

Animal Welfare: challenges for the meat and livestock sector European perspective



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European Livestock and Meat Trades Union – UECBV

The **European Livestock and Meat Trades Union (UECBV)** is the EU voice of national federations representing livestock markets, livestock traders (cattle, horses, sheep, pigs), meat traders (beef, horse meat, sheep meat, pig meat), and the meat industry (slaughterhouses, cutting plants, meat preparation plants).

Today, **UECBV** represents more than **50 associations** of :

- **EU Member States** as well as certain EFTA countries.
- EU trade partners in the meat sector are also associated to the UECBV (**Japan, Norway, Switzerland, Ukraine and United Kingdom**)

3 European Associations

Livestock markets (AEMB)
Casings industry (ENSCA)
Ship suppliers (OCEAN)

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



WHAT IS UECBV?

UECBV is the **European Livestock and Meat Trades Union**. It represents the national federations of the:

- livestock traders
- livestock markets
- meat industry: slaughterhouses, cutting and preparation plants
- wholesale meat traders
- international meat traders

UECBV focuses on **cattle, beef / horses, horsemeat / sheep and goats, sheep and goat meat / pigs, pork.**

UECBV OBJECTIVES

UECBV's core objective is to achieve an optimum business climate for the livestock and meat industry across the European Union and to strengthen the competitiveness of the industry as a whole.

- ❑ **Represent and defend the meat** sector vis-à-vis the European Institutions
- ❑ Promote **EU trade and international trade**
- ❑ Deepen the **internal market**
- ❑ Combat **distortions of competition**



UECBV NETWORK



- EU and third countries operators in the meat industry, livestock and meat traders
- EU institutions and international bodies
- Third countries national competent authorities
- EU and international NGOs
- Scientific institutions

The UECBV takes part in a large number of meetings, working groups, workshops, committees and high-level conferences on various issues in which its members show interest.

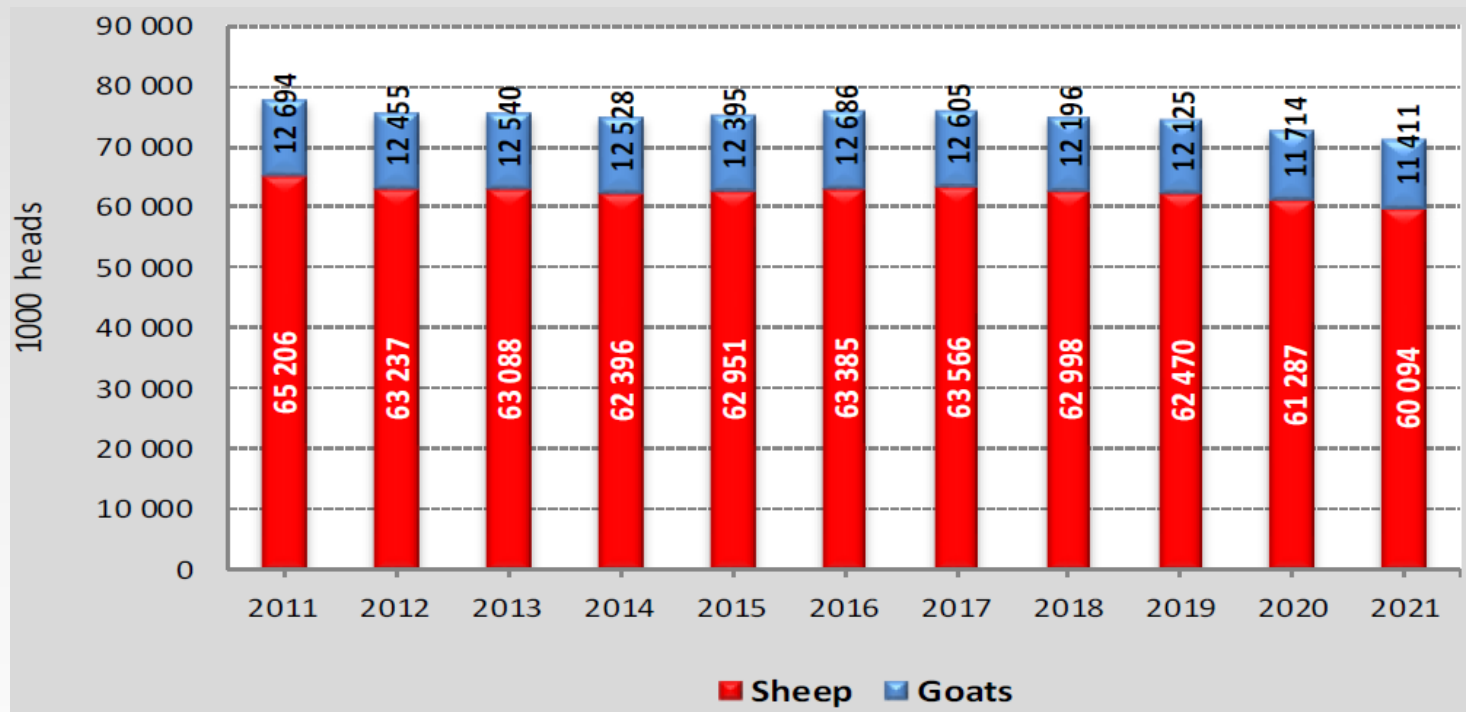
EU Livestock numbers – Bovine – June 2022

