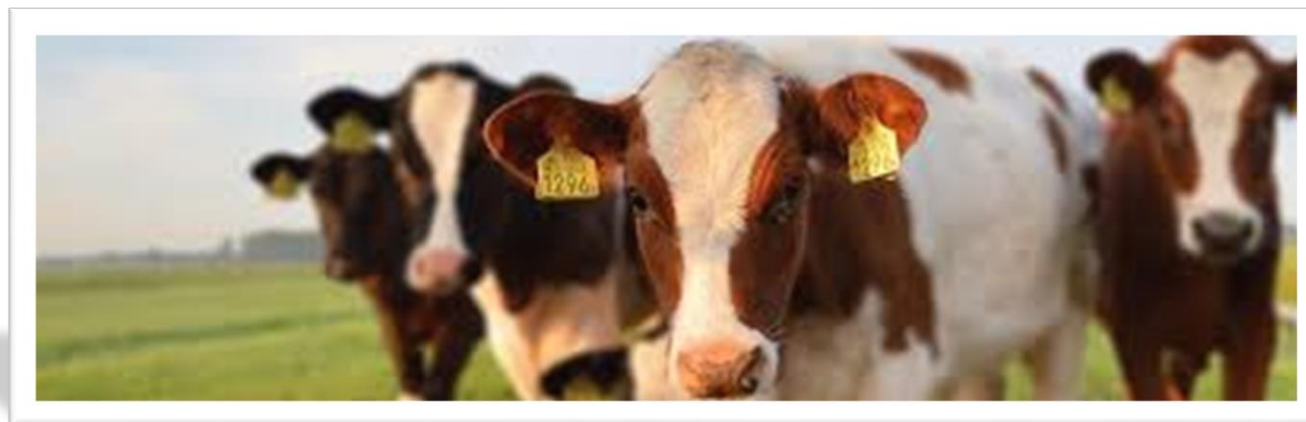




# UECBV

European Livestock and Meat Trades Union

## The future of live exports



**Carolina Cucurella – Senior Veterinary Advisor**

Multi-regional Whole Journey Scenario (WJS) workshop on long-distance transport by land and sea between Europe, the Middle East and North Africa 13-15 January 2026, Amman, Jordan

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# UECBV – who we are



Today, UECBV represents **44 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**).
- **ENSCA** (European Natural Sausage Casings Association is also an associated member of UECBV).

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





# Live exports - figures



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**Total EU exports of cattle: 889,667 heads (2024)**

**Africa: 162,610**

Morocco, Lybia, Tunisia,  
Algeria, Egypt

Spain, France, Ireland,  
Hungary, Romania

**Middle East: 268,572**

Israel, Lebanon, Irak, Jordan

Hungary, Romania, Portugal,  
Spain, Croatia



# Live exports - figures



**Total EU exports of sheep: 2,759,878 heads**

**Africa: 1,158,403**

Morocco, Lybia, Algeria

Spain, Romania

**Middle East: 1,536,628**

Jordan, Israel, Saudi Arabia

Romania, Portugal, Spain,  
Hungary

# Why is this important?

## Exports to third countries - Import side

Demand of live animals instead of meat:

