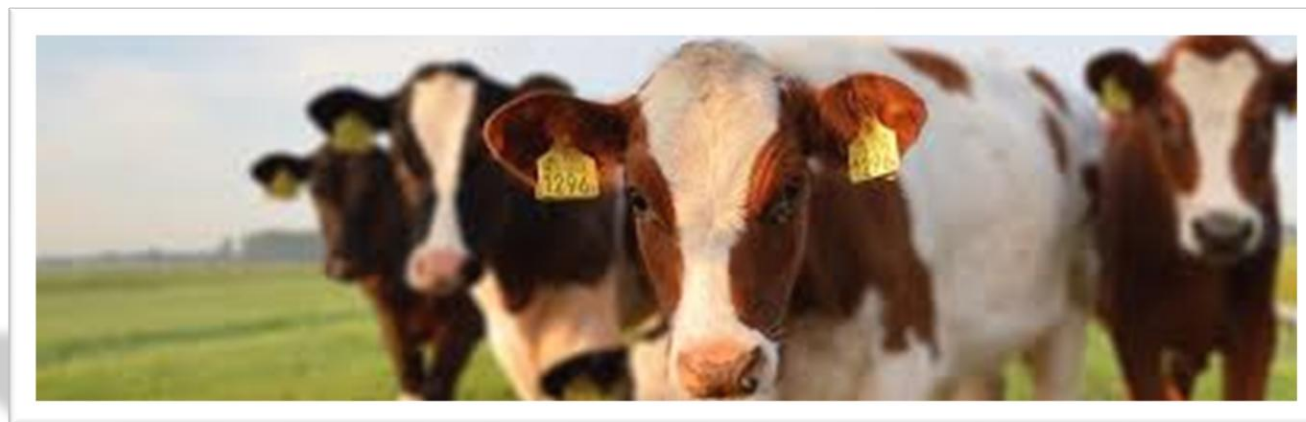




UECBV

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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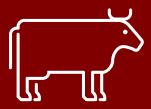
UECBV - who we are

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



UECBV

European Livestock and Meat Trades Union

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?

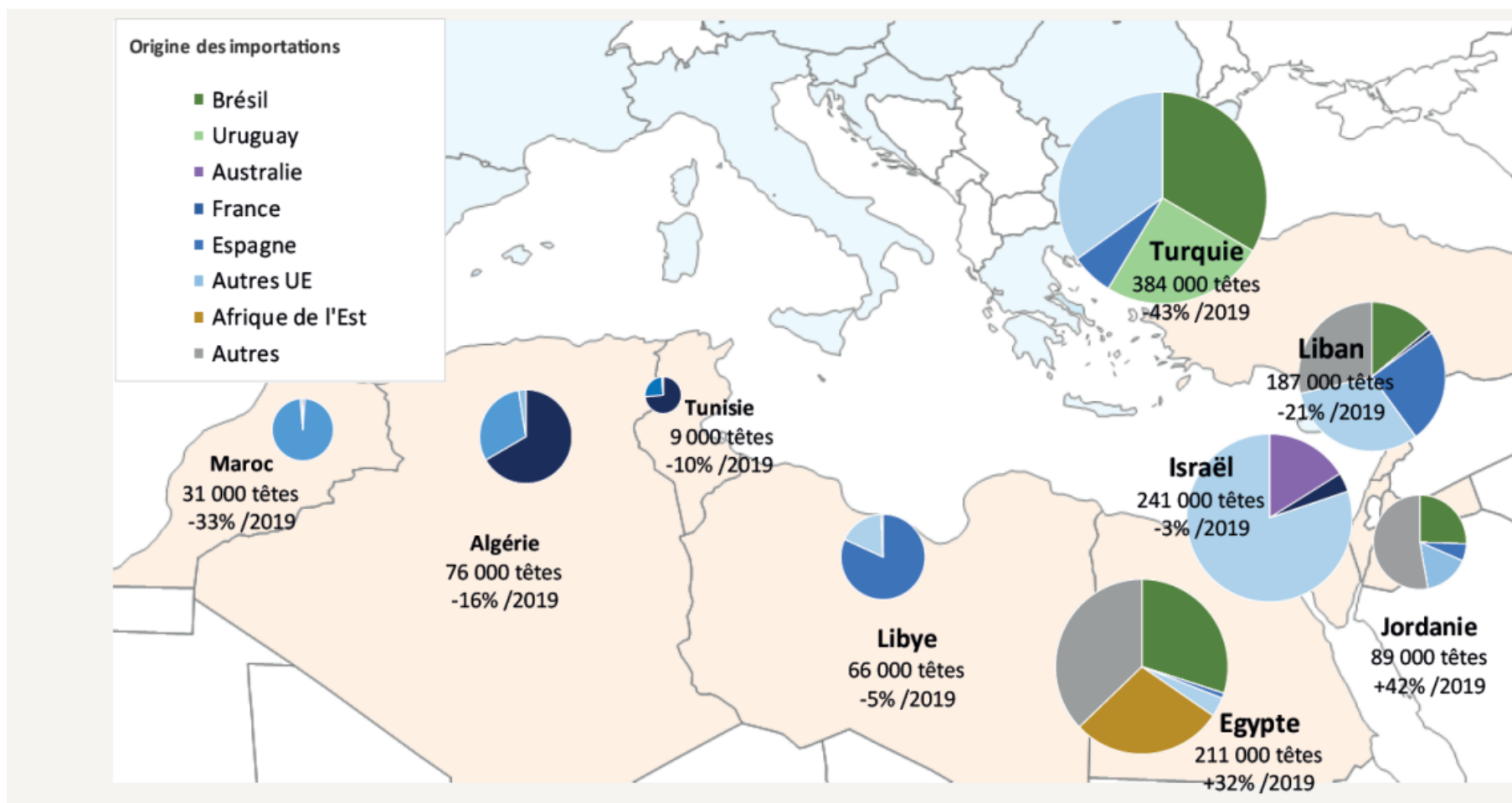
Exports to third countries - Exports side