May/Jun 1000 Hd	TOT LIVESTOCK				%Var 2022 2021	BOVINE < 1 Year				%Var 2022 2021	BOVINE 1-2 Year				%Var 2022 2021	BOVINE > 2 Year				%Var 2022 2021
	2019	2020	2021	2022		2019	2020	2021	2022		2019	2020	2021	2022		2019	2020	2021	2022	
BE	2 406	2 388	2 353	2 241	-4.8%	706	716	712	656	-7.8%	475	471	473	463	-2.0%	1 226	1 201	1 169	1 121	-4.1%
BG																				
CZ																				
DK	1 512	1 517	1 503	1 484	-1.3%	510	517	517	510	-1.4%	292	291	287	290	+1.0%	710	709	699	684	-2.1%
DE	11 763	11 423	11 176	10 986	-1.7%	3 502	3 410	3 398	3 296	-3.0%	2 788	2 683	2 591	2 620	+1.1%	5 473	5 330	5 188	5 071	-2.3%
EE																				
IE	7 209	7 314	7 359	7 396	+0.5%	2 008	2 117	2 146	2 134	-0.5%	1 861	1 807	1 910	1 949	+2.0%	3 340	3 390	3 303	3 313	+0.3%
EL																				
ES	6 722	6 715	6 923	6 740	-2.6%	2 507	2 488	2 634	2 552	-3.1%	978	930	973	907	-6.8%	3 237	3 297	3 316	3 281	-1.1%
FR	18 470	18 200	17 863	17 416	-2.5%	5 227	5 144	5 134	4 949	-3.6%	3 229	3 249	3 158	3 144	-0.4%	10 014	9 808	9 571	9 323	-2.6%
HR																				
IT	6 016	6 116	6 174	6 087	-1.4%	1 746	1 746	1 762	1 725	-2.1%	1 409	1 458	1 476	1 475	-0.1%	2 861	2 912	2 936	2 887	-1.7%
CY																				
LV																				
LT																				
LU																				
HU																				
MT																				
NL	3 750	3 766	3 732	3 766	+0.9%	1 536	1 558	1 523	1 546	+1.5%	460	446	479	493	+2.9%	1 754	1 762	1 729	1 726	-0.2%
AT	1 873	1 844	1 846	1 842	-0.2%	596	588	596	592	-0.6%	425	416	413	422	+2.2%	853	841	838	828	-1.1%
PL	6 358	6 344	6 401	6 444	+0.7%	1 771	1 729	1 789	1 916	+7.1%	1 768	1 796	1 856	1 674	-9.8%	2 820	2 819	2 756	2 855	+3.6%
PT	1 712	1 751	1 723	1 680	-2.5%	524	557	550	554	+0.8%	267	264	252	229	-9.2%	921	929	922	897	-2.7%
RO	1 963	1 915	1 864	1 852	-0.6%	428	418	386	379	-1.9%	230	217	207	220	+6.2%	1 305	1 280	1 271	1 254	-1.4%
SI																				
SK																				
FI																				
SE	1 466	1 453	1 453	1 448	-0.3%	451	462	465	458	-1.6%	380	362	369	374	+1.3%	636	629	619	617	-0.2%
EU	71 220	70 747	70 371	69 383	-1.4%	21 512	21 451	21 612	21 268	-1.6%	14 559	14 389	14 444	14 260	-1.3%	35 149	34 907	34 315	33 856	-1.3%
UK	9 739	9 615				2 857	2 878				2 448	2 412				4 434	4 324			

Source : EStat Newcronos

EU %Var is calculated considering only countries available in 2021 AND 2022

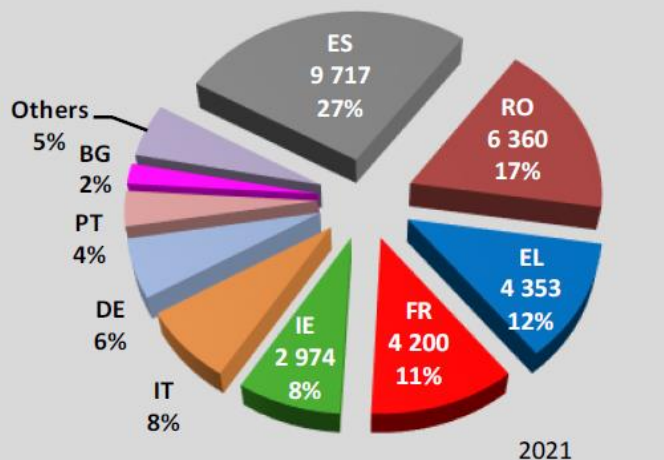
EU Livestock numbers – Sheep and Goat – December 2021



EU Livestock numbers – Sheep and Goat – December 2021

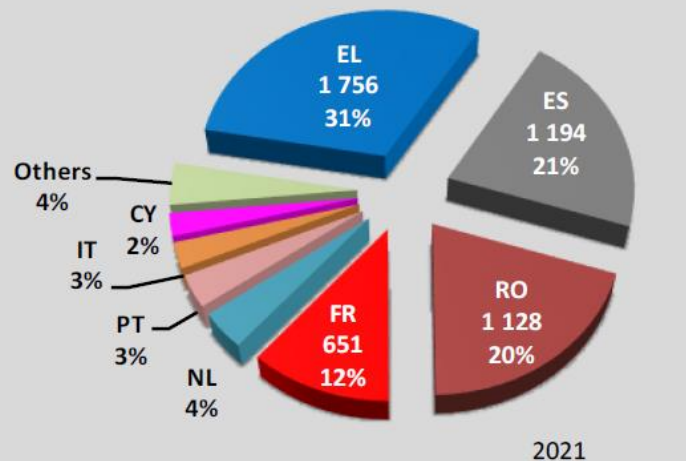
EU Sheep Meat Producers

('000 slaughtered heads)



EU Goat Meat Producers

('000 slaughtered heads)



