Many animals suffer injuries on the long journeys © CIWF

Ireland exports over 100,000 cattle a year for fattening

thousands from Romania to Italy for slaughter.

year to Spain and Italy. Some are going for slaughter, but most are young pigs being sent on appallingly long journeys for fattening.

spread foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) to France and Ireland. A combination of Irish calf and UK sheep

It was the export of live sheep from the UK which

welfare problems on animals, but risks transmitting infectious diseases such as foot-and-mouth and classical swine fever ...

Animal Health and Animal Welfare concludes that "disease spread may occur over great distances because of transport".

Long distance transport not only inflicts serious infectious diseases

Overcrowding is commonplace © CIWF

Poland on terribly long journeys to Italy, where they are

Around 200,000 young calves a year are exported from

Central and Eastern Europe to Italy

Sheep sent from the UK to Italy,

Export of sheep from Spain to Greece

SUBSIDIES USED TO ENCOURAGE CRUEL TRADE

The European Commission has now ended subsidies

to the Netherlands, France and Spain where many are kept in veal crates or other barren veal units.

Ireland also exports over 100,000 young calves a year

- much of Europe is criss-crossed by long cruel journeys

MUSH OF EUROPE IS CRISS-CROSSED

EUROPE'S LONG DISTANCE TRANSPORT OF LIVE ANIMALS CRUEL AND UNNECESSARY

"journeys should be kept as short as possible".

REFORM IS VITAL

We believe the EU must adopt a fundamental reform in which the long-distance transport of live farm animals is abandoned and replaced by a trade in meat.

In particular, a maximum overall limit of 8 hours should be imposed on journeys to slaughter or for further fattening. To our delight, in November 2001 the European Parliament voted for a maximum overall limit of 8 hours or 500 km to be placed on transport for slaughter or further fattening. Then in September 2002, at an Agriculture Council discussion, 9 of the EU’s 15 countries said they want an 8-hour limit. We urge the EU Agriculture Council to now go ahead and enact a law imposing an 8-hour limit.

In March 2002, a major report by the Commission’s Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare (SCAHAW) concluded that welfare tends to get worse as journey length increases and so:

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All too often animals die during the long journeys © CIWF

How you can help: UK

Please write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, urging her/him to join with the other EU countries to impose a maximum overall limit of 8 hours on journeys to slaughter or for further fattening. The address is Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR.

Ireland

In the Republic of Ireland, write to the Minister for Agriculture and Food, Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Netherlands

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Compassion in World Farming - UK

5A Charter Street, Heartford, Harris, GB02 34 LK.

Tel: +44 (0)1730 264206 Fax: +44 (0)1730 260791

Tel: +353 (0)85 6372451 Fax: +353 (0)85 6370084

E-mail: compaing@ciwf.co.uk Website: www.ciwf.co.uk

Compassion in World Farming - Ireland

Salmon View, Hanover Street, Co. Galway, Republic of Ireland.

Tel: +353 (0)91 6372451 Fax: +353 (0)91 6370084

E-mail: irish@ciwf.ie Website: www.ciwf.ie

Compassion in World Farming - Netherlands

Botnica 130, 4804 VH Narven, Netherlands.

Tel: +31 (0) 24 350022 Fax: +31 (0) 24 3503777

E-mail: e-mail: info@ciwf.nl Website: www.ciwf.nl

Compassion in World Farming - France

29 Rue des Archives, 75002 Paris, France.

Tel: +33 (0) 1 44 75 30 00 Fax: +33 (0) 1 44 75 30 20

E-mail: info@ciwf.fr Website: www.ciwf.fr

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REFORM IS VITAL
Many animals suffer injuries on the long journeys © CIWF in Spain and Italy. Some are sent by sea from Ireland to northern France and then on by road to southern Ireland. Ireland exports over 100,000 cattle a year for fattening to Spain and Italy. Export of cattle from the Republic of Ireland to Spain and Italy much of which the long distance transport of live farmanimals is abandoned and replaced by a trade in meat.

