

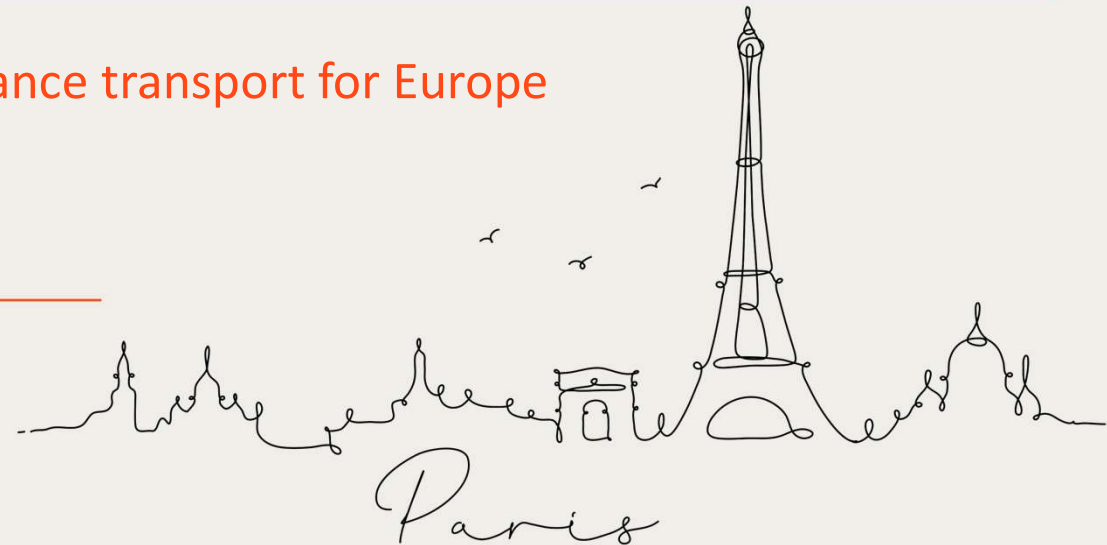
Country report on animal welfare during long distance transport by land

Germany

Dr. Maria Biedermann

Whole Journey Scenario workshop on long-distance transport for Europe

16 – 18 December 2024, Paris, France





Overview of country livestock transport and trade

- Germany used to export many animals, mainly breeding cattle
- TV documentary in November 2017 showed that EU animal welfare legislation was not complied with in many non-EU countries of destination, in some not even WOAAH standards
- stronger controls in DE → are EU legislation and verdict C-424/13 of European Court of Justice really complied with?
- significant reduction of number of exports (from 95,000 bovines in 2017 to less than 13,000 in 2023)
- no exports of cattle for slaughter, solely breeding cattle



Location of Germany in Europe





Overview of cattle transport and trade: non-EU

Place of destination		Number of animals (cattle)								
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
AE	United Arab Emirates	-	5	650	-	165	-	-	4	-
AL	Albania	-	-	33	96	367	495	196	99	263
AM	Armenia	322	-	124	-	-	66	-	-	-
AZ	Azerbaijan	4.907	1.608	2.382	3.055	1.108	192	-	-	1
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2.202	43	-	-	2	92	155	581	737
BY	Belarus	-	-	39	201	196	656	383	12	865
CH	Switzerland	315	480	386	383	388	473	925	690	607
DZ	Algeria	3.986	2.556	1.117	3.122	3.266	5.477	-	-	-
EG	Egypt	5.435	4.726	3.737	4.399	999	3.232	2.432	9.539	-
ER	Eritrea	-	-	793	310	156	843	-	-	-
ET	Ethiopia	-	195	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GB	United Kingdom (Great Britain)	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.445	3.378	2.956
GE	Georgia	130	129	34	461	782	68	-	-	-
ID	Indonesia	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IN	India	76	-	-	-	-	228	-	-	-
IQ	Iraq	164	-	331	446	98	-	-	-	-
IR	Iran	-	-	-	401	528	740	10	-	-
JO	Jordan	2.722	500	3.683	-	-	-	-	-	-
KG	Kyrgyzstan	86	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KW	Kuwait	1.849	781	1.418	714	-	-	-	-	-
KZ	Kazakhstan	-	1.204	1.220	2.847	553	-	-	-	-
LB	Lebanon	7.666	12.463	6.665	6.360	3.651	3.604	372	606	199
LY	Libya	132	2.321	294	1.430	693	600	-	-	-
MA	Morokko	1.775	6.720	4.852	5.705	5.298	6.714	4.073	2.942	3.362
MC	Monaco	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
MD	Moldova	365	134	193	118	129	248	33	87	126
ME	Montenegro	10	136	40	106	28	-	-	61	-
MK	North Macedonia	294	292	259	-	123	96	-	323	99
MN	Mongolia	-	-	60	-	-	-	-	-	-
QA	Qatar	198	-	330	-	-	1.132	306	-	-
RS	Serbia	188	198	45	151	103	337	17	-	20
RU	Russia	8.201	10.400	20.911	25.208	30.563	12.561	13.984	284	578
RW	Rwanda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
SY	Syria	-	-	2.079	4.058	-	-	-	-	-
TJ	Tajikistan	124	245	-	365	-	-	-	-	-
TM	Turkmenistan	324	517	1.780	1.192	455	68	-	-	-
TN	Tunesia	558	128	65	515	590	277	-	131	127
TR	Turkey/ Türkiye	22.869	29.640	33.258	16.759	1.817	1.513	288	431	1.806
UA	Ukraine	35	407	951	1.101	-	-	-	-	-
UZ	Uzbekistan	4.998	4.586	6.928	8.296	7.649	713	-	-	-
VN	Vietnam	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
XI	United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.333	419	229
XK	Kosovo	238	360	306	119	155	548	526	514	761
		70.173	80.790	94.963	87.918	59.867	40.973	30.478	20.105	12.736

