

Chapter 4

Trade in live poultry within the European Union

P.L.M. van Horne

1. Introduction

In 2004 the European Commission introduced TRACES, a new IT system designed to improve the management of animal movements within the EU. The Traces database can facilitate tracking all animal transport in the EU and can be an important tool for managing animal disease outbreaks. TRACES stands for TRAdE, Control and Expert System and is part of DG SANCO in Brussels. Since April 2004 every intra community transport of animal needs to have a certificate. Traces is a registration of all certificates and the digital communication is forced by Commission Decision 2004/292/EG. Within TRACES there is for poultry a distinction between ‘fattening poultry’ and ‘breeding poultry’. In this report the main trade flows of live poultry in the year 2006 is described based on data of Traces. However, in analyzing the trade flows also information of Eurostat was used and some experts were asked to comment on the figures.

2. Trade flows in fattening poultry

Figure 1 gives a overview of the main trade flows in fattening poultry in 2006. Only trade flows with more than one million birds are in the figure:

Black arrow: 1 to 5 million animals per year

Blue arrow: 6 to 10 million per year

Red arrow more than 10 million animals per year.

The main trade flows in live fattening poultry are (in red in figure 1) :

- From Germany to the Netherlands: 127 million birds. A large part of these birds are broilers kept in the North-Western part of Germany and are transported to slaughterhouses in the Netherlands;
- From The Netherlands to Belgium: 80 million birds. Mainly broilers kept in the Netherlands transported to Belgian slaughterhouses (some are part of Dutch integrations). Also many spent hens (layers after there production period) from the Netherlands are slaughtered in Belgium; and
- From France to Belgium: 36 million birds. Mainly transport of broilers from the North of France transported to slaughterhouses in Belgium.

Trade flow of around 5 million birds per year is (in blue in figure 1):

- From the Czech Republic to Germany: 6.2 million birds;
- From Belgium to the Netherlands: 5,8 million birds;
- From the UK to Ireland: 5,5 million birds; and
- From Germany to Belgium: 5,4 million birds.

It can be concluded that the main trade flows are between the three neighbouring countries Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. In addition France is exporting live birds to Belgium. A large part of these numbers will be broilers transported for slaughter to a neighbouring country. As long distance transport of live broilers is not economic feasible in general the distance wouldn't more than 200 km. Export of broilers form Germany to Belgium and the Netherlands is coming from the western part of Germany (Hulsbergen, 2008). The export of broilers from France to Belgium is coming from the North western part of France (Magdelaine, 2007).

3. Trade flows in breeding poultry.

Figure 2 gives an overview of the main trade flows in breeding poultry in 2006. Only trade flows with more than five million birds are in the figure: black arrow: 5 to 10 million per year, and red arrow: more than 10 million animals per year.

The main trade flow in live breeding poultry is (in red in figure 2):

- From Netherlands to Germany: 96 million birds. These are mainly day old chicks transported from Dutch hatcheries to a German broiler farms;
- From the Czech Republic to Slovakia: 32 million birds. These are mainly day old broiler chicks. These trade flows can be explained from the situation that both countries were united (LNV-raad, Prague, 2007);
- From the Czech Republic to Poland: 13.5 million birds. These are mainly day old broiler chicks; and
- From France to Spain: 11.2 million birds.

Trade flow of 5 to 10 million birds per year is (in black in figure 1):

- From France to different neighbouring countries: 6.9 mln to Italy, 6 million to Portugal, 5.3 mln to Belgium and 5.0 mln to the UK;
- From the Netherlands: 5.2 mln to Poland and 5.2 to Belgium; and
- From Slovakia to Czech Republic is a flow of 8.2 mln birds.

It can be concluded the main trade flows come from France, the Netherlands and the Czech Republic. The trade can be either day old chicks for broilers farms or day old chicks of parent- or grandparentstock. The main trade flows (more than 10 million birds per year) are transports of day old chicks from a hatchery to a broiler farm in another country. The smaller trade flows are mainly from France and the Netherlands to there neighbouring countries. Both countries have a long history in breeding poultry which can explain the export of parent- and grandparentstock. Especially France is a main actor in poultry breeding for layers, but also for ducks, geese and some slow growing broilers (Magdelaine, 2007).

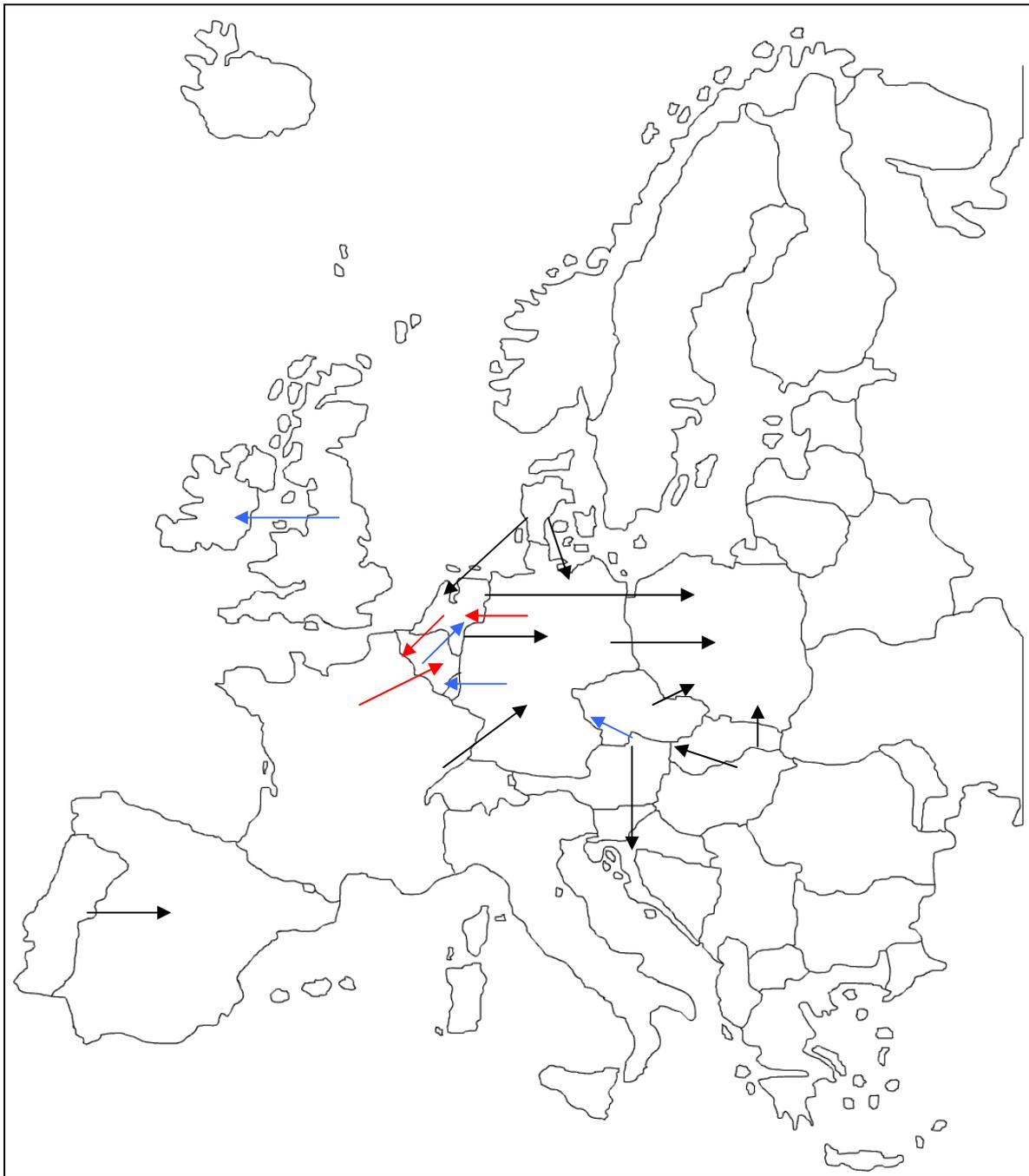


Figure 1. European Trade flow in ‘fattening poultry’ (source: Traces 2006).
 All livestock trade flows of more than 1 million birds per year;
 Black arrow: 1 to 5 million birds per year;
 Blue arrow: 6 to 10 million birds per year;
 Red arrow more than 10 million birds per year.

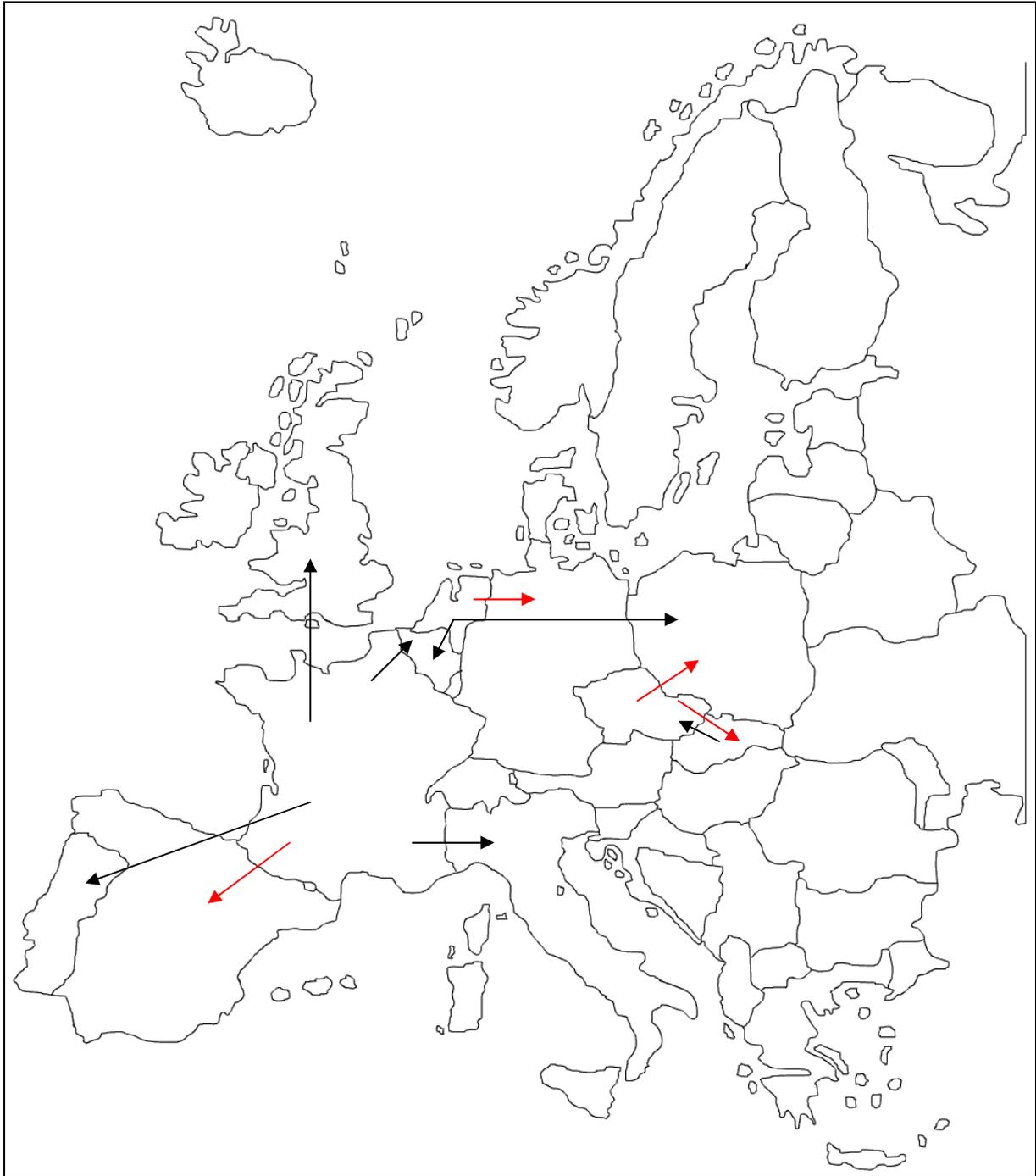


Figure 2. European Trade flow in breeding poultry' (source: Traces 2006).
 All livestock poultry trade flows of more than 5 million birds per year;
 Black arrow: 5 to 10 million birds per year;
 Red arrow: more than 10 million birds per year.