Subsidies used to encourage cruel trade The EU exports 250,000 cattle a year to the Middle East and North Africa, on journeys lasting 6-10 days. Germany, the Republic of Ireland and France are the biggest exporters. The long journeys, together with the brutal unloading and slaughter methods involving the animals on arrival in the Middle East, make this an immensely cruel trade. Most of the animals are ritually slaughtered— their throats are cut while they are fully conscious and they are left to bleed to death. This cruel trade is generously subsidised by the EU taxpayer. Around 40 - 110 million euros a year are paid out to dealers who export live cattle to non-EU countries. We believe it is ethically unacceptable for public money to be used to promote a trade which routinely inflicts great suffering on animals.

The European Commission has now ended subsidies on cattle being exported for slaughter, but with the major exception that subsidies are still paid for cattle going to the Lebanon, which is not an EU country. As nearly all EU cattle being exported for slaughter do go to the Lebanon, the Commission’s move has done virtually nothing to improve things in practice.

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Much of Europe is criss-crossed by long cruel journeys

Sheep sent from the UK to Italy, Greece and Spain

On average, around 600,000 lambs and sheep a year are exported from the UK for slaughter. Traditionally many are sent all the way to Italy. Crammed into overcrowded trucks, they are often given no proper food, water or rest. As the journeys progress, they become weak and half of those exported from the UK to Italy, Greece and Spain end up being exported from the UK to Italy, Greece and Spain.

Export of sheep from Spain to Greece

One of Europe’s worst trades involves sheep who are trucked from Spain, across southern France, through Italy and then shipped from the port of Bizkaia in Spain. Many of the cattle end up in Spanish feedlots. It is a great shock for cattle to be taken from green fields in Ireland, where much of what they eat is a natural diet of grass, to feedlots in Spain where they are kept in barren conditions and intensively fed on an unnatural diet of maize which can lead to serious digestive disorders and other painful health problems.

Export of cattle from the Republic of Ireland to Spain and Italy

In particular, a maximum overall limit of 8 hours on journeys to slaughter or for further fattening.

By long cruel journeys

Transport of pigs from the Netherlands to Spain and Italy

The Netherlands exports around 1.35 million pigs a year to Spain and Italy. Some are going for slaughter, but most are young pigs being sent on appallingly long journeys for fattening.

Export of cattle from the Republic of Ireland to Spain and Italy

Irish exports over 100,000 cattle a year for fattening in Spain and Italy. Some are sent by sea from Ireland to northern France and then on by road to southern Ireland. Export of cattle from the Republic of Ireland to Spain and Italy.

Overcrowding is commonplace © CIWF

Long journeys risk spreading infectious diseases

Long distance transport not only inflicts serious welfare problems on animals, but risks transmitting infectious diseases such as foot-and-mouth and classical swine fever across Europe. The 2001 report by the European Commission’s Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare concludes that “disease spread may occur over great distances because of transport”.

It was the export of live sheep from the UK which spread foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) to France and Ireland. A combination of Irish calf and UK sheep exports spread FMD to the Netherlands.

Export of horses and donkeys from Central and Eastern Europe to Italy

Around 100,000 horses a year are exported from Romania, Poland and Belaure for slaughter in Italy on journeys which can last 35 – 80 hours or more. Horses have been trailed going from Lithuania to Sardinia on a journey of over 90 hours. Some are sent by road to southern Italy and others by sea from Ireland to Bizkaia in Spain. Many of the cattle end up in Spanish feedlots. It is a great shock for cattle to be taken from green fields in Ireland, where much of what they eat is a natural diet of grass, to feedlots in Spain where they are kept in barren conditions and intensively fed on an unnatural diet of maize which can lead to serious digestive disorders and other painful health problems.

Export of cattle from the EU to the Middle East and North Africa

Subsidies used to encourage cruel trade

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By the time they get to Hungary, which is just halfway through their journey to Italian abattoirs, many horses are exhausted, dehydrated and injured. © Animals’ Angels

Export of sheep from Spain to Greece

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Many animals suffer injuries on the long journeys in Spain and Italy. Some are sent by sea from Ireland to northern France and then on by road to southern Ireland. Export of sheep from Spain to Greece is much of Europe is criss-crossed.

