

EXPORT OF LIVE ANIMALS FROM EUROPEAN UNION TO NON-EU COUNTRIES

The EU has developed a ruthless live export trade in which many animals are transported over huge distances and often suffer greatly both during the journey and on arrival at their destination.

The EU exports over 3.4 million animals a year – cattle, pigs and sheep – to non-EU countries. Some of the animals are exported for slaughter, others for fattening or breeding.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE EU'S INHUMANE LIVE EXPORT TRADE MUST BE BROUGHT TO AN URGENT END.



EU law prohibits the transport of heavily pregnant animals, yet this lamb was born on truck during delay at EU-Turkey border.



Investigation evidence exposes the suffering associated with live export trade.

These journeys often involve massive suffering

As the long journeys wear on, the animals become increasingly exhausted, dehydrated and stressed. Some are unable to withstand the rigours of the journey and get injured or sick and, in the worst cases, die. Rarely do those that fall sick or injured receive any veterinary attention, but are just left to suffer and even to slowly die on the truck. The stress factors involved can include deprivation of food and water, lack of rest, overcrowding, insufficient headroom, extremes of temperature and humidity, inadequate ventilation and rough handling.

We share the view of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe which states that: *"Animals should be reared as close as possible to the premises on which they are born and slaughtered as close as possible to the point of production"*. The EU's live export trade flies in the face of this fundamental principle.

THE MAIN STRANDS OF THE EU LIVE EXPORT TRADE INCLUDE:

- Over 800,000 cattle and sheep are exported annually from the EU to Turkey.
- Around 80,000 EU cattle a year are sent on lengthy journeys to the Lebanon, mainly from France and Spain.
- France also exports over 40,000 cattle a year to Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco.
- Lithuania and Hungary export around 45,000 cattle a year to Israel.
- Ireland ships over 2,000 cattle a year to Morocco and in 2013 has started exporting cattle to Libya. Ireland plans to also send cattle to Egypt and Lebanon.
- In 2012, the EU sent over 800,000 sheep to Libya, mainly from Romania and Spain.
- Over 500,000 pigs are sent each year from the EU to Russia, some all the way from Denmark and Germany.
- Germany exports over 100,000 pigs annually to Ukraine and Moldova.

THE EU EXPORTS AROUND 3 MILLION LIVE ANIMALS A YEAR TO NON-EU COUNTRIES.

TOTAL EU LIVE EXPORTS 3.4 MILLION

Total cattle to third countries	730,000
Total sheep to third countries	1,374,000
Total pigs to third countries	1,382,000

CATTLE

Cattle from France to N.Africa 45,450
Cattle from France to Algeria 27,850
Cattle from France to Morocco 7,250
Cattle from France to Tunisia 10,400

Total EU cattle to Lebanon 82,900

Cattle from France to Lebanon	30,500
Cattle from Spain to Lebanon	34,400

Total EU cattle to Israel 50,650

Cattle from Hungary to Israel	12,850
Cattle from Lithuania to Israel	32,350

PIGS

Total EU pigs to former Yugoslavia 645,950*	
Pigs from Germany to former Yugoslavia	222,400
Pigs from NL to former Yugoslavia	281,750

*The majority of these pigs were sent to Croatia which from 1 July 2013 is an EU Member State.