Figures according to TRACES





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Overview of cattle transport and trade: EU

Place of destination		Number of animals (cattle)								
		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
AT	Austria	1.108	1.131	1.209	1.069	1.037	1.430	1.540		
BE	Belgium	82.723	120.655	53.042	66.244	47.503	46.162	35.949		
BG	Bulgaria	780	1.675	813	1.104	1.003	678	311		
CY	Cyprus	98	32	298	462	-	-	-		
CZ	Czech Republic	985	1.433	2.179	5.934	2.478	4.317	8.034		
DK	Denmark	52	80	34	23	37	65	158		
DE	Germany	-	-	-	-	-	3	5		
EE	Estonia	62	157	82	-	60	38	259		
ES	Spain	61.748	64.258	18.345	21.518	18.534	15.170	17.479		
FI	Finland	10	-	3	3	-	-	-		
FR	France	5.774	7.387	29.715	3.669	2.086	733	1.529		
GB	United Kingdom	3.673	4.685	6.051	10.468	-	-	-		
GR	Greece	895	788	495	329	135	98	548		
HR	Croatia	1.851	1.066	2.205	1.543	1.101	377	672		
HU	Hungary	3.605	2.951	8.511	23.343	18.437	21.403	35.000		
IE	Ireland	308	97	459	1.453	830	87	382		
IT	Italy	25.571	24.442	25.240	23.993	19.776	12.321	26.378		
LT	Lithuania	159	145	283	797	1.468	471	340		
LU	Luxembourg	2.608	2.703	2.852	3.084	1.952	2.133	3.153		
LV	Latvia	1.297	1.192	358	774	1.206	782	473		
MT	Malta	-	34	139	-	-	-	67		
NL	Netherlands	551.924	558.843	671.101	621.415	477.990	601.792	569.830		
PL	Poland	17.660	14.243	15.685	17.253	20.915	28.824	29.066		
PT	Portugal	70	163	279	269	34	231	224		
RO	Romania	2.506	2.796	2.384	2.664	1.436	1.667	2.145		
SE	Sweden	-	2	-	-	-	5	2		
SI	Slovenia	51	7	205	105	99	33	162		
SK	Slovakia	1.288	1.265	1.193	122	176	689	1.919		
/	?	-	-	-	-	-	78	-		
		766.806	812.230	843.160	807.638	618.293	739.587	735.625		