Europe’s Long Distance Transport of Live Animals - Cruel and Unnecessary

Reform is Vital

We believe the EU must adopt a fundamental reform in which the long-distance transport of live farm animals is abandoned and replaced by a trade in meat.

In particular, a maximum overall limit of 8 hours should be imposed on journeys to slaughter or for further fattening. To our delight, in November 2001 the European Parliament voted for a maximum overall limit of 8 hours or 500 km. to be placed on transport for slaughter or further fattening. Then in September 2002, at an Agriculture Council discussion, 9 of the EU’s 15 countries said they want an 8-hour limit. We urge the EU Agriculture Council to now go ahead and enact a law imposing an 8-hour limit.

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All too often animals die during the long journeys © CIWF

Compassion in World Farming – UK

5A Charles Street, Petersfield, Hants, GU32 3EH, UK.
Tel: +44 (0)1730 264208 Fax: +44 (0)1730 266761 e-mail: compassion@ciwf.co.uk website: www.ciwf.co.uk
Compassion in World Farming – Netherlands

Route 1300, 4544 BT Horssen, Netherlands. Tel: +31 (0) 24 355052 Fax: +31 (0) 24 355077 e-mail: ciwf.nl@ciwf.nl website: www.ciwf.nl
Compassion in World Farming – Greece

Compassion in World Farming – Ireland

Salmon weir, Hanover Street, Co. Dublin, Republic of Ireland. Tel: +353 (01) 437245 Fax: +353 (01) 4372089 e-mail: info@ciwf.ie website: www.ciwf.ie

Compassion in World Farming – Netherlands

Route 1300, 4544 BT Horssen, Netherlands. Tel: +31 (0) 24 355052 Fax: +31 (0) 24 355077 e-mail: ciwf.nl@ciwf.nl website: www.ciwf.nl

Exhausted sheep after a 50 hour journey © CIWF
On average 600,000 per annum for slaughter.

Journey time:
- To Italy and Spain: 50 hours
- To Greece: 70 - 90 hours

Distance:
- To Italy and Spain: 2400 km
- To Greece: 3300 km

Over 100,000 per annum for slaughter.

Journey time: 30 - 90 hours.

Distance: 1400 - 2500 km.

Around 200,000 per annum for fattening.

Journey time: 25 hours.

Distance: 1300 km.

250,000 per annum, 200,000 for slaughter and 50,000 for breeding.

Journey time: 6 - 10 days.

Distance: 3000-5800 km.

Sheep from the UK, many to Italy, Greece and Spain.

On average 600,000 per annum.

For slaughter:
- Journey time: 50 hours
- Distance: 2400 km.

Cattle from the Republic of Ireland to Spain and Italy.

Over 100,000 per annum.

For fattening:
- Journey time: 42 - 50 hours, by road via France.
- 60 - 75 hours, by sea via Bilbao.
- Distance: 2200 km.

The Republic of Ireland also exports over 100,000 young calves a year to the Netherlands, France and Spain.

Pigs from the Netherlands to Spain and Italy.

1,350,000 per annum.

Mainly young pigs for fattening, but some for slaughter.

Journey time: 28 hours.

Distance: 1600 km.

Sheep from Spain to Greece.

40,000 per annum.

For slaughter:
- Journey time: 70 - 80 hours.
- Distance: 3000 km.

Horses from Poland, Belarus, Lithuania & Romania to Italy.

Over 100,000 per annum.

For slaughter:
- Journey time: 30 – 90 hours.
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Calves from Poland to Italy.

Around 200,000 per annum.

For fattening:
- Journey time: 25 hours.
- Distance: 1300 km.

Cattle from the EU to the Middle East.

250,000 per annum.

200,000 for slaughter and 50,000 for breeding.

Journey time: 6 - 10 days.

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SUSIDIES: 60-100 MILLION EURO PER ANNUM.

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