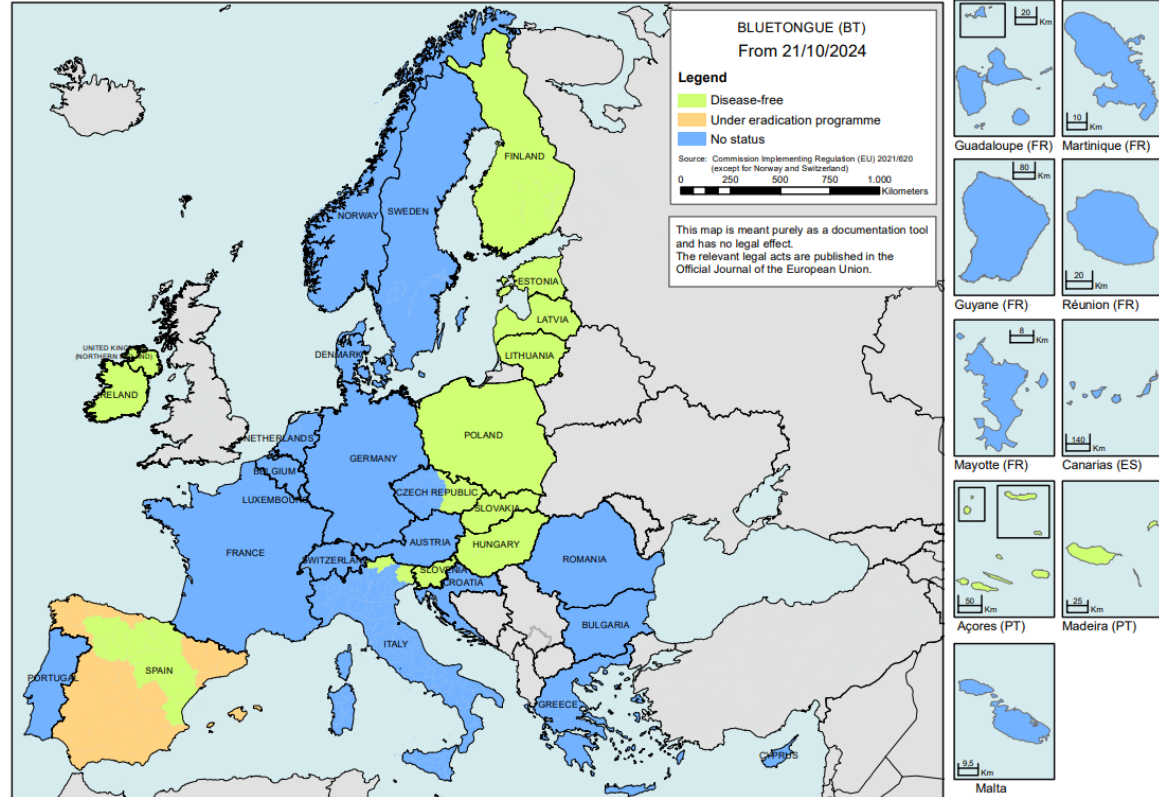
Long distance transport: more than 8 hours