- Problems in cold chain for meat

- Difference of carcasses and cuts

- Import duties

- Cultural reasons

- Food security

- Livelihood of people

**A ban on imports is not compensated by meat imports.**

# Why is this important?

## Exports to third countries - Exports side

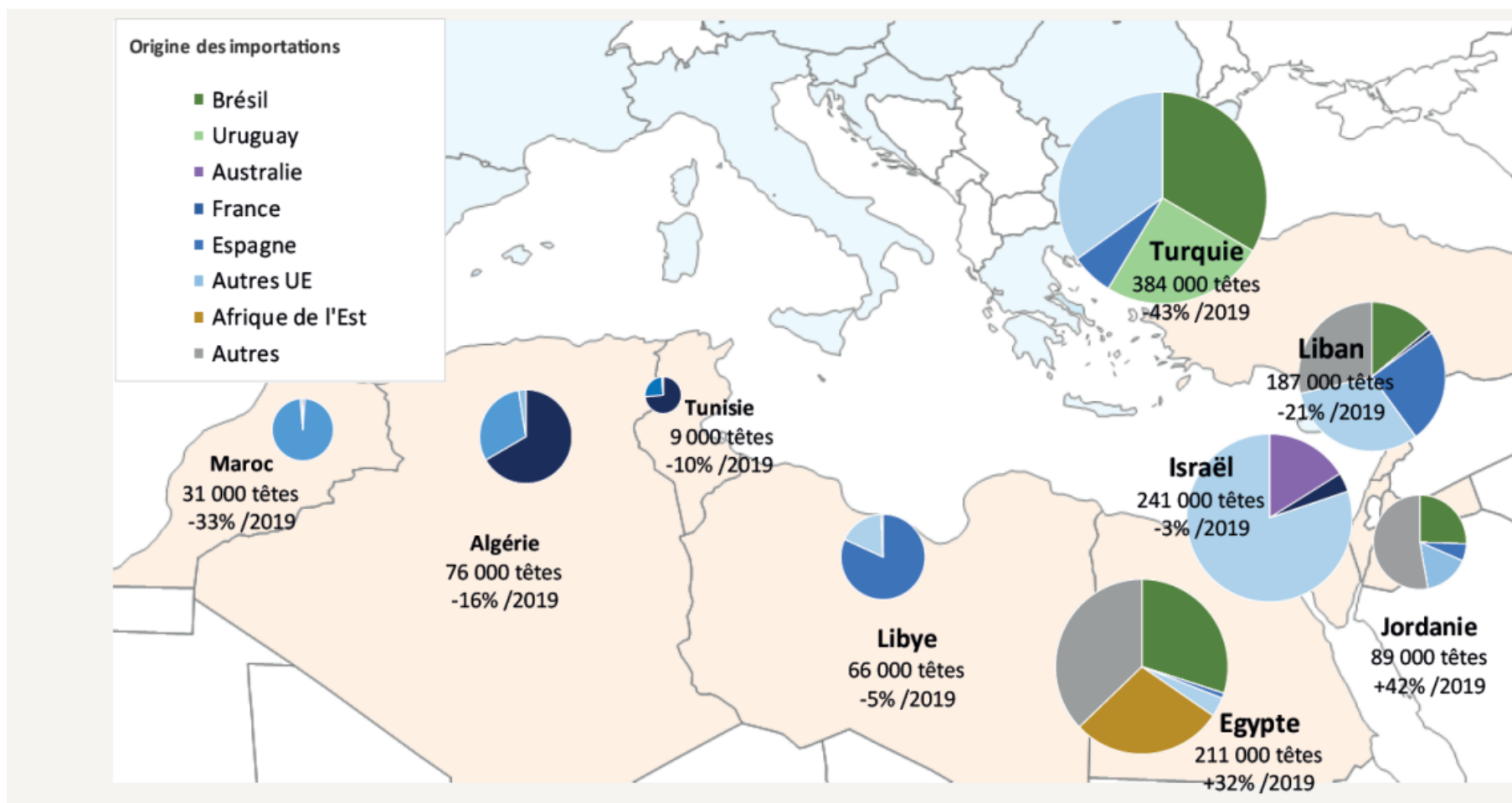
- **Supports specialised** production systems in Europe
- Sustains **rural employment**, small and medium farms
- Responds to real demand in importing countries (preferences, logistics, market access)
- Positive contribution to the EU trade balance (1,328 B€ for cattle, 465 B€ for sheep and goat).

