

Country report on animal welfare during long distance transport by land

FRANCE

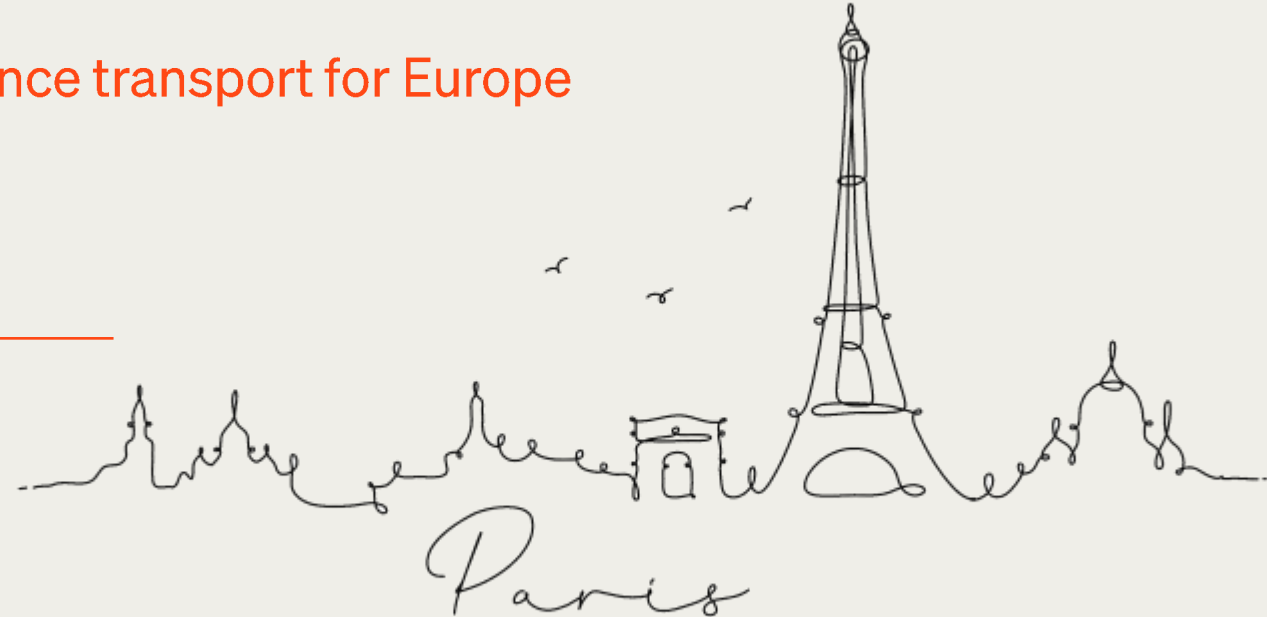
Situation regarding animal welfare during long duration transport

Whole Journey Scenario workshop on long-distance transport for Europe

16 – 18 December 2024, Paris, France



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded in 1924



France has a central position in Europe

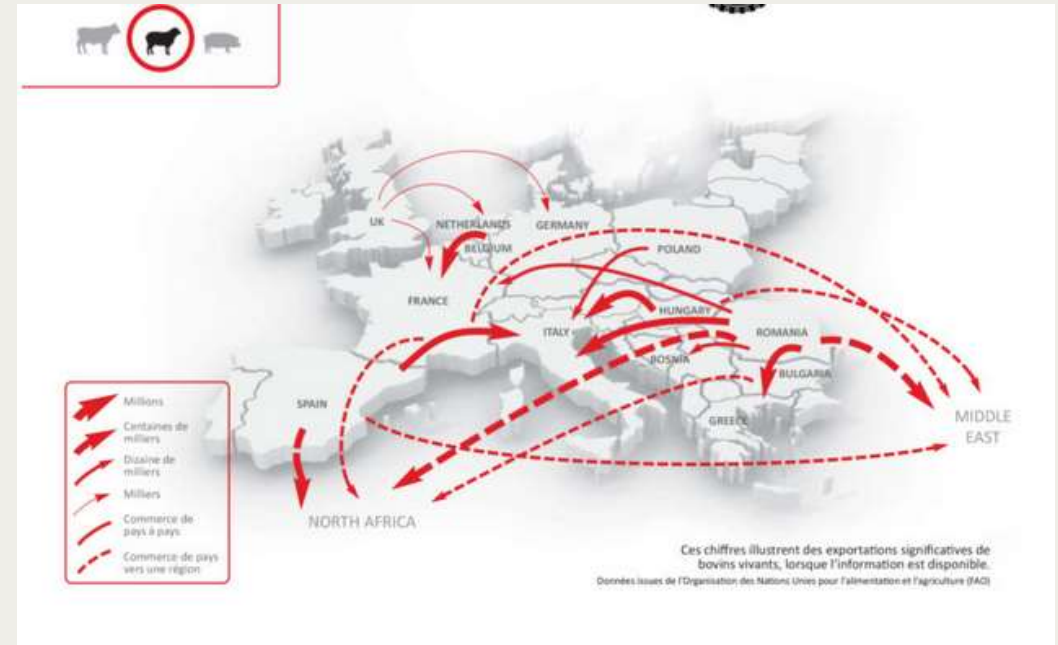
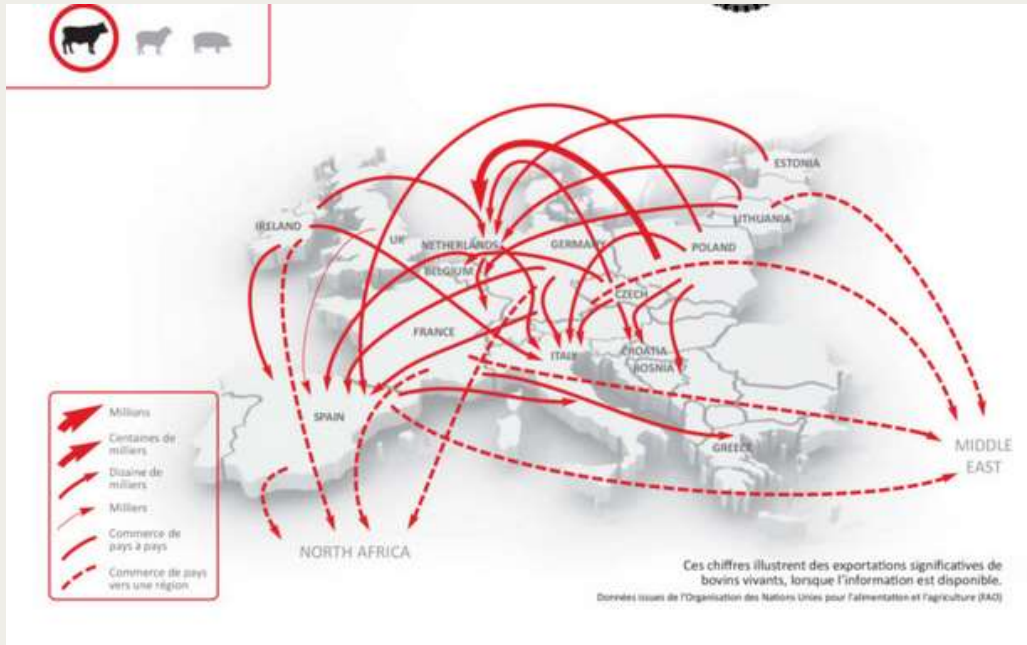


