

**Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health**  
**8<sup>th</sup> November 2011**



Difficulties with reporting individual movements of non EID sheep and goats

# Progress with UK implementation of Regulation 21/2004

- The requirements of 21/2004 were **fully** implemented in the UK *from* 31/12/2009
- You will be familiar with the fact that the UK has faced extreme opposition from its sheep industry regarding EID and ensuring that all aspects of implementation were in place from that date was difficult.
- Despite this and the continued on-going lack of industry confidence in the rationale behind the controls and the technology the Food and Veterinary Office, during their mission to the UK earlier this year, acknowledged the considerable effort made by the UK authorities with regard to EID implementation.
- We are anxious to maintain the focus and engagement of our sheep industry to successfully embed individual ID, recording, and EID in the longer term.
- One major implementation hurdle however remains.

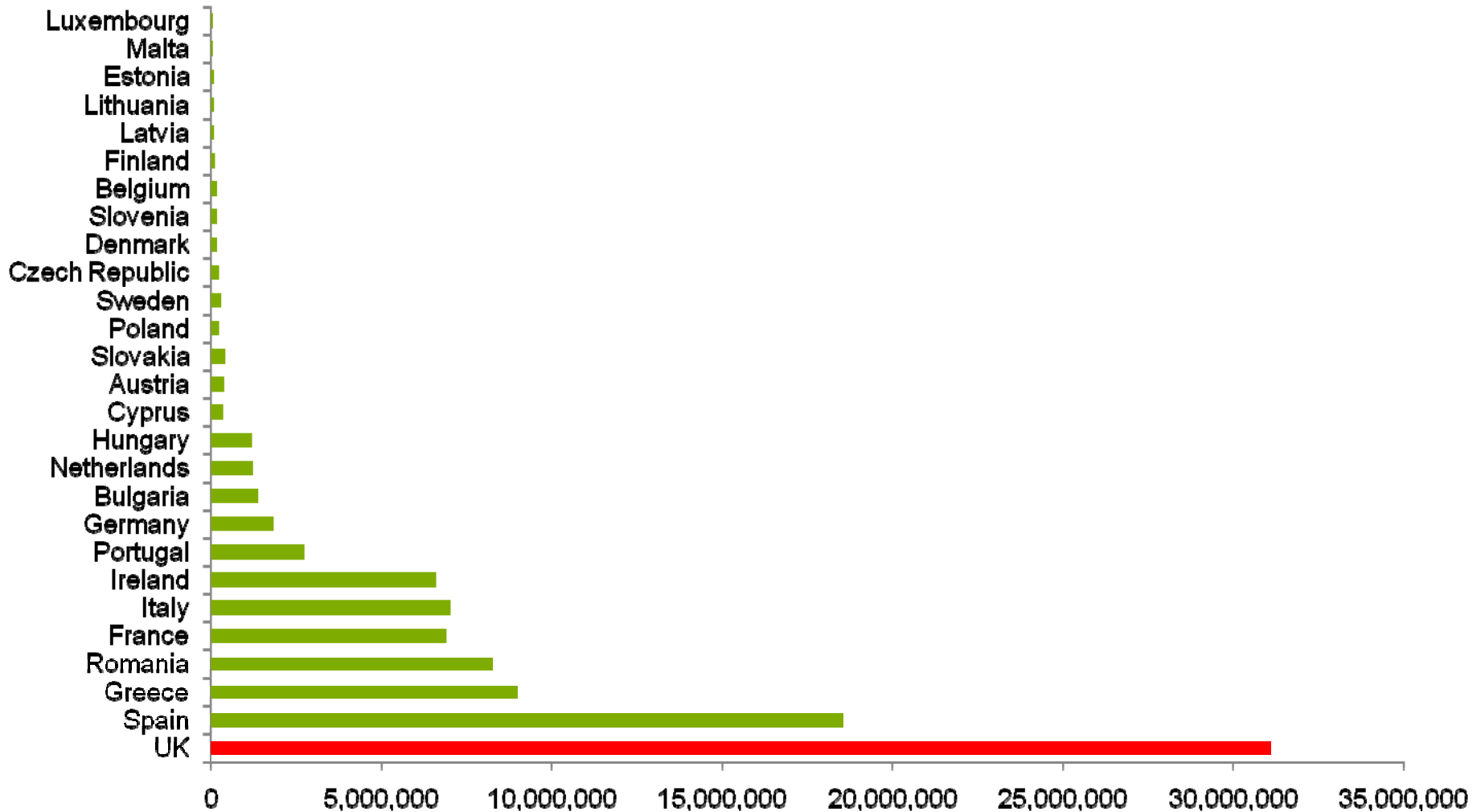
# What is the problem?

- From 31 December 2011 Regulation 21/2004 requires (Annex C.3) individual animal numbers of sheep and goats born before 31 December 2009 to be recorded on the movement document, unless the animals are moving to a slaughterhouse directly or via a channelling procedure.
- There is no requirement for these animals to be electronically identified or to be recorded individually in the holding register.
- It is not practical or economical to attempt to record manually the individual numbers of large volumes of animals when they move.