**Stopping exports → market distortions, animal surplus.**



# Imports of meat and live cattle

## Importations de bovins (hors repro) par la zone Méditerranée en 2020



Source IDELE





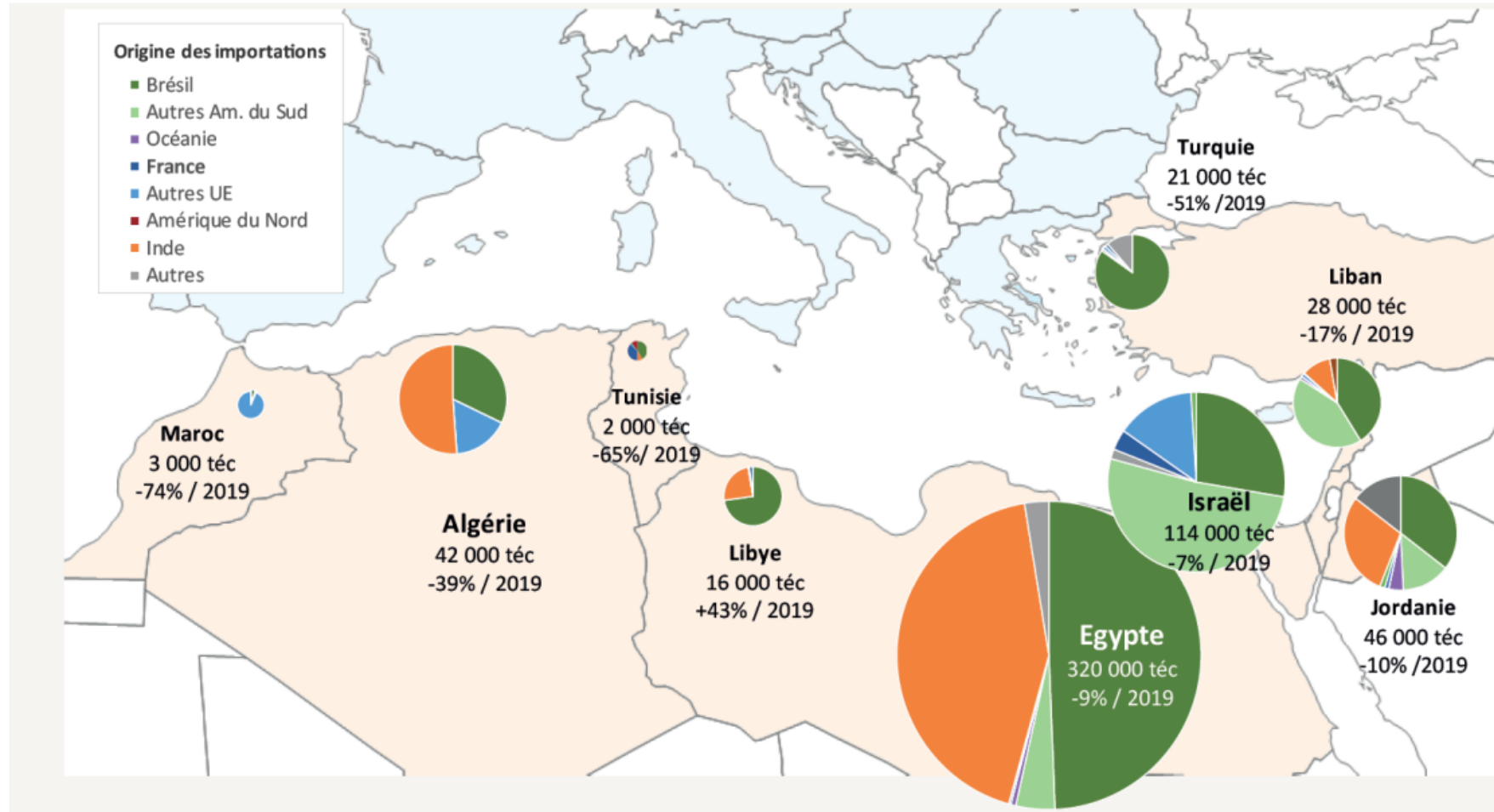
# Imports of meat and live cattle



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## Importations de viande bovine par la zone Méditerranéenne en 2020



Source IDELE



## Challenges in AH → trade disruption

- ❖ **Outbreak expansions:** EHD and BTV (lack of vaccine and un-harmonised intra-EU movement rules).
- ❖ **Re-occurrence of diseases:** **FMD** in DE, HU, SK. **LSD** in IT, FR and ES. **PPR**, **SPGP**.

## Challenges in AW:

- ❖ **Proposal on transport:** work at the Council is progressing.  
Works at EP on hold.
- ❖ **Societal demands** for a better livestock farming – trust from consumers.



## Main goals

- 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
- **Export: stricter measures**



# Transport – proposal



## 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
- Exports: a practicable model must be developed – cooperation required



## Also to be addressed

### Sensitive situations

- From time to time, **difficult situations occur**
- **Rejections at destination**, with consequences for animal welfare
- **Images of slaughter conditions of EU animals**, affecting public trust
- These situations concern **all actors in the chain**
- **WOAH** can play an important role here.



# concluding

- Live trade: social and economic relevance – responds to needs
- Live traders face different challenges – impact on trade
- Live exports cannot be replaced by meat exports
- Responsibilities of all ones involved
- Animal welfare is key for a trustful activity
- Legal requirements and future ambitions will only be achievable with cooperation and communication



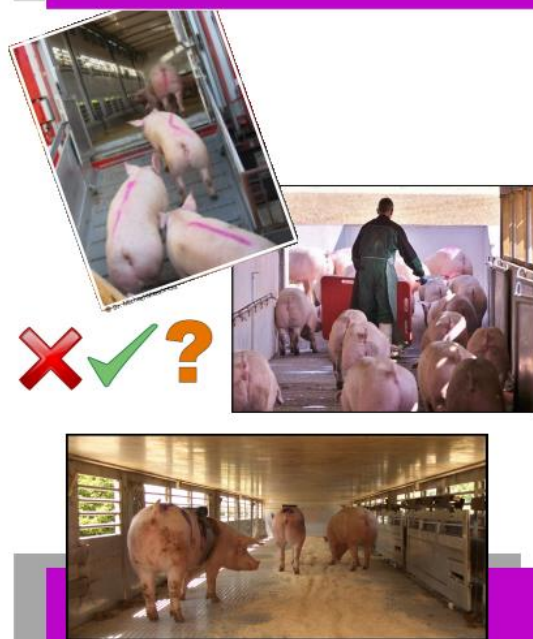


# Bonus...

## Practical Guidelines to Assess Fitness for Transport of Equidae (Horses, Ponies, Donkeys and their Hybrids)



## Practical Guidelines to Assess Fitness for Transport of Pigs



## Practical Guidelines to Assess Fitness for Transport of Adult Bovines



**EUROGROUP**  
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# Thank you!



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European Livestock and Meat Trades Union

