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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Total to third countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>730,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>1,374,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pigs</td>
<td>1,382,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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: 12,350
- Cattle from Lithuania to Israel: 32,300

**Total EU cattle to Russia**: 532,000

- Cattle from France to Russia: 66,250
- Cattle 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

**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 sheep to Libya**: 804,550

- Sheep from Romania to Libya: 613,600
- Sheep from Spain to Libya: 149,600

**Total EU animals to Turkey**: 842,500

- Sheep from Romania to Jordan: 305,050

*The number of animals exported has been averaged from 2010 to 2012 and have been rounded up or down.

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.
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.

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 forklift 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.

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.