Terrestrial borders : only with EU member states and Switzerland



But 2 designed maritime exit points

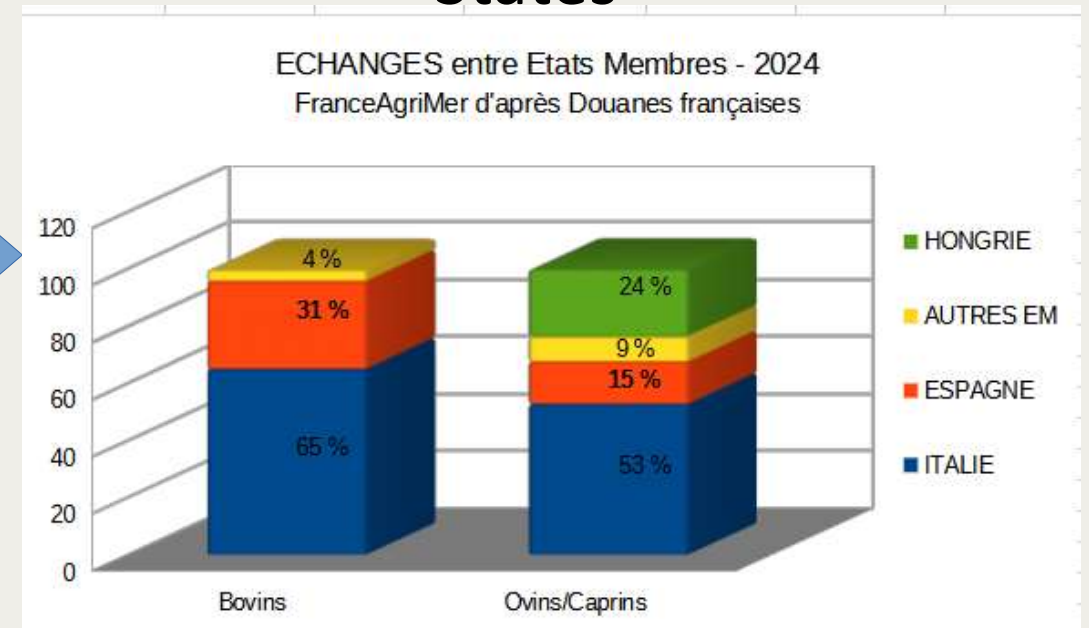
Due to the central position of France, the territory is crossed by road transport of live animals.



Overview of country livestock transport and trade

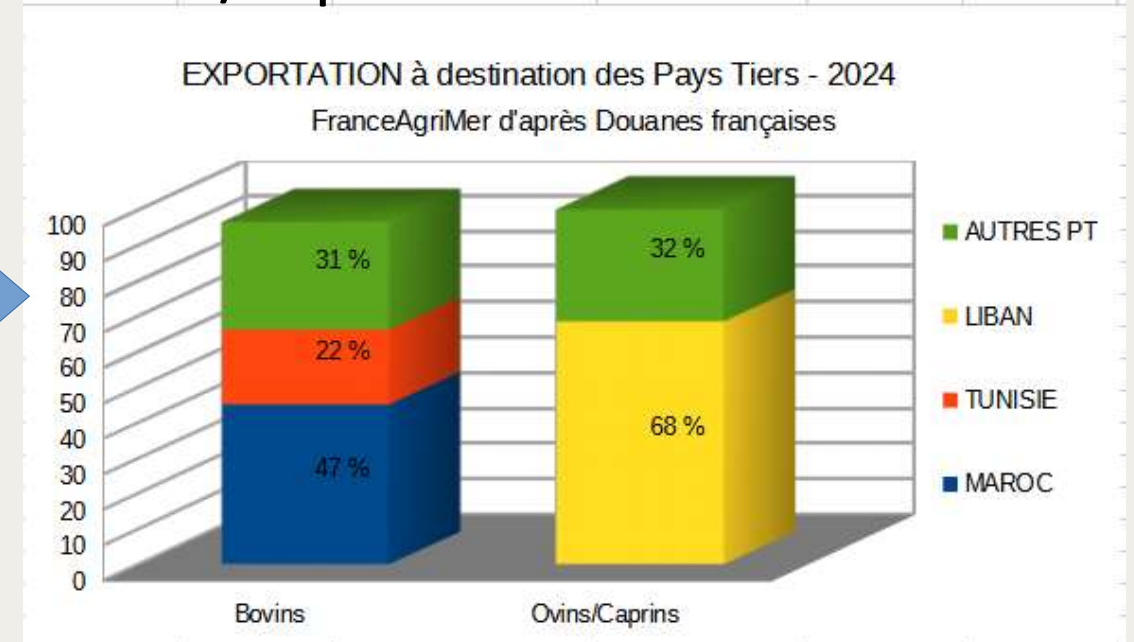
France mainly exports live animals to Italy, Spain and other member states.