- **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

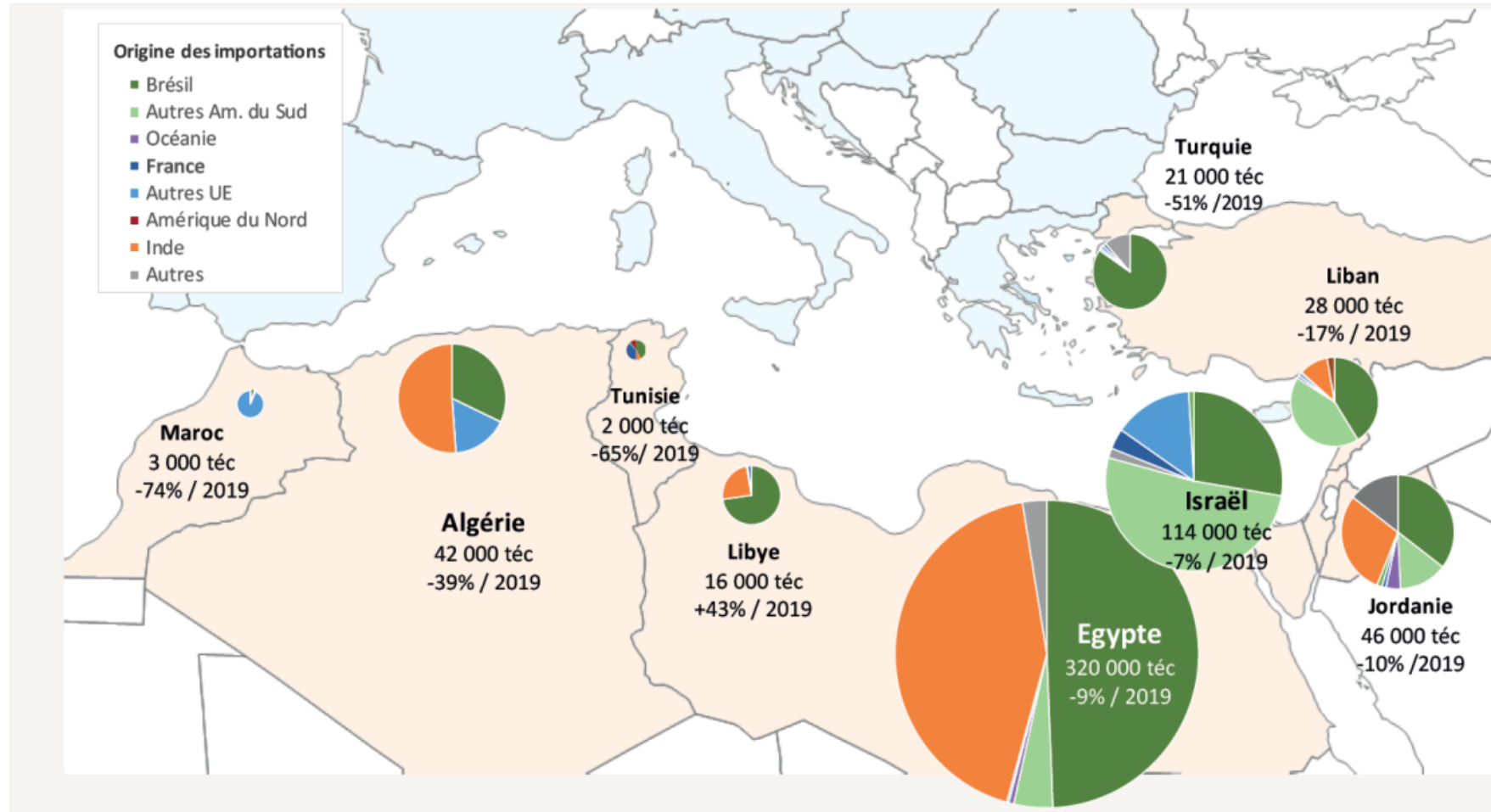


Source IDELE



Imports of meat and live cattle

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

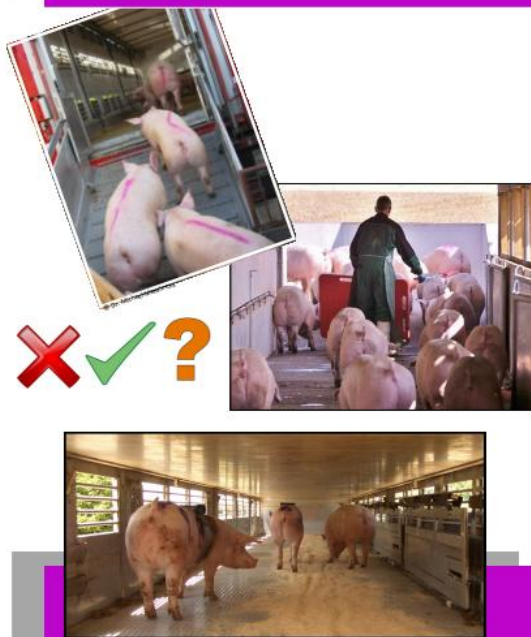


Bonus...

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



Fédération
of Veterinarians
of Europe



Thank you!

