



# UECBV

European Livestock and Meat Trades Union

## The future of live exports



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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

# contents

- UECBV
- Export figures
- Relevance of live exports
- Challenges for live traders
- Proposal on Transport and UECBV position
- Sensitive aspect
- Conclusions
- Bonus

# 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

**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

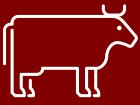
**A ban on imports is not compensated by meat imports.**

# Why is this important?

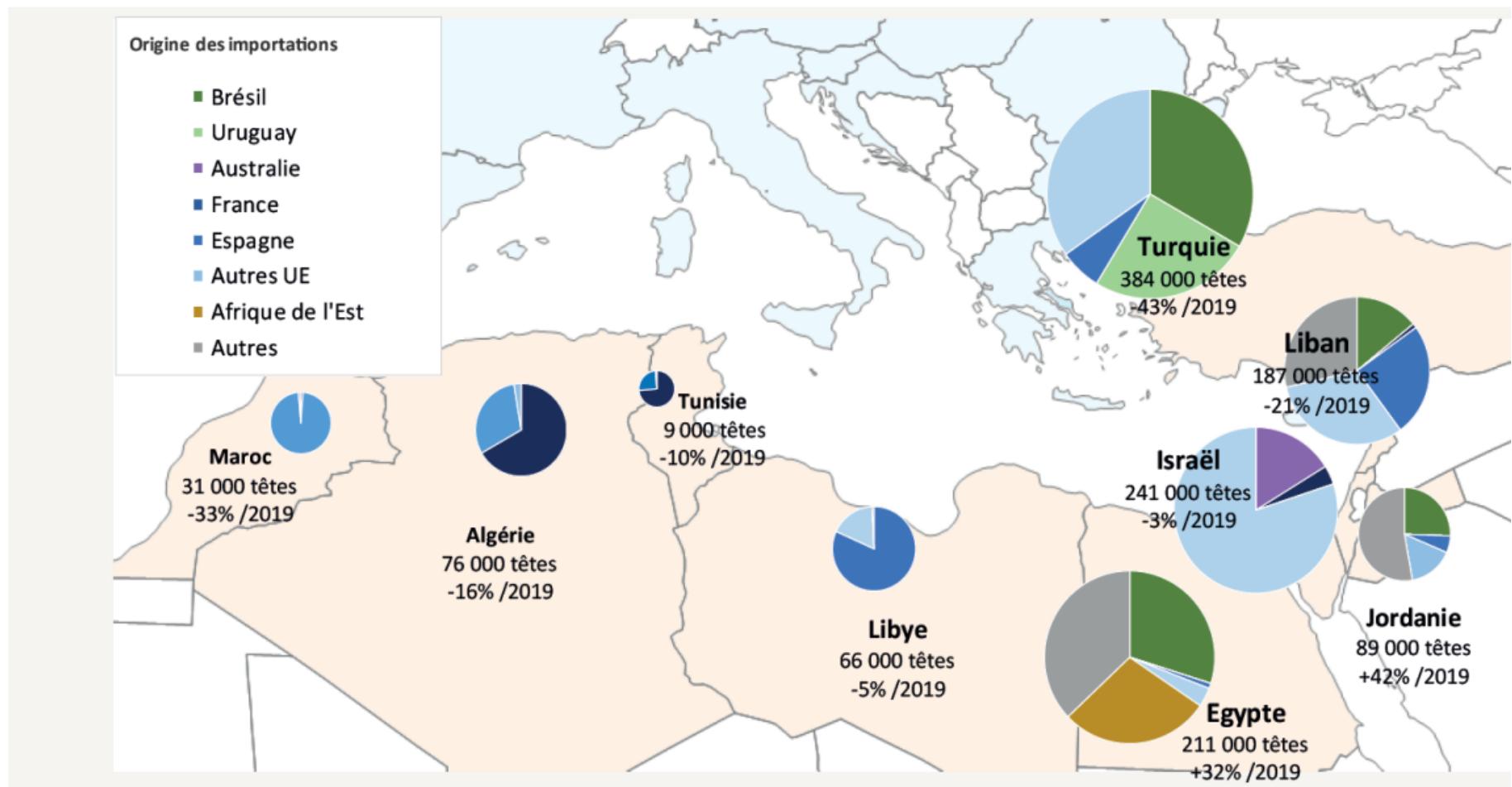
## Exports to third countries - Exports side

- 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).