■ ES ■ RO ■ EL ■ FR ■ IE ■ IT ■ DE ■ PT ■ BG ■ Others

■ EL ■ ES ■ RO ■ FR ■ NL ■ PT ■ IT ■ CY ■ Others

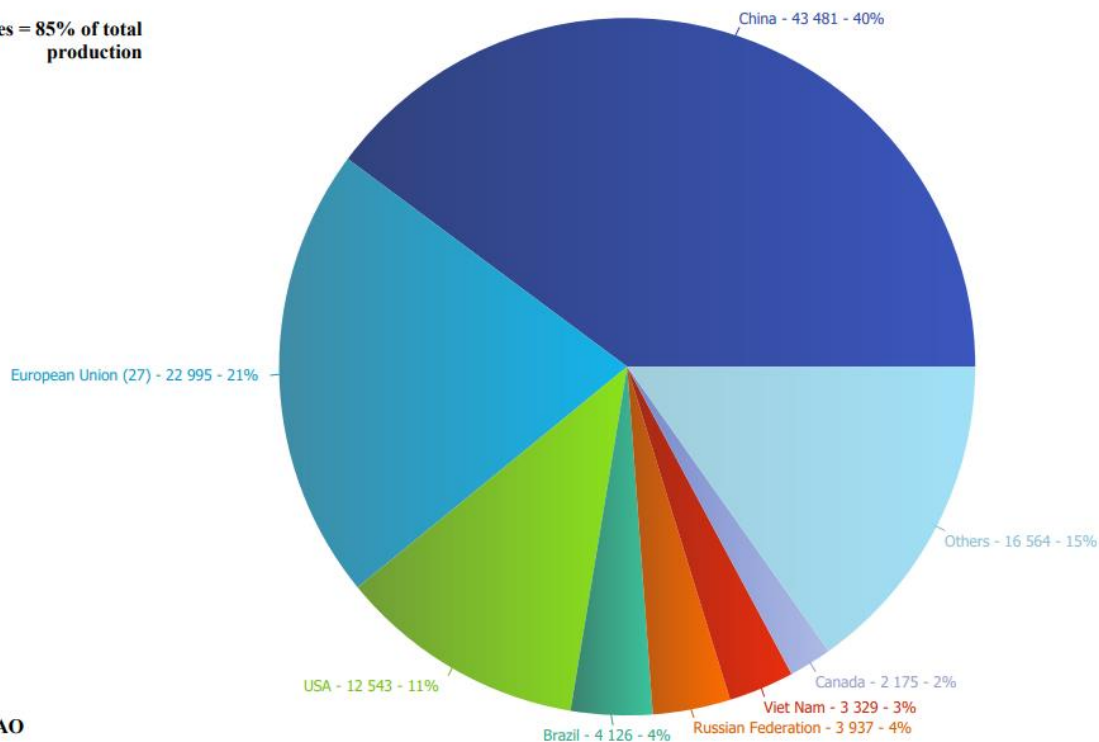
Source : Eurostat

Just a mention for pig meat

World Production of Pigmeat (in 1000 tonnes product weight) (Year 2019)

7 countries = 85% of total production

Year 2019
Total = 109150
(-9% over 2018)

