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## Une image contenant texte, capture d’écran, Police, carte Description générée automatiquementAbout UECBV

UECBV (European Livestock and Meat Trades Union) is the association that represents, in Brussels, the national federations of livestock markets, meat and livestock traders and the meat industry. UECBV represents 50 associations, mainly in Europe, but also in Ukraine, Japan, Norway, etc. UECBV also represents 3 European associations: AEMB, ENSCA and OCEAN (ship suppliers). In total, UECBV defends almost 20,000 companies and 230,000 jobs.

## About Export

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Description générée automatiquementValorise the whole carcass**: eating habits differ greatly from one region to another, with different regions eating different parts of the animal. As an example, pig's trotters are modestly eaten in Europe, whereas they are very popular with Asian consumers. Exports help with the valorisation of the whole carcass, which subsequently helps the economy and reduces food waste.

**Limiting waste**: farmers do not go out of their way to produce products that will end up as pet food (even if this is a way of adding value).

However, the circularity of the economy and the sustainability of agri-farming depend on breeding and adding value to all its products.

Only 30 to 40% of a live animal, depending on the species, is marketed as meat. The rest, however, known as "animal by-products", should not be considered as waste: these by-products include products that are excellent for consumption (tripe products, for example) and others that can be used in other sectors, particularly for export.

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Description générée automatiquementChinese imports are extremely relevant for Europe, as it is shown on the graphics on the side.

In 2022, pigmeat remained the European Union's leading meat export, despite a fall on the previous year. Last year, the EU exported €13.8 billion worth of pork, down 5% on 2021 and 9% on 2020, while the quantity of pork exported to China fell by 40% (-982,000 t), resulting in a €1.9 billion drop in value. Nevertheless, EU pork is the leading export to China in terms of value.

Any introduction of barriers has a huge impact on the economy of the industry and the regions.

The value of beef exports (excluding fat) for 2021 was €3.8 billion, 39% of which was accounted for by the United Kingdom.

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Description générée automatiquementThe table here below is a compilation of the difficulties encountered by the UECBV section.

This information has been sent out to the European Commission and is therefore accessible.

The difficulties are listed by country, by order of priority and by the number of Member States concerned.

The last column makes the link between the difficulties identified by DG Trade and those of UCEBV.

This work was carried out thanks to numerous exchanges that UECBV was able to have with DG Trade, which allowed to analyse the links between the DG Trade matrix and UECBV files.

This work needs to be updated regularly and will enable UECBV to monitor the DG Trade matrix in parallel.

As for the priorities:

1. China and regionalisation in general – despite exchanges with Chinese delegations, and all the work done by DG Trade, the market remains very complicated. The ASF has led to a market freeze and major losses. Some Member States, such as France, have entered into bilateral discussions with China, and is proposing a zoning system other than regionalisation, i.e. compartmentalisation, which is still under discussion with the Chinese authorities. A solution must be found to enable exporters to resume trade and reduce losses. Additionally, China also has a problem with the recognition of negligible risk status for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).
2. Mexico – regionalisation remains the main obstacle to pork exports.
3. Philippines – similarly to the countries above, exports for pork have a problem linked to the lack of recognition of regionalisation, which leads to interruptions in trade.
4. Une image contenant texte, capture d’écran, nombre, Police

   Description générée automatiquementOther priority destinations are:
   1. South Africa – same problem of regionalisation as above. Additionally, there are some difficulties associated with BSE.
   2. South Korea – thanks to the work of the Commission, South Korea has resumed trade with Member States for pork exports. The Commission’s efforts have enabled South Korea to resume regionalisation, which led to the resumption of trade with Germany in May of 2023. On the other hand, there are still difficulties with beef exports, as the procedure for approving the exports has not been completed, despite lengthy discussions with the Korean authorities.
   3. Une image contenant texte, capture d’écran, Police, nombre

