



07/06/22

Please reply to:
info@ethicalfarmingireland.com

Dear xxx

Many concerned members of the public were dismayed to learn that no live export ban outside the EU was agreed upon under the programme for government in 2020. This left those who care equally for animals and the environment bitterly disappointed. The Programme for Government did however commit to providing an increased veterinary presence during shipments, and it also promised to pursue value-enhancing alternatives to live exports. However, neither of these measures have been implemented.

Recognising the importance of animal welfare, the new Government will provide additional resources to monitor welfare standards, by increasing the veterinary presence available on all live export consignments to third countries. We will vigorously pursue value-enhancing alternative market avenues.

Since the formation of this government, SEVENTEEN shipments of live animals have been sent to Libya and Jordan, only ONE of which had a vet on board, and that was only as far as Algeciras in Spain which was just part of the journey. According to the Department of Agriculture, veterinary personnel cannot be sent to Libya because conditions there have been declared too dangerous by the Department of Foreign Affairs. Which begs the question - why are we sending animals to a country too dangerous to visit ourselves? It should be pointed out that there have been two shipments to Jordan this year, and although this country is not listed as dangerous, no vet has accompanied those shipments either.

The second commitment referenced above has been similarly ignored. There has been no attempt made to pursue other outlets for cattle at all, value enhancing or otherwise. On the contrary, other markets in the Middle East and North Africa have been vigorously pursued. Jordan is one such new market with the first shipment departing Ireland on 23rd March this year. Another shipment arrived there on 19th May. It takes 16 days to get to Jordan, including a trip down the Suez Canal where temperatures and humidity are high. During the first journey, three young bulls died and a further 41 suffered from leg injuries and respiratory illness. Despite the vessel having air conditioning, temperature and humidity increased steadily throughout the journey, and the animals on board will have suffered varying degrees of heat stress.

Record of Animal illness / injury: Species: Bovine (use separate sheet for different species)

Deck No.	Total no. animals loaded	Number Injured during voyage	Number ill/ injured during voyage	Number ill/ injured during discharge	Total Number ill / Injured	Reasons *
1	276	2	6	NONE	8	leg swelling on joints, Respiratory
2	294	4	9	NONE	13	leg injury, Respiratory ISSUES
3	544	10	15	NONE	25	leg injury, Respiratory ISSUES.
4	487	7	17	NONE	24	leg injury, Respiratory ISSUES.
5						
6						
7						
8						



Jordan is a water-scarce country with no grazing and poor animal welfare standards, particularly at slaughter. It was 36° when the most recent shipment arrived there. How will Irish cattle, used to the cold and damp, cope with extreme heat and a dry, dusty environment? I have seen footage of several slaughterhouses in Jordan obtained by Animals International and the methods used are appalling, with bulls being secured by ropes whilst their throats are slashed at, all in front of other animals and all whilst fully conscious. It takes several minutes for an animal to die after the throat is slashed. It is too dangerous for animal welfare groups to conduct investigations in Libya but conditions will be similar, if not worse, than neighbouring countries and the sea journey is just as arduous. This is not 'high welfare' but shocking systematic abuse of sentient animals.