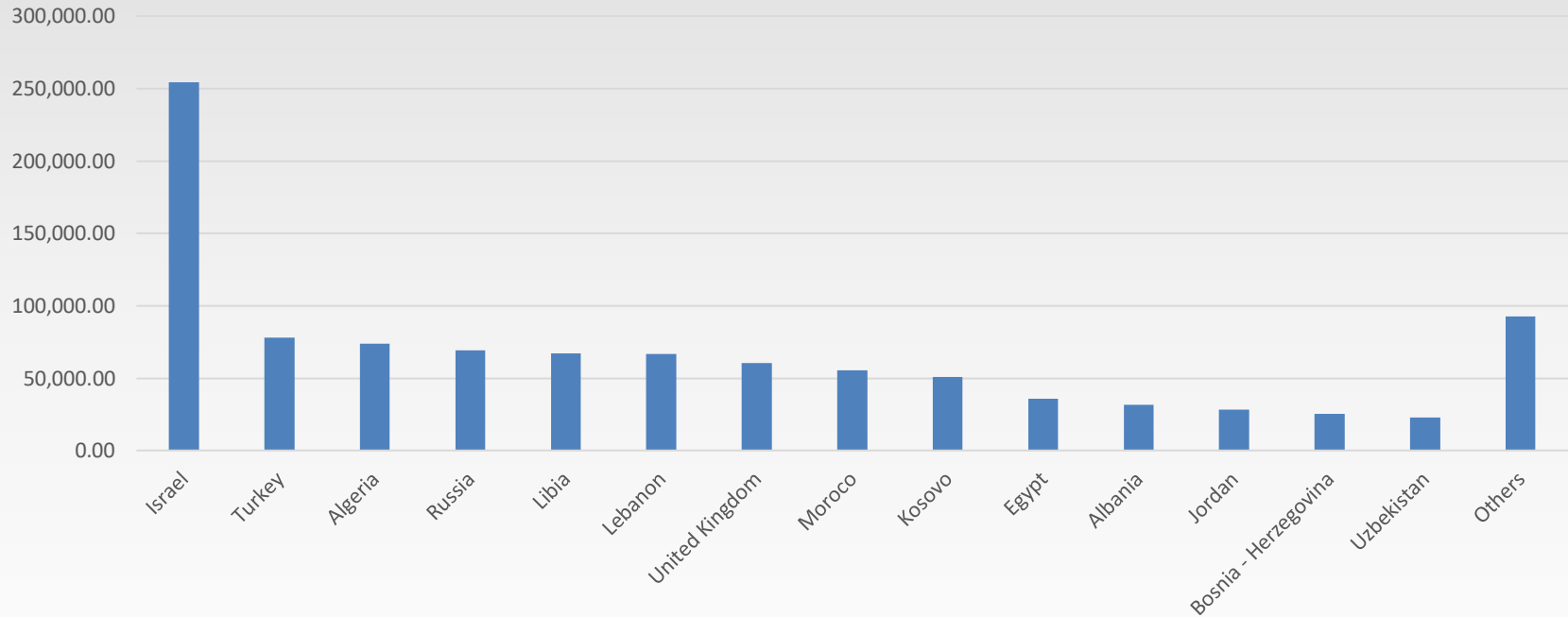


Source: FAO

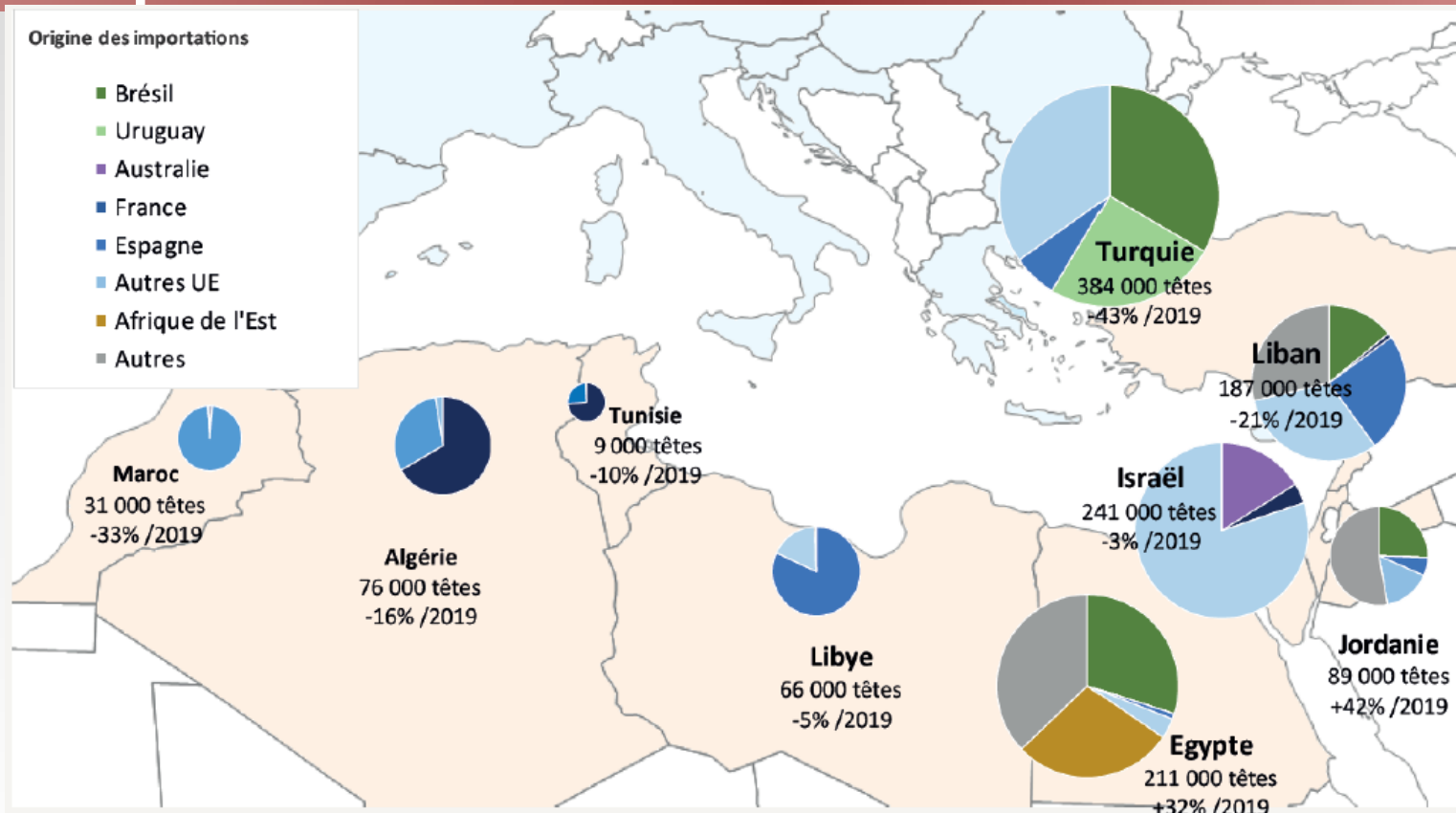
EU data without the UK

UE livestock exports - Bovine

2021

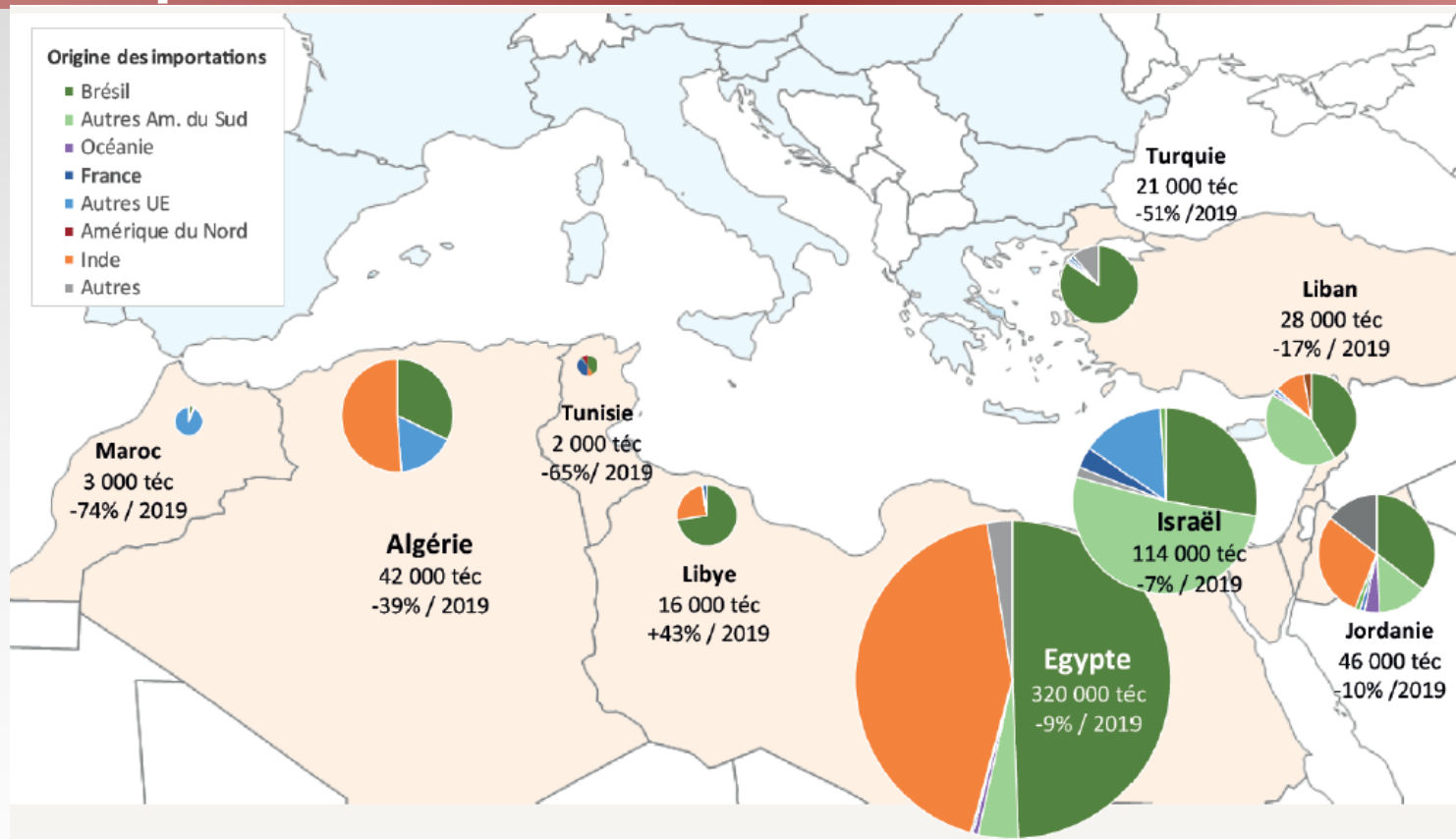


Imports of bovine in Mediterranean Countries



Source: Effets possibles de l'arrêt des exports de bovins vivants européens vers les pays tiers (2021)

Imports of beef in Mediterranean Countries