For 2024 : 1 007 379 Bovines and 37954 Ovines/caprines to Member States



France also exports live animals to Third Countries such as Morocco, Tunisia, Ouzebekistan and many other countries around the world.

For 2024 : 30654 Bovines and 1825 Ovines/caprines to Third Countries



Competent Authority(ies)

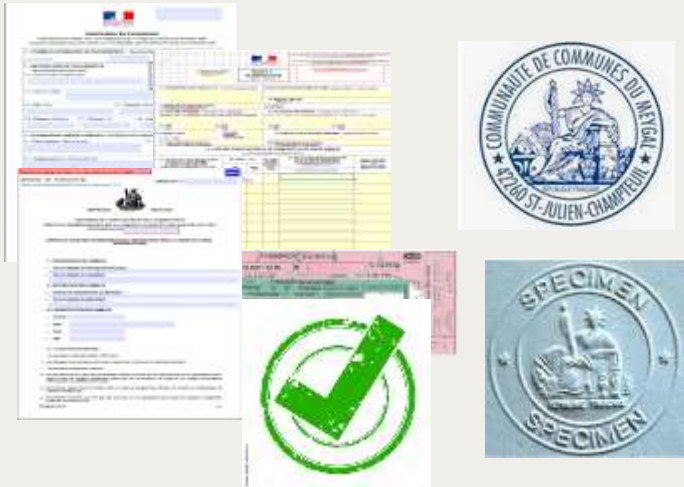


National animal welfare standards

For all the animal long journey the minimum animal welfare standards on animal transport established in France include the compliance with the expectations of Europeans Regulations(No. (EC) 1/2005)

1) Systematic documentary checks before departures by the departmental authorities

2) Physical checks of means of transport and animals welfare at place of departure (by a veterinarian within 24 hours before the animals departure)



National animal welfare standards

Road transport

France have a system for training drivers of road vehicles (authorized training organisations), which has been in operation since 2000 and has been regularly improved, for example in terms of evaluation system at the end of training.

