

EU live animal exports to the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey

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Compassion in World Farming

**Each year the EU exports around
2 million cattle & sheep to the Middle East,
North Africa & Turkey**

The long journeys can lead to great suffering

- June, 2015: over 5000 sheep die on a sea journey from Romania to Jordan
- Between July 2014 & February 2015 Israeli figures show that 122 EU cattle died in quarantine after their long journeys – the cattle came from Hungary, Lithuania & Romania
- March 2015: Israeli Veterinary Services confirm 32 calves died on board a ship that transported calves from Romania to Israel

The slaughter practices experienced by EU animals sent to Middle East, North Africa & Turkey:

- result in extreme suffering
- are in breach of the international standards on welfare at slaughter of the OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health)



- Exporting animals to countries where the Commission & MS know full well that they will be slaughtered in ways that breach the OIE standards contravenes Art 13 TFEU
- Art 13: the EU & MS shall, in formulating and implementing the Union's agriculture and transport policies, "pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals"
- Commission claims Art 13 does not apply as this trade is part of EU's common commercial policy.
- It is, however, also part of EU's agriculture & transport policy both of which are covered by Art 13



- We have written to main exporting MS – Spain, Hungary, Romania, Lithuania – asking them to replace live trade with meat exports or at least to ensure their animals are slaughtered to OIE standards
- Either do not reply or say there is nothing they can do to protect their animals once they leave EU
- If that is so, they should not export their animals to countries where they cannot ensure that international welfare standards will be observed



Steps the EU should take: replacing the live trade with a carcase trade

- Ban live exports: replace the live trade with a carcase trade
- Not true to say Middle East countries will only import live animals
- Australia is major exporter of live animals. Australian government figures show that in 2013-14 Australia exported 839 million Australian dollars of beef, veal and sheep meat to the Middle East, while its exports of live cattle and sheep were worth much less: 266 million Australian dollars



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Steps the EU should take: ensuring EU animals slaughtered to OIE standards

- Commission & MS should ensure EU animals are slaughtered in conformity with OIE standards
- Australian Government's *'Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System'* requires livestock exporters to ensure that when Australian animals reach the importing country they are slaughtered in conformity with OIE standards
- EU should adopt Australia's practice
- Commission has refused to propose such a scheme



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Steps the EU should take: help importing countries to raise standards

- TAIEX workshop on welfare at slaughter held recently in Beirut is welcome
- But one 2-day workshop will on its own do little to help countries in this region improve their standards
- Importing countries need advice and assistance as to how to:
 - improve the physical infrastructure of slaughter facilities
 - improve working practices
 - provide effective training
 - improve the management of slaughter facilities



Steps the Parliament could take

- Motion for a Resolution or Own-Initiative report
- Intergroup could write to Commissioner
- MEPs could write to Agriculture Minister in their country