# EU Sheep flock (Eurostat 2010)



**defra**  
Department for Environment  
Food and Rural Affairs



# Options

What are the options:

1. Record individual animal numbers on movement documents manually
2. Electronically identifying animals born before 31 December 2009 and use EID to facilitate individual recording
3. Defer the individual recording requirement until the majority of 'historic' animals have been culled

# Dealing with the problem

- It is extremely difficult to justify to industry in the current economic climate option 1 or 2 because:
  - Those individual ID numbers will *never* have to be recorded in registers,
  - or on movement documents when moving direct to slaughter, (or via a channelling facility),
  - or on Competent Authorities databases
  - They will be culled out of the system over the next few years
  - There is no demonstrable benefit to industry or for disease control
  - Cost

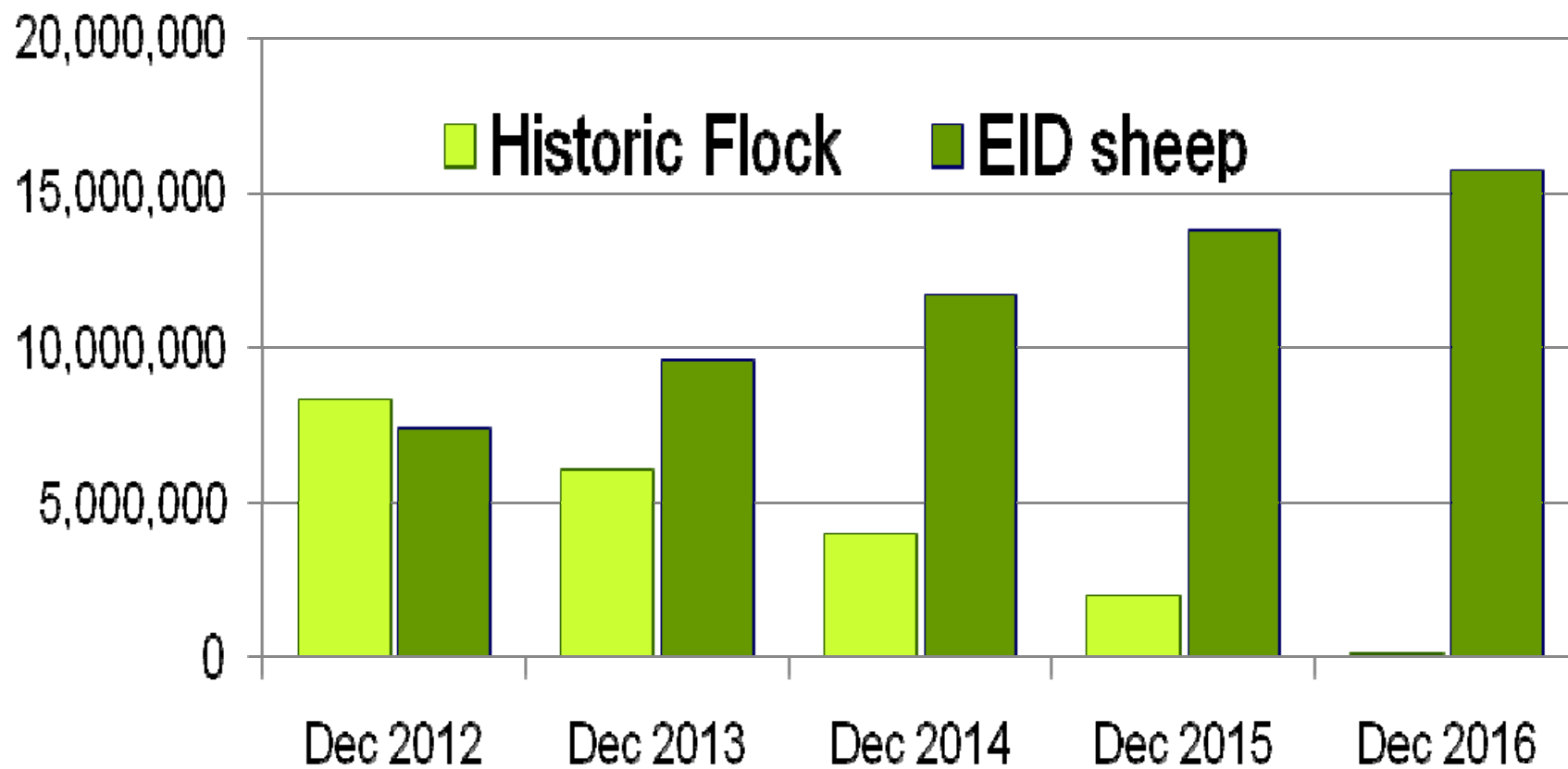
# Financial impact

- This is an issue which will affect a number of Member States.
- To illustrate the scale of the problem we have estimated the financial impact for GB.
  - Option 1 (manual recording) would cost in the region of £6.2m (€ 7m). This option is not however practical for many GB farmers because of the size of their flocks. This option is unlikely to deliver accurate information
  - Option 2 – (EID) would cost in the region of £17.2m (€ 20m)
- We have been unable to persuade industry in GB that either of these options are justifiable, particularly in the current economic climate.

# Solution

- Deferring the date from which individual recording begins until 31 December 2016.
- For illustrative purposes, in Great Britain, at Dec 2010 there were approx 13 million older breeding sheep that are not required to be electronically identified.
- There will be a year on year decrease of non EID animals until 2016 when the majority of the non EID breeding animals will have been culled.

# Impact of deferring until 2016



- We propose that annex C.3 (B) of Regulation 21/2004 is amended to defer the individual recording date of non EID animals to 31 December 2016 as follows:
  - ‘3. However, the information provided for in point 2 shall not be obligatory for animals born until 31 December 2009:
    - (a) on their movement to a slaughterhouse, directly or via a channelling procedure excluding subsequent movements to any other holding;
    - (b) until 31 December 2016 for all other movements.’

Thank you for your attention