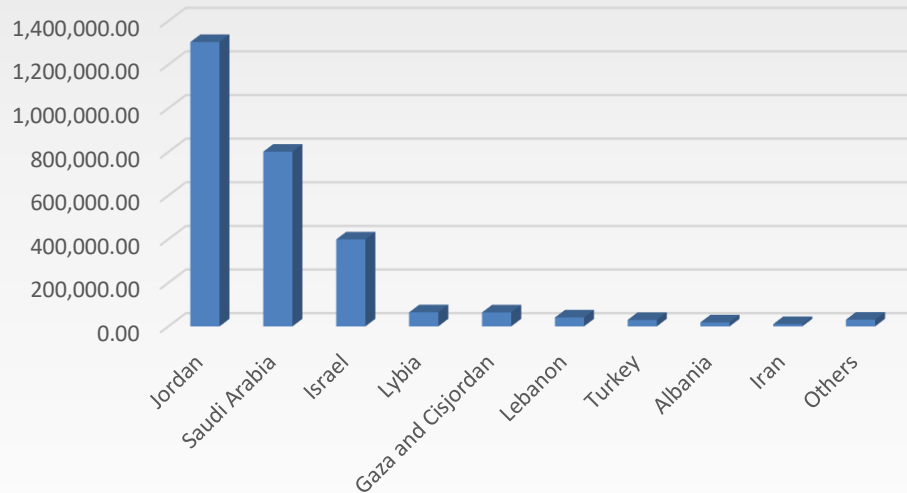
Source: Effets possibles de l'arrêt des exports de bovins vivants européens vers les pays tiers (2021)

EU exports of Sheep and Goat

Total value of sheep and goat exports: **350 million euro.**

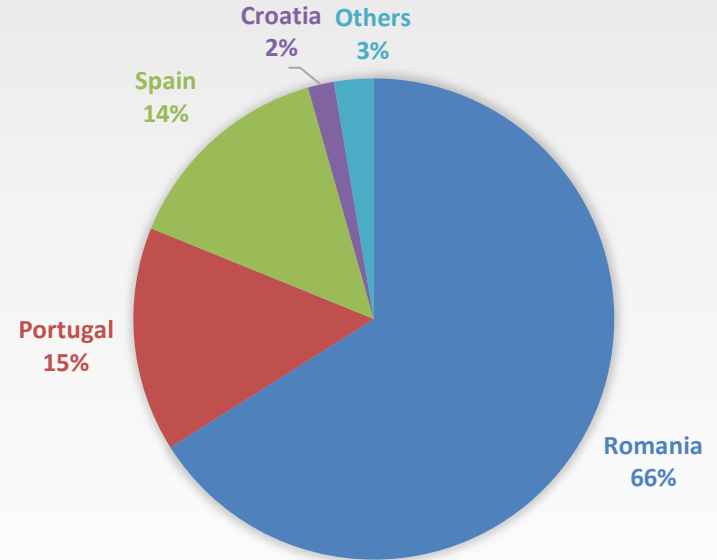
Total heads exported in 2021:
2,761,580 heads

UE Live small sheep and goat exports 2021 (heads)