      Description générée automatiquementThailand – regionalisation is still not recognised. Additionally, regarding the import licences to which exports to this destination are subject, the Thai authorities are not showing any flexibility and seem to have withheld certain import licences. It is imperative for the Thai authorities to express more flexible in issuing import licences and that licence concessions are released.
   4. Australia – export difficulties with bilateral negotiations to open up the pork market are continuing without any progress. The EU has allowed each MS to negotiate bilaterally. Despite Spain's situation regarding classical swine fever and ASF, Australia does not recognise Spain as being free of these two diseases. The Member States have therefore concluded a "Born & Raised Protocol" with Australia, but this is a cumbersome procedure for companies. Australia should be a priority because many Member States are facing problems and the member states are in the process of concluding a free trade agreement, so it would be wise for these agreements to take account of the current difficulties and find a consensus on monitoring the protocols.
   5. Une image contenant texte, capture d’écran, Police, nombre

      Description générée automatiquementIndonesia – difficulties with the approval process, with very long, fruitless procedures and lack of transparency and cooperation.
   6. Saudi Arabia – problems with the recognition of equivalence between European and Saudi standards in terms of residues.
   7. Colombia – very high tariffs are applied despite the implementation of the Europe-Colombia agreement.
   8. Morocco – despite years of negotiation the access to the beef market is not open.
   9. Taiwan – approval procedure extremely long for no apparent or explained reason.

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Description générée automatiquementThe most important exports by volume are pigmeat exports, so any obstacles to pigmeat exports are a priority for UECBV members.

UEBCBV members also have to contend with delays and a general lack of transparency, with unknown due date reports or with unclear follow-up. In some cases, even the procedure for opening a contract is not sufficiently transparent.

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Description générée automatiquementRegionalisation remains the main obstacle, and UECBV is grateful for all the work done by the Commission to remove this obstacle, as in South Korea.

UECBV hope that positive developments will take place with China and with other priority partners to enable the meat export sector to resume trade.

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Description générée automatiquementFrom a general point of view, it seems to UECBV members that sometimes the SPS chapter of free trade agreements is not the most favourable to the export of European meat products.

Stakeholders do not feel invited to take part in the work linked to free trade agreements and would like to be more involved so that their interests are considered.

For example, one difficulty encountered on the Mexican market is the non-recognition of the post-mortem inspection carried out by UECBV European members. During the negotiations, UECBV members warned the Commission of the importance of approving this inspection, but this was not the case.

A comparison of DG Trade's SPS matrix and UECBV file shows that some of the difficulties identified by UECBV members are not included in the matrix.

Future work will be to analyse the reasons for these differences so that DG Trade's SPS file and UECBV’s file are fully correlated.

This shows that the use of TRACE and the MADB is not optimal and that more needs to be done to make it work properly.

Finally, UECBV members regret that some negotiations are conducted bilaterally, as the EU must be seen by its partners as a single entity and these bilateral negotiations weaken this image of unity.

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Description générée automatiquementThe transition to the **green deal** will require **major investment**, which can only be made if there is enough money, hence the importance of exports. **Therefore, the carcass needs to be better** valorised (+10cents on pigs' feet / pet food).

**Livestock farming** accounts for around **40% of total economic activity in agriculture**, employing around 4 million people in the EU27 and the UK.

It is a cultural heritage and a know-how inherent to our heritage – it shapes the landscape, it maintains the land and, more importantly, in **line with the essential guidelines adopted by the European Commission**, it is a **closed cycle that ensures the sustainability of agriculture and the food security of 750 million Europeans by providing self-sufficiency**.

UECBV is, of course, in favour of free trade agreements. **The meat industry needs to export, but not at the expense of local production.**

The ever-higher standards that Europe imposes on its industries are costly, making margins in the industry rather slim. **The renewal of generations in livestock farming is not assured** and if ever-increasing competition is the future, then **food safety could also be in jeopardy.**

Admittedly, UE production methods still need to be improved, so let's give the sector the means to improve.