Figures according to TRACES





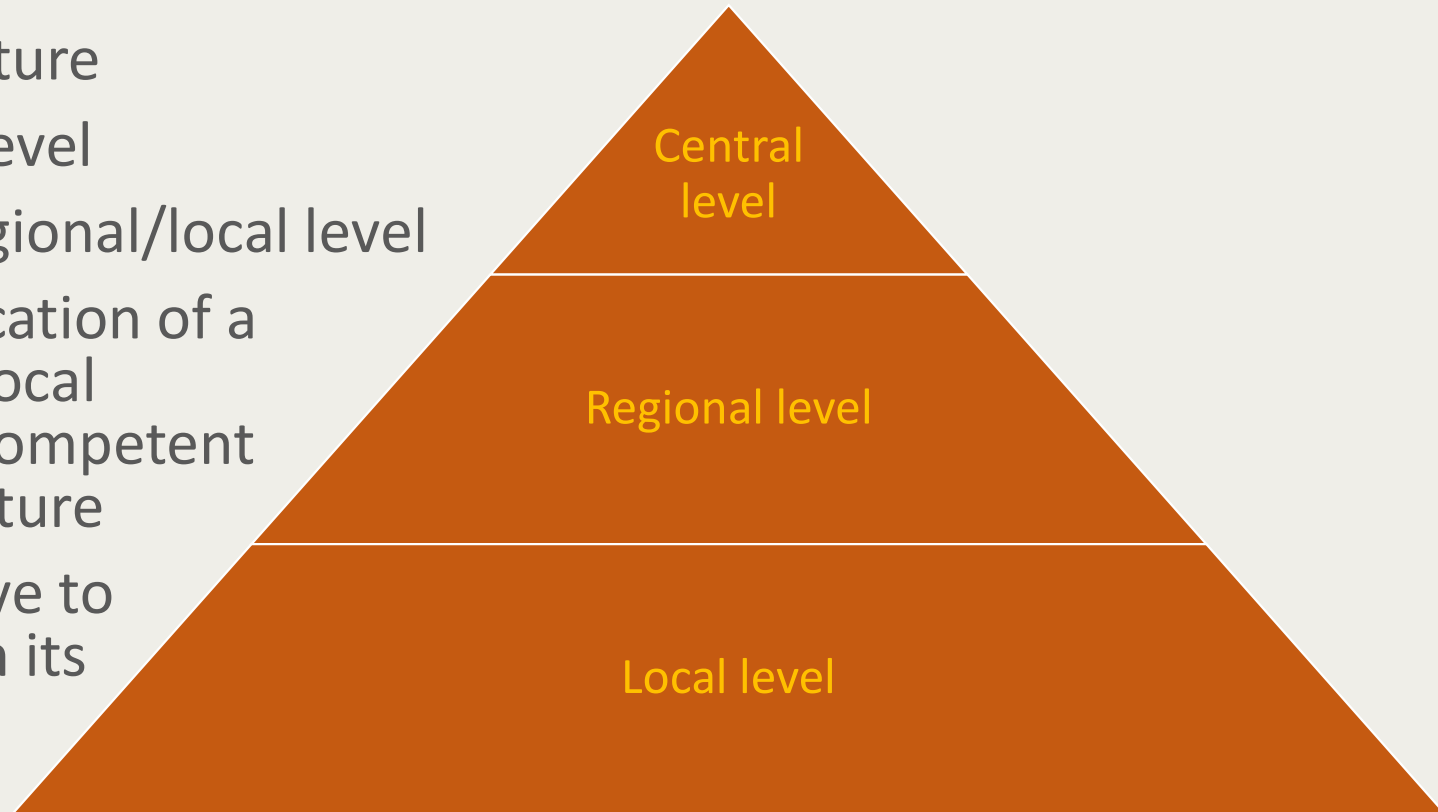
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SE	Sweden	-	2	-	-	-	5	2		
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		766.806	812.230	843.160	807.638	618.293	739.587	735.625		



Competent Authority(ies)

- DE has a federal structure
- legislation at central level
- implementation at regional/local level
- decision about certification of a transport is with the local veterinary authority competent for the place of departure
- this authority may have to consider decrees from its regional authority





National animal welfare standards

- Germany follows EU plus national legislation (e.g. on temperatures)
- <https://www.fli.de/de/service/handbuecher-der-ag-tierschutz-der-lav/> → “Handbuch Tiertransporte” (interpretation of legislation)
- long, with multiple annexes, in German, regularly revised
- e.g. on performance of official controls (before, during and after the journey), standards of facilities/ vehicles, competence of drivers etc.
- example 1: in case of exports, the certifying authority at the place of departure must always be present during loading
- example 2: the competent authority requests online access to the GPS data of the transport vehicle (signal does not end at EU border)



Implementation of the standards

- competent authority does not look at WOH standards
- competent authority looks at compliance with EU legislation
- if EU legislation is complied with, WOH standards are too (because EU legislation goes further)



Monitoring and evaluation

Local authority competent for place of departure:

1. checks before the journey: Does the planning suggest that the journey will be carried out in compliance with EU AW legislation?
 2. checks during certification: presence during loading of exports
 3. checks en-route: online access to GPS data
 4. retrospective checks: Are entries in Journey Log, GPS data and temperature recordings plausible? Are they in compliance with Reg 1/2005? And are they in line with the planning?
- result of all these checks can be considered in case of future application for another export



Monitoring and evaluation

Local authority competent for a place along the route:

- authorities at control posts/ exit point (or at road-side checks)

Local authority competent for transporter:

- evaluation of previous performance (either during audits, or when the renewal of the transporter authorisation is applied for)



Cross-border transport of animals

Procedures:

- refer to Handbook

Non-compliances:

- entry in TRACES and additional (more detailed) notification by email
- is currently in the process of being moved to a database
- aim: information exchange, works very well within EU
- so far few attempts for information exchange with non-EU countries
- in most cases worked really well, very beneficial, in one case no reply



Weaknesses/ Challenges

- pregnant heifers from DE stuck at TR border (16 Sep - 15 Oct 2024)
- information exchange with TR WOAHP NCP was not possible (NCP assigned to another position)
- severe animal suffering, 7 heifers died, some gave birth
- WOAHP network was founded for situations like this, because direct exchange of views and common search for solutions is essential
→ **Let's not talk about each other, but with each other!**
- very happy to see that position of WOAHP NCP is filled again
- looking forward to establishing good bilateral contacts to be able to communicate when necessary



Conclusions

- DE fulfills WOAHA standards and goes beyond significantly, also beyond requirements of EU legislation.
- DE wishes for common requirements and strict compliance with WOAHA standards. In my view, exports should not be allowed if WOAHA standards are not complied with.
- DE cannot guarantee compliance along entire route (only with regards to planning) → responsibility of ALL competent authorities en route
- unexpected events can always occur
 - a functional, trustful exchange of information is essential
 - There is room for improvement here.

Thank you

Whole Journey Scenario workshop on long-distance transport for Europe

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World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE