

## DURING 2008 THE EUROPEAN UNION LOST 5,5 MILLIONS HEADS OF SHEEP. WHY?

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1. Europe is lacking in lamb meat, it only produces a 79% of its own consumption.
2. The objective of the Europe subsidies is to maintain the economic life-style of the sheep farmers.
3. The suckler cow competes in everything, meat, pastures and workers with the sheep meat, much more than milk sheep or goats.
4. A suckler cow is equivalent to 6,7 sheep.
5. A sheep flock needs more than the double of work than the equivalent in suckler cows and use disadvantaged areas.
6. The UE subsidies to a suckler cow and her offspring are more than triple the subsidies that 6,7 ewes receive ( see annex n° 1; 2.005 and 2.009)
7. There are no technical, economic or social reasons for that.
8. This highlights the different measures that the European Union ( EU ) has for the big ruminant of the rich areas and the small ruminant of the poor areas.
9. This huge difference between subsidies breaks the traditional balance between sheep and cows. The rent of grass farms increased 50%.
10. The huge error of not correlate the suckler cow and sheep was planed. The sheep premium is clear, clean: 28€/ewe. The suckler cow premium is a masterpiece of camouflage ( see annex n° 1; 2.005 and 2.009 ) with the clear goal to obtain a premium three times bigger than the equivalent for sheep. Nobody can understand so different concepts for sheep and cow premiums if it is not an attend to mislead.
11. The sheep technicians in the European Union are too bureaucratic. They know very little about sheep. They are making impractical regulations used to repress the sheep farmers. The sheep farmers are not delinquents. They are working hard 365 days/year.
12. The sheep technology of the big producers is too different from the small producers. The sheep group in COPA-COGECA ( Cooperatives and farmers trade union ) should be lead by the English as they are the biggest producers and have the best sheep farmer association ( NSA ) and they are fighting an excellent battle against the Electronic Identification.
13. COPA-COGECA is not a good representative of the sheep producers. How many sheep producers are part of it?
14. In spite of more than 22 millions lost sheep head, the EU put a tax on the sheep subsidies, the modulation, a 7% in 2009. This is how the EU and COPA-COGECA works.
15. The sheep check in 2008 made an incorrect diagnosis, even though all the figures were clear. This means that the results will be catastrophic. Sure
16. With all the sheep business in ruins, the EU took away the ewe rights if the farmers were unable to use at least 90% of their ewe rights, the question is: what kind of rights is the EU giving? Anyone can take off or add on a tax.
17. The EU sheep policy couldn't be worse. Behind this 5.5 million of sheep heads lost in 2008, there are thousands of families gone to ruin.
18. What about the rural mountain areas and their environment without sheep?
19. How many more sheep does the EU want to destroy before they do something positive?
20. Furthermore, if the sheep don't receive a premium equivalent to the suckler cows, millions of sheep will disappear in the next few years.

21. What do you suppose would happen, if, on the other hand 850.000 heads of cattle were to be lost every year? You can be sure that everybody would be asking what had happened and the problem would be solved immediatly.
22. COPA-COGECA still have the gall to invite foreign countries to a international sheep forum! I can't imagine having to explain this to a New Zealand sheep farmer: that in Europe a suckler cow receives over 350 € more than her equivalent in sheep, and his logical answer would be: "are there still sheep in Europe?" This forum is a form to loose time when 15.000 sheep heads are disappearing every day. COPA-COGECA knows very well the solution but is still after 17 years looking for childish excuses.
23. Since 1992, the sheep meat farmers in EU are going through a dreadful period, which will not come to an end until the sheep are treated the same as the suckler cow, that is the real competitor!
24. In the name of the words, so politically correct, like traceability, biodiversity, healthy fodder, quality lambs, conditions and welfare of livestock, thousands of sheep farmers are falling into bankruptcy. All the european politicians are invited to see the disaster provoked by them and COPA-COGECA.
25. The sheep decoupling in these bad conditions is a cowardly solution with terrible consequences, easily foreseeable. This decoupling is still not carried out in the best conditions for the sheep farmer.
26. Furthermore, until the treatment of the sheep becomes the same, or in justice a 20% better than that given to the suckler cow, the balance cannot be reestablished.
27. The sheep production is in great need of justice and to have the freedom to work out its own future.
28. The general feeling among sheep farmers is that the European politicians and the COPA-COCEGA are not conscious of the magnitude of the problem, even after losing more than 26 million heads of sheep. I believe that I am not exaggerating if I say that today, in October 2009, Europe has lost more than 26 million heads of sheep.
29. This is a scandal..... with 27 countries involved ! When will justice be done to put a stop to this European sheep holocaust?
30. Maybe your country is earning a lot of money whit this sheep discrimination because you have the cow as the predominant ruminant, but you must remember you are a member of the SHEEP COPA-COGECA GROUP ( not the antisheep group ) and, at least theoretically, you should be building a Europe with justice and right now that is not so.
31. I would be greatfull if you can give me just one reason to justify the huge sheep discrimination in Europe.

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## SAVE THE SHEEP: NO TO THE EUROPEAN SHEEP DISCRIMINATION 2005

**ANNEX N° 1: COMPARISON BETWEEN THE SUCKLER COW AND SHEEP PREMIUM IN SPAIN IN 2005 ( BEFORE DECOUPLING )**

2005 PREMIUM FOR A NORMAL FARM OF 100 SUCKLER COWS IN PRODUCTION		2005 PREMIUM FOR SHEEP	
BASIC PREMIUM	100 cows		
+ SPANISH PREMIUM	16 renewal calfs	116 x 224,15€	26.001,40 €
SLAUGHTER PREMIUM	Beef for sale 72 Culling 4	76 x 80€ x 0,764 *	4.645,12 €
SPECIAL PREMIUM FOR BEEF CALF	Beef calf 40	40 x 210€ x 0,633 *	5.317,20 €
EXTENSIFICATION	Rights 116 x 100€ Tale beefs 40	116 x 100€ 40 x 100€ x 0,633 *	11.600,00 € 2.532,00 €
* Annual national coefficiente.		<b>TOTAL 100 COWS</b>	<b>50.095,72 €</b>
		1 COW	500,96 €
		General premium	21,00 €
		Less favored area premium	7,00 €
		Total	28,00 €
		Total 6,7 ewes ewes = 1 cow	187,60 €
		Other areas	21,00 €

NOTE 1 A suckler cow premium is 2,67 times bigger than the equivalent for 6,7 ewes premium in less favored area and 3,57 times bigger than in favored areas, all this whit half as much work and using the best grass land

NOTE 2 A suckler cow premium is 313€ bigger than the equivalent for 6,7 ewes premium in less favored area and 360€ in favored areas

NOTE 3 The European sheep premium discrimination is responsible for the European sheep situation



## SAVE THE SHEEP: STOP THE EUROPEAN SHEEP DISCRIMINATION 2009

### ANNEX N° 1: COMPARISON BETWEEN THE SUCKLER COW AND SHEEP PREMIUM IN SPAIN IN 2009 ( 50% DECOUPLING )

NORMAL FARM WITH 100 COWS IN PRODUCTION		
SINGLE FARM PAYMENT		24.220,00 €
BASIC PREMIUM	116 x 200 X 0,93	21.576,00 €
NATIONAL PREMIUM	116 X 24,15 X 0,93	2.605,00 €
SLAUGHTER PREMIUM	82 x 80 x 0,40	2.624,00 €
EXTENSIFICATION	40 X 32 + 30 X 20,28 + 30 X 19,14	2.192,00 €
TOTAL BEFORE MODULATION TAXES		53.217,00 €
TOTAL 1 COW BEFORE MODULATION TAXES		532,00 €

PREMIUM FOR SHEEP		
	Less favored areas	Other areas
SINGLE FARM PAYMENT	14,00 €	10,50 €
SHEEP PREMIUM	14,00 €	10,50 €
TOTAL BEFORE MODULATION	28,00 €	21,00 €
TOTAL FOR 6,7 EWES = 1 COW	187,60 €	140,70 €

Note 1. A suckler cow premium is 2,81 times bigger than the equivalent for sheep ( 6,7 ewes premium ) in less favored areas and 3,78 times bigger than in favored areas, all this with the half of work and using the best land

Note 2. A suckler cow premium is 345€ bigger than the equivalent for 6,7 ewes premium in less favored areas and 392€ in favored areas.

Note 3. The european injustice is responsible for the disappearing of 22 millions sheep heads in Europe