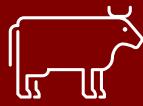
**Stopping exports → market distortions, animal surplus.**



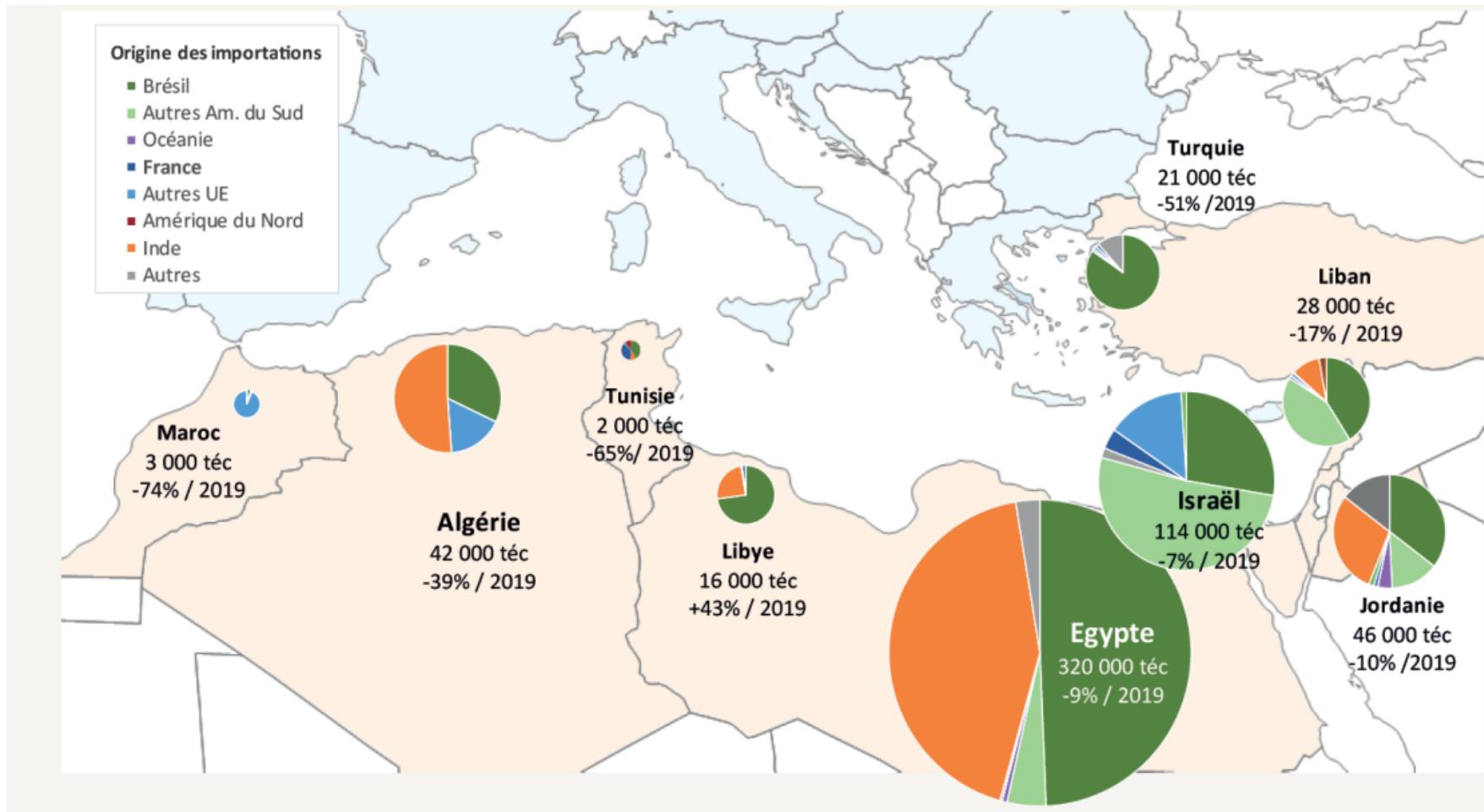
## Importations de bovins (hors repro) par la zone Méditerranée en 2020



Source IDELE



## Importations de viande bovine par la zone Méditerranée 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**



## 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



## 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...



**UECBV**  
European Livestock and Meat Trades Union

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  
4ANIMALS**

**FVE**  
Federation  
of Veterinarians  
of Europe

**INAPORC**  
LES PROFESSIONNELS DE LA FILIÈRE PORCINE FRANÇAISE



**copa\*cogeca**  
european farmers  
european agri-cooperatives



**IRU** International  
Road Transport  
Union

# Thank you!