Total EU pigs to Moldova and Ukraine 198,750

Pigs from Germany to Moldova	19,650
Pigs from Germany to Ukraine	125,100

Total EU pigs to Russia 532,000

Pigs from Germany to Russia	66,250
Pigs from Denmark to Russia	48,000

Total EU animals to Turkey 842,500*

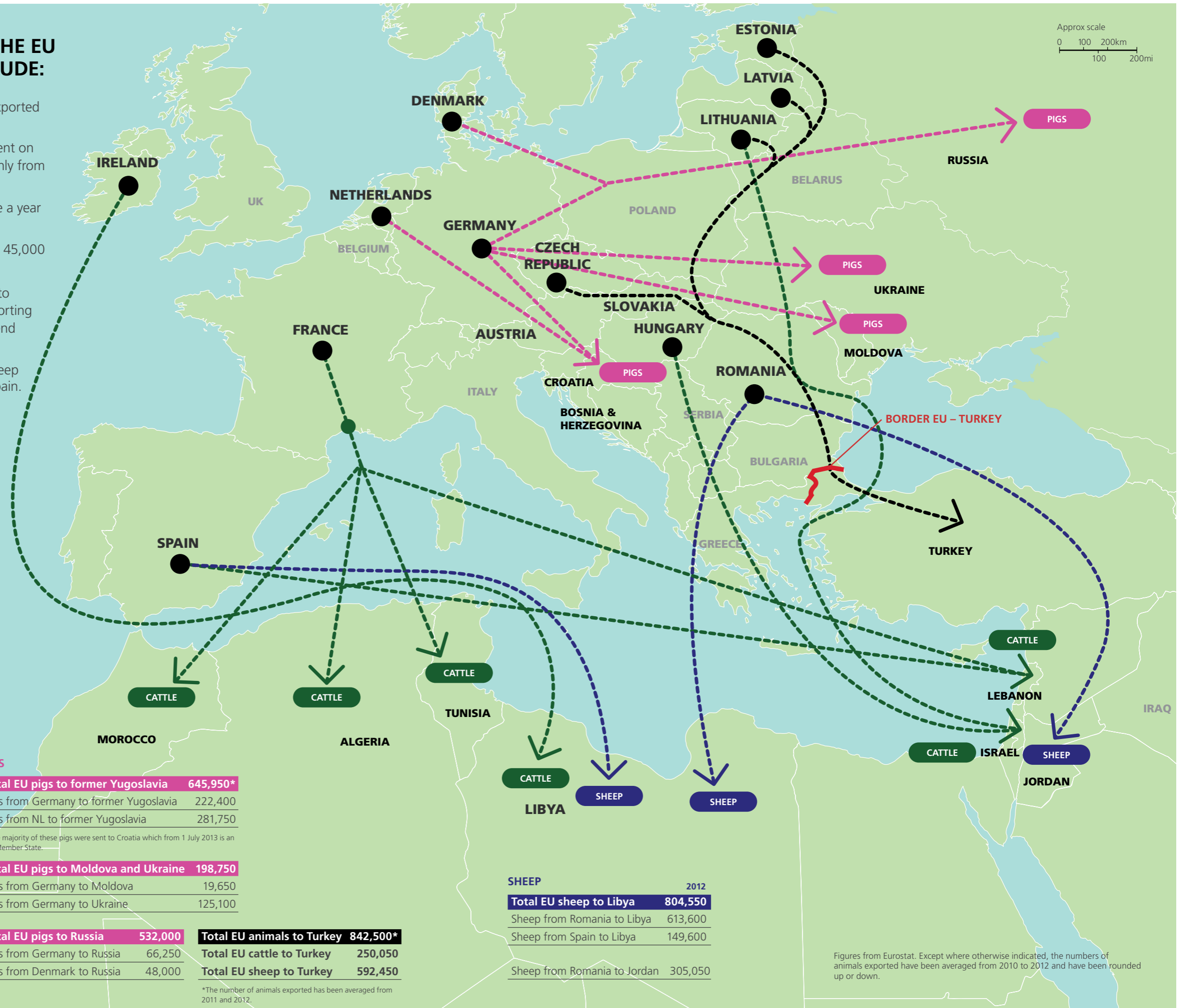
Total EU cattle to Turkey	250,050
Total EU sheep to Turkey	592,450

*The number of animals exported has been averaged from 2011 and 2012.

SHEEP

Total EU sheep to Libya 804,550	2012
Sheep from Romania to Libya	613,600
Sheep from Spain to Libya	149,600

Sheep from Romania to Jordan 305,050



Figures from Eurostat. Except where otherwise indicated, the numbers of animals exported have been averaged from 2010 to 2012 and have been rounded up or down.

CASE STUDIES :

- 1.** In Turkey, investigators filmed a calf being pulled from the womb of his newly-slaughtered mother. The calf's throat was cut after just two minutes of life.
- 2.** Investigators in Israel filmed workers using an electric goad to try and force an injured bovine to stand up. When that did not work, a strap was tied to the animal's leg and he was dragged along by a fork-lift truck.
- 3.** In late 2012, a truck left Latvia carrying 31 bulls bound for slaughter in Iraq – a journey of over 4,600km. The truck was delayed at the border between the EU and Turkey for 6.5 days as the drivers did not have the necessary documentation to allow them to cross Turkey to Iraq. Throughout this time the animals were left cooped up on the truck. Eventually the paperwork problem was solved and, after being unloaded for a rest, the bulls began the long journey across Turkey to Iraq. In all, the journey from Latvia took 13 days.

Delays at borders increase the risk of suffering

Particularly serious problems are caused by prolonged delays at the border between the EU and Turkey. During these delays – which can last for hours, even days – the animals are often left on the trucks frequently without adequate ventilation, food and water. They often become desperate with thirst and so hungry that they eat their own filthy bedding. Some of the animals collapse through exhaustion or injury and risk being trampled by their companions.

In some cases heavily pregnant animals abort or give birth to lambs and calves in the crowded trucks.

Our opposition to the live trade is based both on the detrimental impact on animal welfare of long journeys and on the poor treatment often experienced by the animals at journey's end. We have film evidence of callous treatment in the slaughterhouses of destination countries. In many of these countries animals are not stunned – rendered unconscious – before slaughter. Their throats are cut while they are fully conscious and they are left to bleed to death. **This is the harsh world to which the EU sends its animals.**

Once animals leave Europe, the EU authorities are powerless to protect them as EU legislation on welfare during transport and slaughter generally does not apply outside Europe.

Shockingly, the European Commission is actively trying to promote the export of live animals to non-EU countries as part of its drive to increase EU exports. Both Turkey and Russia are under pressure from the Commission to import even more animals from the EU.

Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU provides that, in formulating and implementing the EU's policies on agriculture and transport, the Union and the Member States must "pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals". This trade pays no regard at all to the animals' welfare and is in flagrant breach of the EU's own Treaty.

PLEASE WRITE TO:

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH AND CONSUMERS, URGING THE EU TO END ITS INHUMANE TRADE IN LIVE ANIMALS TO NON-EU COUNTRIES.

ADDRESS:

**European Commission,
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium.**

This briefing has been produced by Compassion in World Farming in association with Eyes on Animals and the Animal Welfare Foundation (May 2013).

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