Exports to third countries

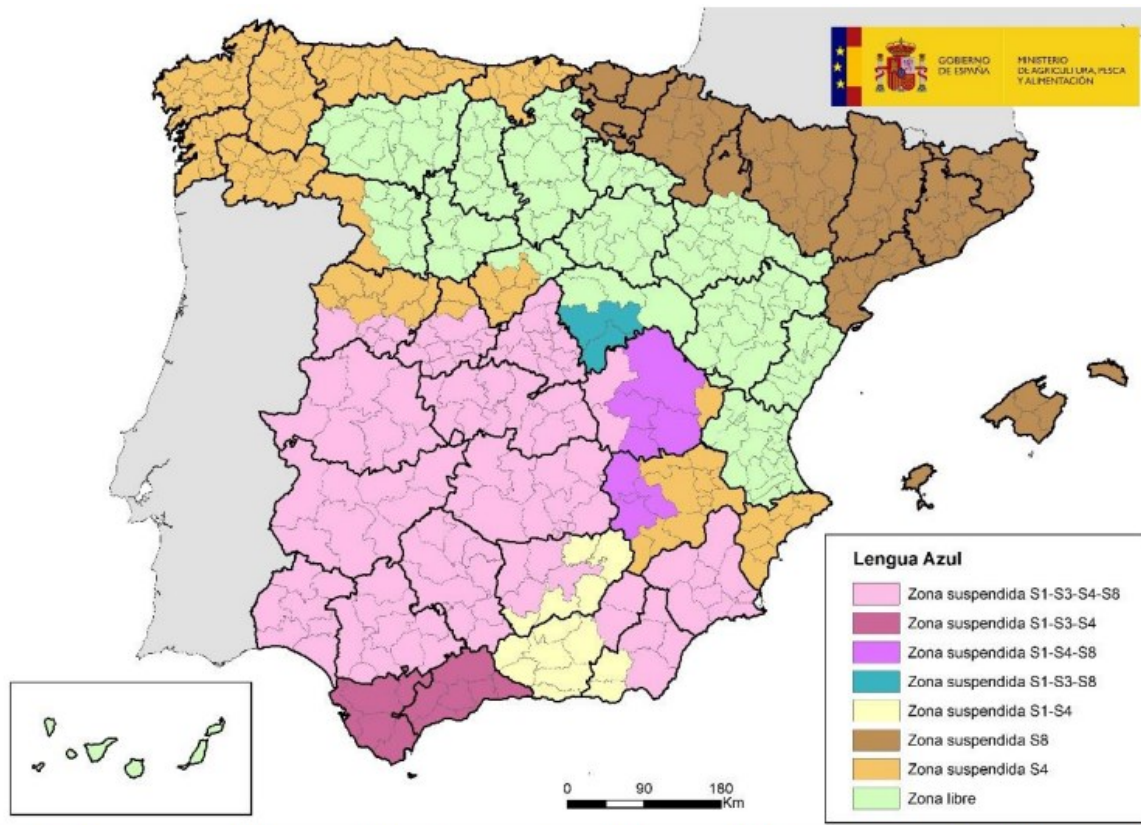
- Demand of live animals instead of meat:
 - Problems in cold chain for meat
 - Different se of carcasses and cuts
 - Easier market access for live animals
 - Import duties
- A ban on export is not compensated by meat demand.

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Bluetongue situation in the EU



Animal Health – Bluetongue-1-3-4-8 – Spain



Mapa 1: Zonas suspendidas por diferentes serotipos del virus de la lengua azul, 5 de diciembre 2024.

- New disease or serotype, no vaccine, no trade
- BTV3, BTV12, EHD (emerging diseases) → more regions under restrictions
 - However, disease are spreading
 - Vaccination strategy → effectiveness! e.g. BTV 8,
 - **But lack of effective and safe vaccines / long time for development**

Result: intra EU trade disruption

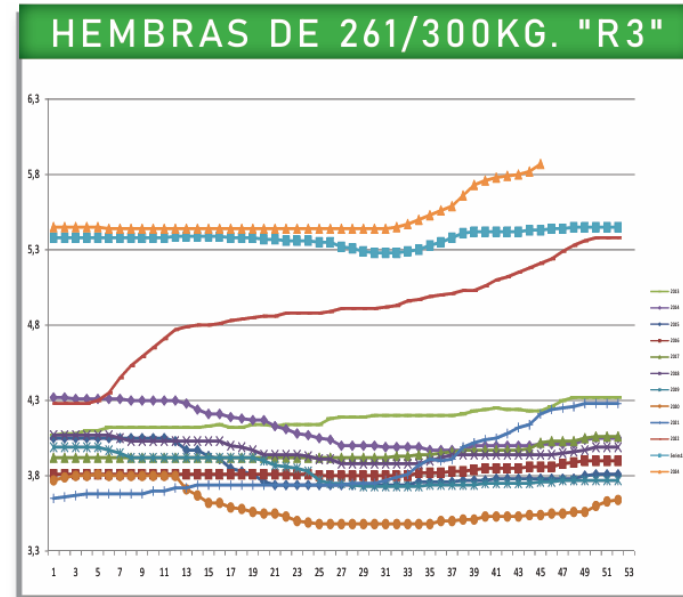
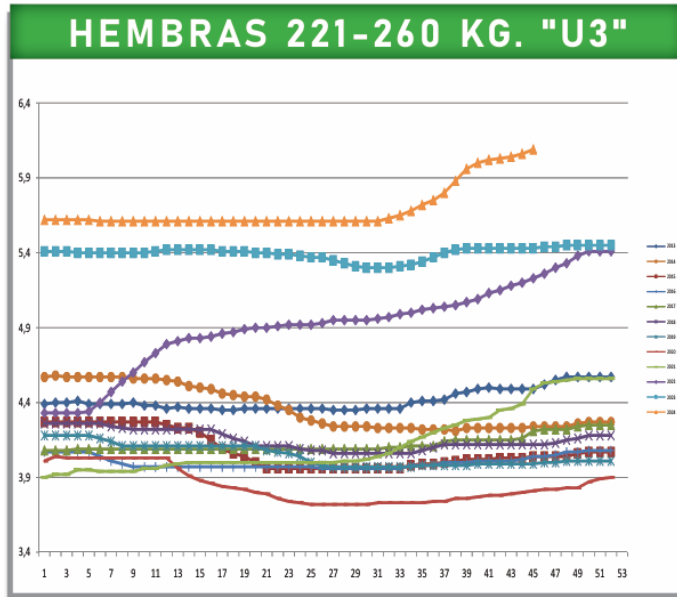
Impact on market