Source: Eurostat

HEADS 2021



Europe to become sustainable: the GREEN DEAL

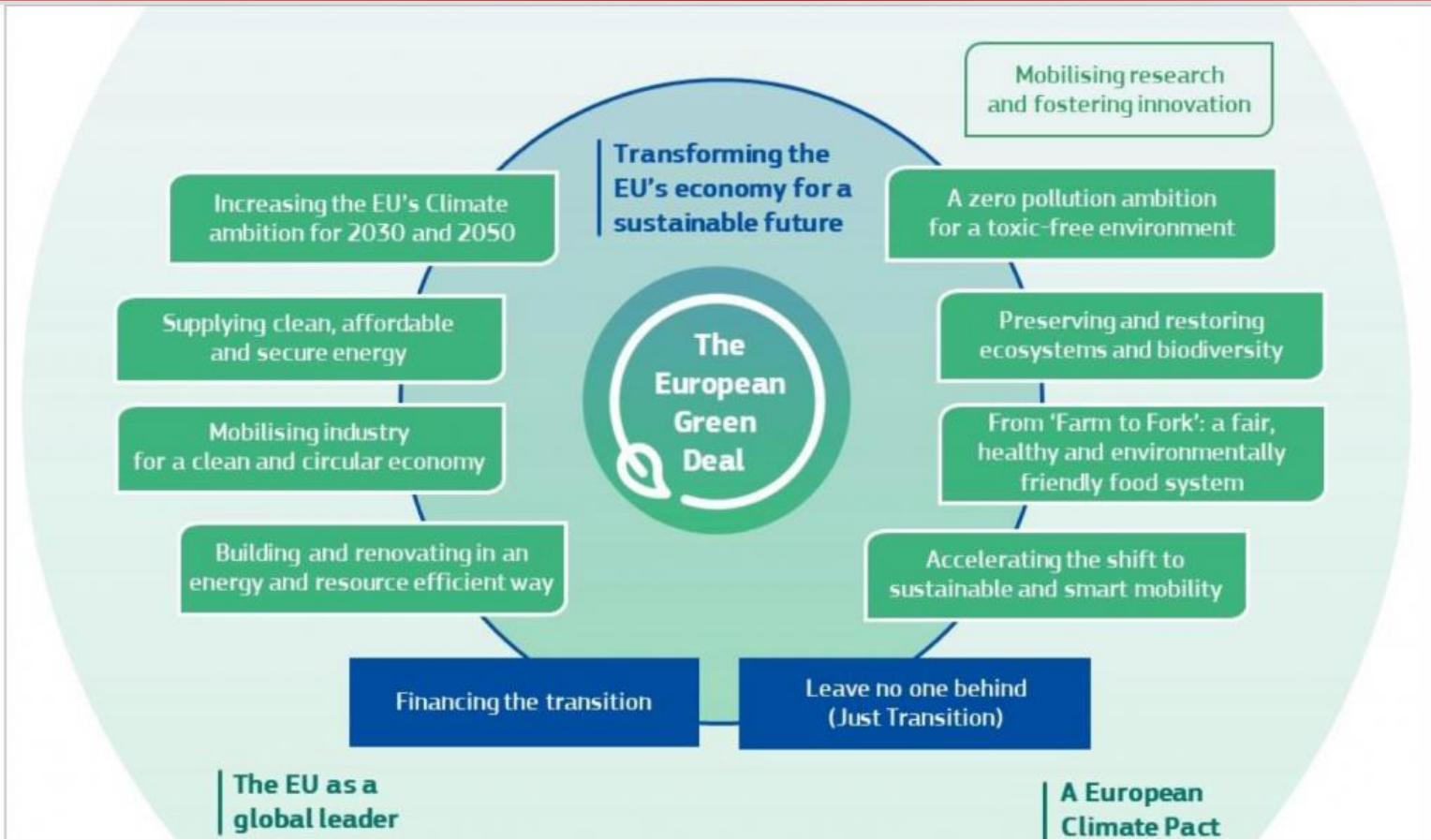


“Our goal is to reconcile the economy with our planet, to reconcile the way we produce and the way we consume with our planet and to make it work for our people.”

Ursula von der Leyen

President of the European Commission

Europe to become sustainable: the GREEN DEAL



Within Green Deal: Farm to Fork Strategy



F2F Strategy includes 27 action plans, amongst them:

Evaluation and **revision of the existing animal welfare legislation**, including AW on farms, animal **transport**, slaughter of animals and labelling. Proposal coming on Q3.

F2F: Animal welfare rules revision – what we have now

- **Current legal framework**

- Treaty on the **Functioning** of the European Union – Article 13 recognises that **animals are sentient beings**.
- Five Directives on the protection of animals in **farms**:
 - Horizontal Directive 98/58/CE
 - **Calves** → Council Directive 2008/119/EC
 - **Pigs** → Council Directive 2008/120/EC
 - **Laying hens** → Council Directive 1999/74/EC
 - **Broilers** → Council Directive 2007/43/CE
- **Transport** of animals → Regulation 1/2005
- **Slaughter** → Regulation (EC) N° 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of *killing*

F2F: Animal welfare rules revision – some history

- **Green Deal → Farm 2 Fork Strategy (2020) → revision of the AW legislation**
 - **Fitness Check:** to evaluate the current legislation.
 - **6 July 2021:** Inception Impact assessment roadmap → includes policy options on farm, transport, slaughter, and labelling level. Public consultation until 24th August.
 - October 2021 to January 2022: public **consultation** for **citizens** and stakeholders on fitness of rules. Contributions **59281**.
 - September 2022: **Fitness Check concluded:** AW legislation needs to be modernised (published on early October 2022)
 - **September 2022:** EFSA publishes opinions on AW during transport for Bovines, Equines, Small ruminants, and animals transported in containers

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F2F: Animal welfare rules revision – some history

- **Revision of the AW legislation → some policy options**

- **Farms:**

- Prohibitions of cages/stalls: laying hens, rabbits, pullets, broiler breeders, **sows**... (ECI foresees also **individual pens for calves**).
- Increased space allowances
- Mutilations

- **Slaughter:**

- Ban of CO₂ for stunning pigs

- **Transport:**

- Spaces allowances, travel times and travel conditions
- Exports to third countries (banning, **specific conditions such as assurance systems**, clarifying rules).
- Unweaned and other vulnerable animals (prohibition or refining conditions)



F2F: Animal welfare rules revision – some history

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F2F: Animal welfare rules revision – some history

• Revision of the AW legislation → Fitness Check findings

- AW improved - specific legislation (pigs, calves, laying hens, broilers), but on **transport** and **slaughter**.
- AW **without targeted legislation** is **sub-optimal** (dairy cows and fish).
- Directives: differences among MS – Regulations: more than 10 years old.
- **Transport: insufficient enforcement.** Indicators are missing.
- AW → **additional benefits** for animals and society, productivity per animals, enhancing ecosystems services and **reducing** the use of **antibiotics** (better public health).
- AW requires **additional costs** for operators, with a **poor return**. Return for operators can be improved by providing better **information to consumers**.
- There is room to increase the Common Agriculture Policy's and EU Trade Policy's influence in support of EU animal welfare goals.
- **A transition to more sustainable food systems cannot be envisaged without changes in food consumption patterns. This means that a reduction of the consumption of animal products is foreseen.**