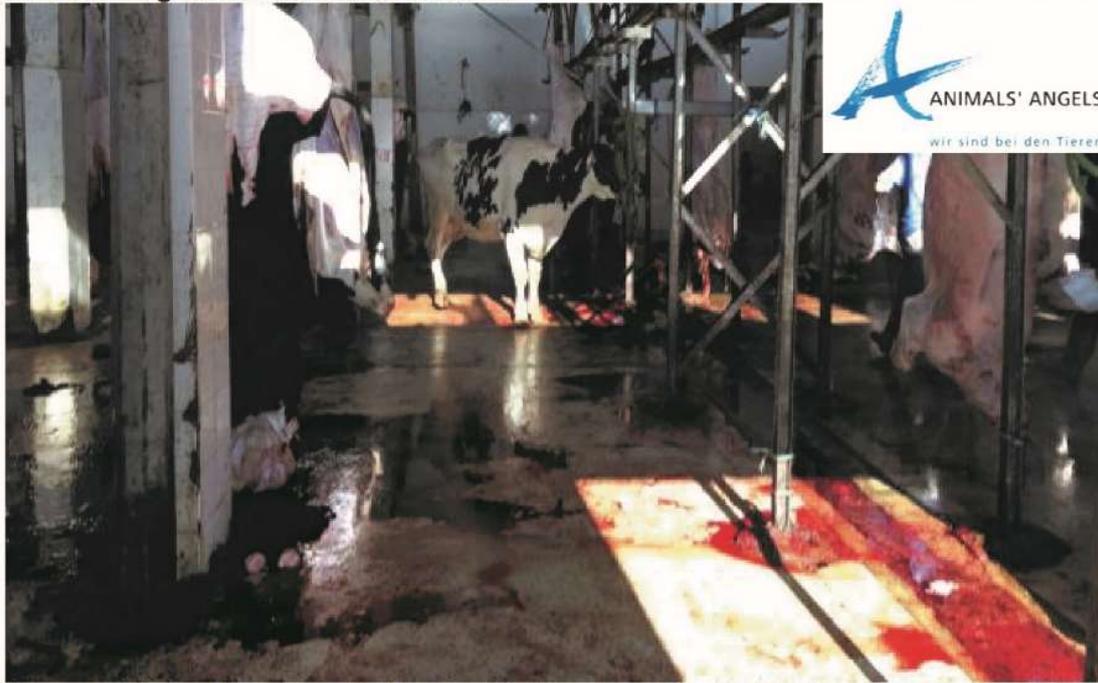


Furthermore, under this government it would appear that more markets are being actively pursued. A PQ where Minister McConalogue was questioned on Jordan and Iraq indicates that the export of live animals to Iraq is currently being worked on <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2022-03-01/823/>

It also appears that the live export of weanling bulls to Israel is imminent following a visit here from Israeli buyers. Both countries are also water scarce, hot and dry with poor animal welfare standards and brutal slaughter methods. Again, this will involve long sea journeys up to 16 days, and the weanlings being shipped out at just a few months old will suffer, there is no doubt about that. In 2021, a deal was agreed with China for the export of live pigs.

It doesn't end there. Whilst Ireland already exports small volumes of cattle to Morocco, overland in trucks, Bord Bia has just returned from 'a venture to explore opportunities for live-cattle exports to the region.' [Bord Bia visits Morocco to explore cattle export options - Agriland.ie](https://www.agriland.ie/news/bord-bia-visits-morocco-to-explore-cattle-export-options) Morocco is another water scarce country with appalling animal welfare standards, particularly at slaughter. It is ranked G by World Animal Protection on farm animals, which is the lowest: 'Existing legislation does not incorporate any of the OIE's guiding principles for animal welfare.' There is no legislation relating to animal welfare at all. <https://api.worldanimalprotection.org/country/morocco>

At the slaughterhouse in Ain Aouda:



The cow Erika has to wait inside the slaughterhouse next to dead bodies. Blood is covering the floor. Ain Aouda, 31.10.2020.

Sourcing new destinations for live animals runs completely contrary to what was promised in the Programme for Government. It is an environmental disaster, as well as an animal welfare issue, and reflects poorly on our commitment to the Paris Agreement.

The arguments constantly used to justify live exports simply don't hold water. Live export outside the EU brings very little economic benefit, other than to the handful of exporters. In fact, the shipments to Jordan were organised by a Spanish exporting company on behalf of a company based in Dubai.

 An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	
Health Certificate to Export Slaughtering & Fattening Cattle from Ireland to Kingdom of Jordan	
Part I: Details of dispatched consignment	
I.1 Consignor: Name: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 25320 ANGESOLA (SPAIN) ON BEHALF OF [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] DUBAI, U.A.E.	I.2 Certificate Reference Number: [REDACTED] I.3 Central Competent Authority: Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine I.4 Local Competent Authority: Tullamore RVO, Regional Veterinary Office, Clonminch, Tullamore Co. Offaly, Ireland
I.5 Consignee: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] AMMAN JORDAN [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	I.6 Place of Origin: [REDACTED] Name: [REDACTED] Approval Number [REDACTED] Address: [REDACTED] CO. Westmeath

Furthermore, the volume of animals going out in each shipment equals just 5% of the weekly slaughter rate. Despite claims made by the industry, live export is not impacting factory prices in any way. If we were dependent on these shipments, why was there no impact on factory price last year when the volume exported outside the EU plummeted by 70%? Prices have been doing very well in fact, due to

an increase in the demand for beef. The cattle export industry as a whole (which is comprised mostly of unweaned calves sold to European veal farms) is worth just 1% of the agri-food export industry and 7% of beef exports. The cruelty and suffering involved in this industry far outweighs any economic gain.

Last year there were just four shipments from Ireland, all to Libya as export to Turkey has completely dried up due to a drop in demand. There have been just four shipments to Libya again this year and if these new markets weren't being actively pursued the industry may have just naturally died down.

Commitments negotiated and agreed upon by all parties in the Programme for Government should be followed especially in such key areas as animal welfare and the environment. Animals do not have a voice and it is our responsibility to make sure they do not suffer unduly as a bare minimum.

The signatories of this letter who are representative of a large section of the voting public request that action is taken to address this matter urgently. We are seeking assurances that not only will no further markets be pursued, but that alternatives to live export will be sought, as promised in the programme for government. We further seek assurance that if a vet is not going to travel with a shipment, all the way to the destination port, then the shipment should not be permitted to go ahead.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Caroline Rowley
Director Ethical Farming Ireland

On behalf of:

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