Spain → Shortage and impact on prices

- **Decline in Livestock Entries:** Live cattle imports to Spain, especially from France, have dropped by 18% in the last months due to bluetongue-related restrictions. This has disrupted Spain's reliance on imported cattle for fattening.
- **Record High Prices:** Supply shortages have driven the cost of replacement animals to historic levels, further exacerbated by limited imports from France and Ireland.
- **Feedlot Efficiency Challenges:** Spanish feedlots face operational inefficiencies due to staggered animal entries, health risks, and elevated costs, despite steady demand supported by robust meat prices.
- **Meat Industry Pressures:** High live animal prices are straining meat industry margins, as the increased costs are difficult to pass along the supply chain, creating profitability challenges.

Impact on market

Spain → Shortage and impact on prices



Source: lonja de Binefar



EC proposal: protection on animals during transport

Main goals

- Limitation in journey times – no LDT for slaughter (loading unloading time included)
- Increase of space allowance
- Extreme temperatures
- Minimum age for unweaned animals
- Veterinarians at loading and unloading
- Export: stricter measures

EC proposal: protection on animals during transport

UECBV position

- Limitation in journey times – no LDT for slaughter (loading unloading time included)
 - Animal demands in other EU regions
 - Farms in remote areas and small farms are left behind – 9h is not enough
 - Loading and unloading → stressful situation / need for a smooth handling
- Increase in space allowances
- Extreme temperatures
- Minimum age for unweaned animals
- Veterinarians at loading and unloading

EC proposal: protection on animals during transport

UECBV position

- Limitation in journey times – no LTS for slaughter (loading unloading time included)
- Increase of space allowance:
 - Increase of cost for transport (X2)
 - More risk of accidents when truck turns/breaks
- Extreme temperatures
- Minimum age for unweaned animals
- Veterinarians at loading and unloading

EC proposal: protection on animals during transport

UECBV position

- Limitation in journey times – no LDS for slaughter (loading unloading time included)
- Increase of space allowance
- Extreme temperatures
 - Differences between species / categories
 - Technical advances are not stimulated
 - National wether forecasts can be different between MS / inconsistency
 - Differences between geographical EU regions
- Minimum age for unweaned animals
- Veterinarians at loading and unloading

EC proposal: protection on animals during transport

UECBV position

- Limitation in journey times – no LDS for slaughter (loading unloading time included)
- Increase of space allowance
- Extreme temperatures
- Minimum age for unweaned animals
 - From 14 to 35 days
 - Behaviour – difficult to handle
 - Increase of costs
 - Dairy farms under pressure
- Veterinarians at loading and unloading

EC proposal: protection on animals during transport

UECBV position

- Limitation in journey times – no LDS for slaughter (loading unloading time included)
- Increase of space allowance
- Extreme temperatures
- Minimum age for unweaned animals
- Veterinarians at loading and unloading (at every loading/unloading operation)
 - Responsibility of farmers
 - High cost
 - Lack of veterinarians

Conclusions

- LDT does not always mean transport between countries
- LDT may also be within country
- Long-distance transports of livestock are needed for a dynamic livestock activity within the EU and keeping rural activity – small producers
- Limitations on LDT can bring to trade disruptions such as increase of prices in areas with animal demand
- Temperature limits should take into account differences between kinds of animals and geographic situation.
- More knowledge is still needed for redefining the requirements for transporting animals without jeopardising the internal market.



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Thank you very much for your attention!