F2F: Animal welfare rules revision – some history

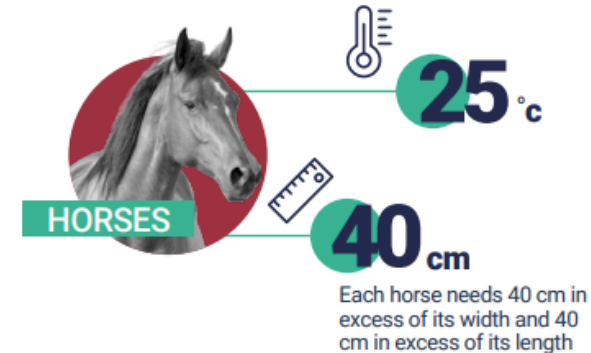
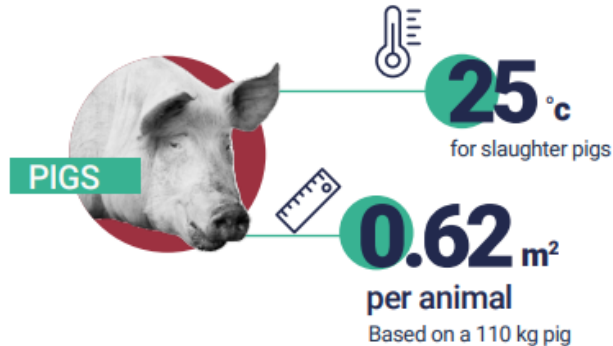
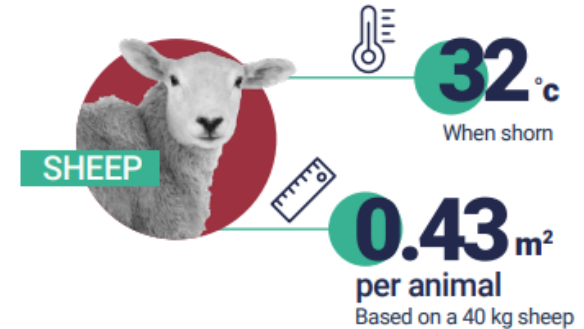
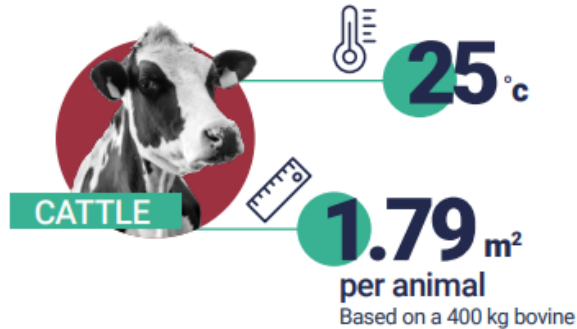
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F2F: Animal welfare rules revision – some history

- Revision of the AW legislation → EFSA's Opinions on transport

More space, lower temperatures, shorter journeys: these are some of the key recommendations to improve animal welfare during transport, included in new scientific opinions by EFSA.



F2F: Animal welfare rules revision – in addition

- **In parallel we also have:**

- **ANIT** (European Parliament - Committee of Inquiry on the Protection of Animals during Transport): June 2020 to January 2022. A Report and Recommendation were issued. **Red tapes not trespassed** in recommendations: **exports, calves, journey** times limited to 8 hours.
- **EU Platform** on Animal Welfare:
 - Mandate 2017-2021
 - Mandate 2021-2025. Six subgroups: Transport, Slaughter (Killing), Labelling, Poultry, Calves and dairy cows, Pigs
- European **Citizens** Initiatives:
 - **End of Cage Age**: succeeded: >1,000,000 signatures → voted on EP → mandate to the COM for a proposal at the end of 2023.
 - **End of Slaughter Age** → ongoing (until June 2023), probably will not succeed.
 - **Vegan Meal** → recently registered, not yet open.

F2F: Animal welfare rules revision – in addition

- **In parallel we also have:**

- JUDGMENT OF THE COURT 23 April 2015:

Article 14(1) of **Council Regulation (EC) N° 1/2005** of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) N° 1255/97 must be interpreted as meaning that, in order for **transport involving a long journey** for domestic **Equidae** other than registered Equidae, and domestic animals of **bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine** species which commences on the territory of the European Union and continues outside that territory to be authorised by the competent authority of the place of departure, the **organiser of the journey must submit a journey log which, in the light of the arrangements for the journey as planned, is realistic and indicates that the provisions of that regulation will be complied with, including for the stages of the journey which are to take place in the territory of third countries,** that authority being empowered, should that not be the case, to require changes to those arrangements to ensure compliance with those provisions throughout the journey.

F2F: Animal welfare rules revision – in addition

- **In parallel we also have:**

- EU Animal welfare today & tomorrow - **Stakeholder's** conference. 9th December 2021. Keynote speech from **Dr Jane Goodall**



F2F: Animal welfare rules revision – what's next?