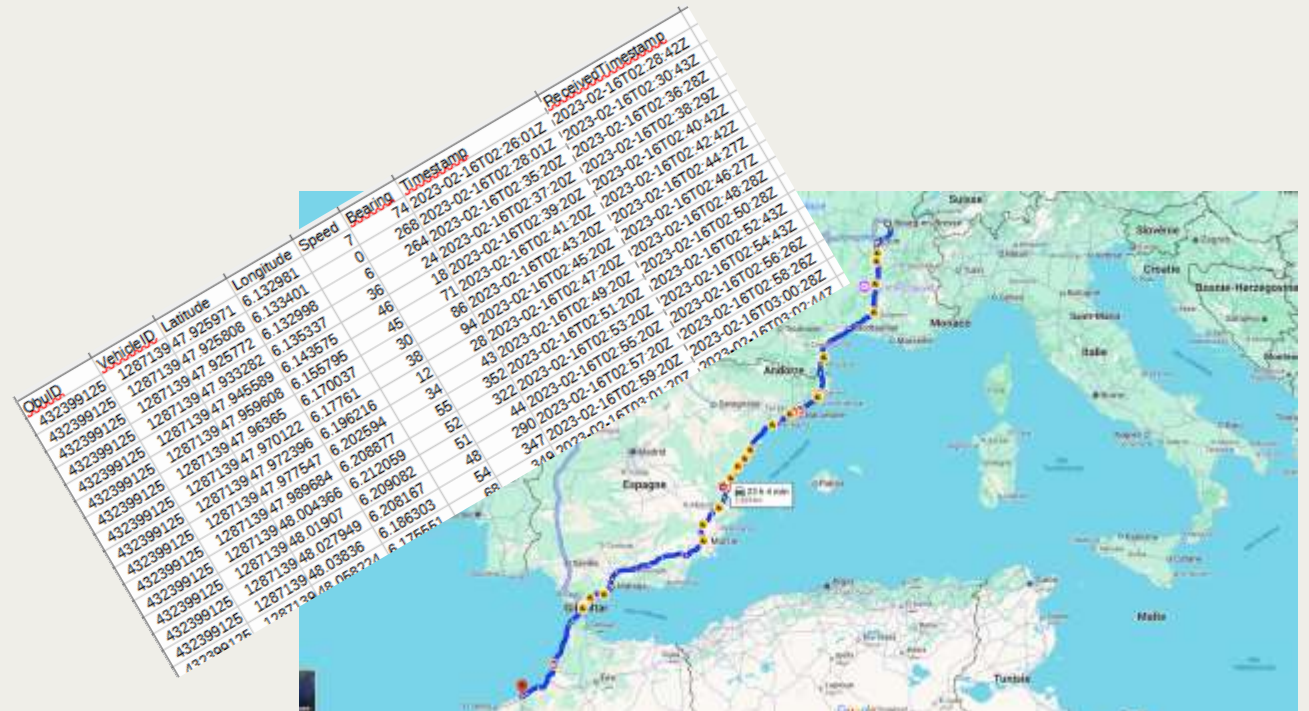
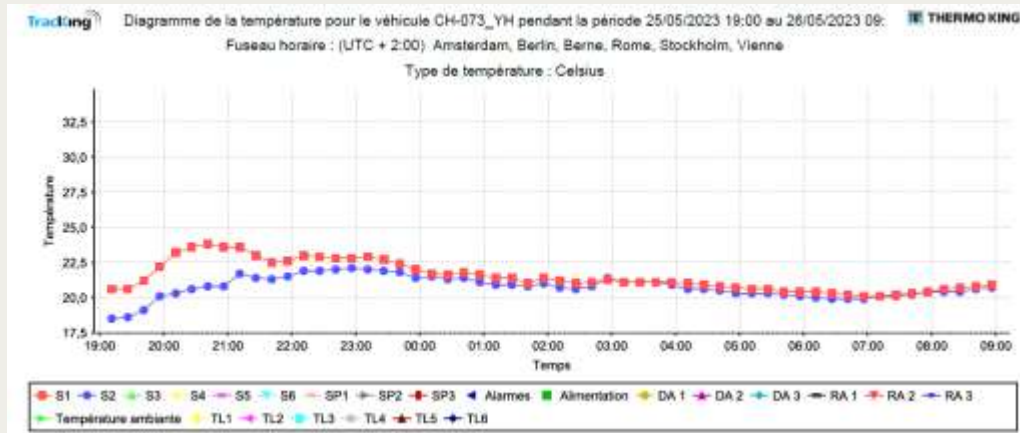
Maritime transport :

France do not yet have an equivalent official system for crews of livestock carriers, however at the local level (Sète) the person in charge of the control post has set up specific training for crews of livestock carriers We are working with him to develop an official training system for maritime crews.



Monitoring and evaluation

In order to monitor and assess the effectiveness of animal welfare standards during long-distance and cross-border transport, the local competent authorities carry out retrospective checks based on recording data (temperature, geolocation).



Conclusions

Challenges for the competent authorities :

1 - lack of human resources: France do not have enough official inspectors to control the loading at each place of departure (or reloading at resting places), given the scale of the total number of means of transport departing from France, given the distances to be covered by these inspectors between these different places of departure, given the constraints linked to the departure times of these journeys (at night, during holidays, etc.)

2 - difficulties in obtaining complete data in return, after the end of the journey and targeting "risk journey" in order to anticipate problems on future trips

Thank you

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