Revision of the **AW** legislation: next steps



- Q3-2023: EC Proposal



- Q1-2024: EP Committee vote
- H2-2024: EP Plenary Vote

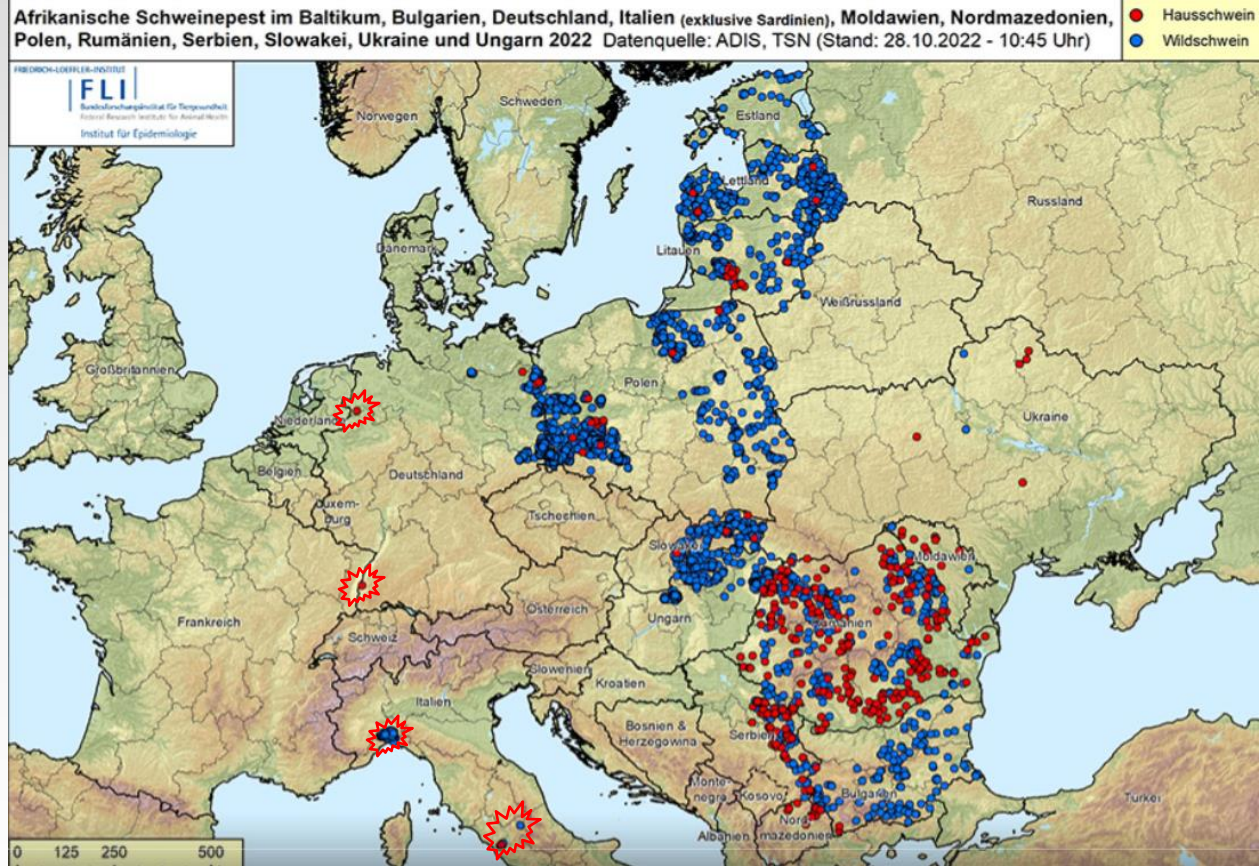


- H2-2024: Council for discussions
- H2-2024: Final Legislative act

Other challenges: animal diseases - ASF

African Swine Fever

- Food Security
- Trade disruption
- Wild boar
- Human activity
- Biosecurity
- Backyard farms



Other challenges: animal diseases - ASF

African Swine Fever

- Food Security
- Trade disruption
- Wild boar density
- Human activity



Final reflections

Green Deal, F2F Strategy and the revision of the AW legislation are probably the **biggest challenge** the livestock and meat industries in Europe are facing **since BSE crisis**.

Most of the ambitions of the European Commission respond to pressure originated by the average citizens' perception of animal welfare and **NGOs** (normally with no knowledge on regulations or even farming activity).

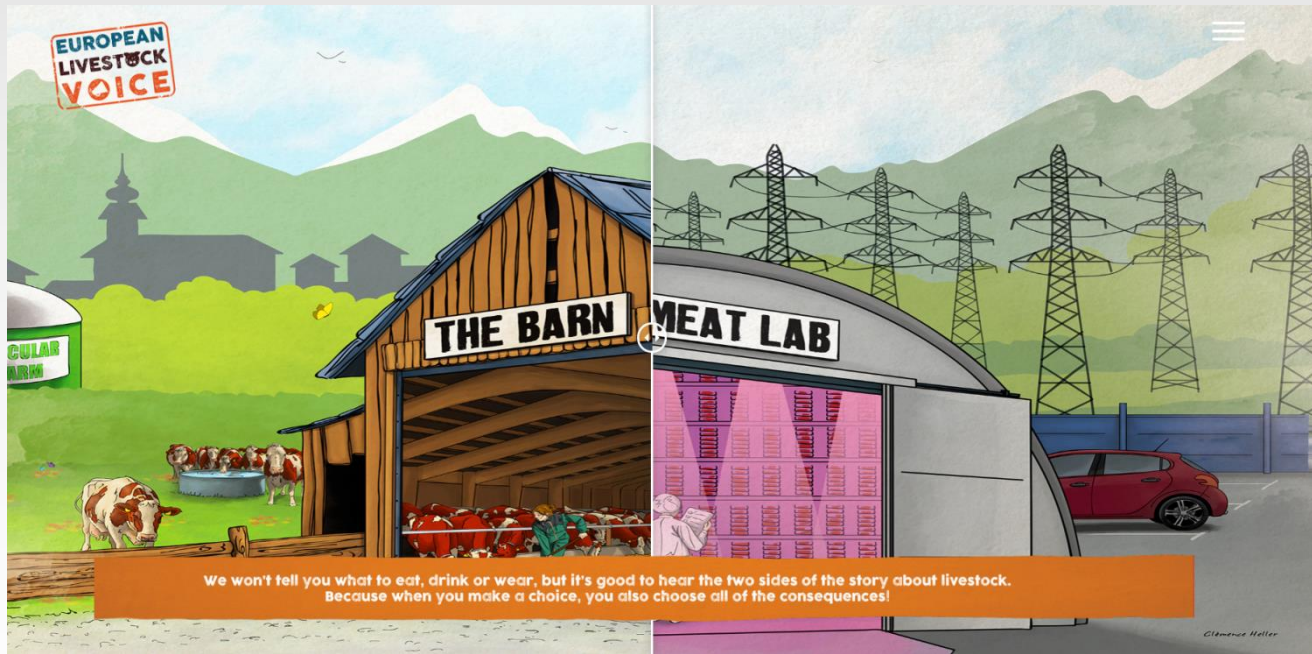
The impact of some policy options would be **devastating** (i.e banning of **exports** of live animals, or **CO₂** for stunning pigs).

The scientific **evidence** and knowledge on what new legislation will be built is **scarce**. More research is needed for sound science based rules.

The **global environmental** impact of some policy options needs to be deeply assessed.

Meat Image – Communication

#MEATTHEFACTS www.meatthefacts.eu



! Me(a)t Europe !



UECBV

European Livestock and Meat Trades Union