

Electronic identification of animals – the EU's legal approach



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http://ec.europa.eu/comm/food/animal/index_en.htm

This presentation does not necessarily represent the views of the European Commission

Will talk about:

Why do we have EU rules on electronic animal ID?

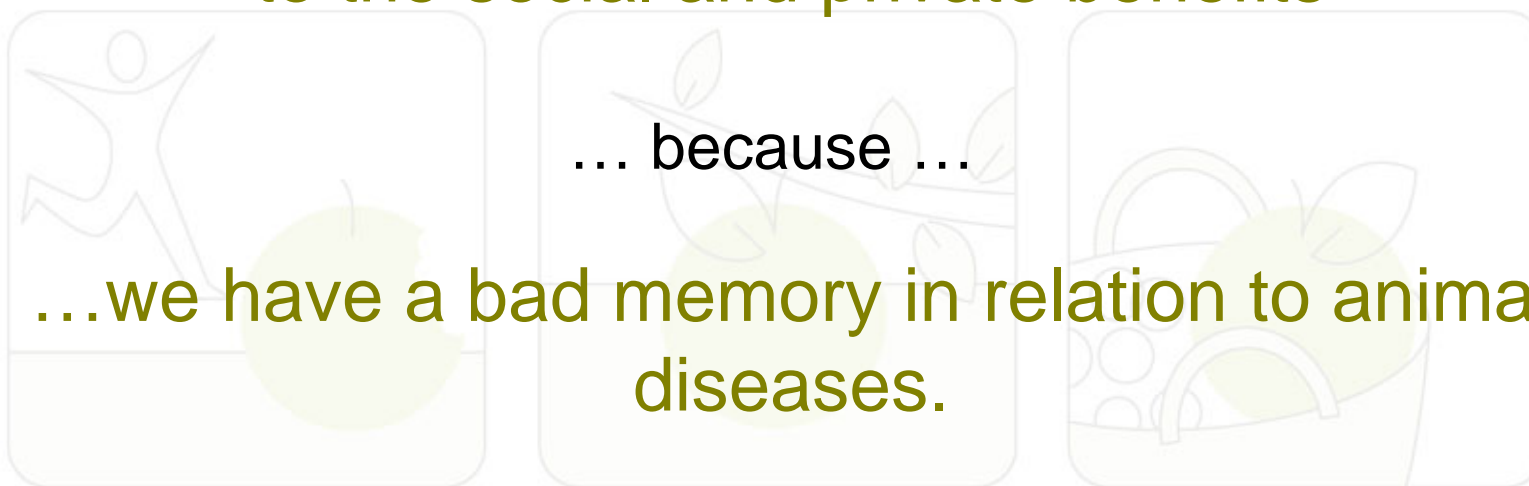
What are the main provisions?

What is going on – currently and in the future?

Costs of animal identification and traceability systems are not always regarded as proportionate to the social and private benefits

... because ...

...we have a bad memory in relation to animal diseases.



Why EU-legislation on identification of animals?

- localisation and tracing of animals for veterinary purposes (animal health aspect)
- Identification and traceability of food producing animals as an essential element of ensuring food safety (public health aspect)

Why EU-rules on electronic identification?

Essential tool under certain conditions

- To ensure individual **traceability** of animals
- To **connect** animals and individual records (documentation, certificates)




EU legislation on (electronic) animal ID

Species	Legal base	EID-provisions
Bovine	Regulation 1760/2000	EID possible but not obligatory
Sheep+goats	Regulation 21/2004	EID for lambs born from 2010
Pigs	Directive 2008/71	batch ID without EID
Equidae	Regulation 504/2008	EID of foals born from July 2009,
Pets	Regulation 998/2003	EID for movements between Member States

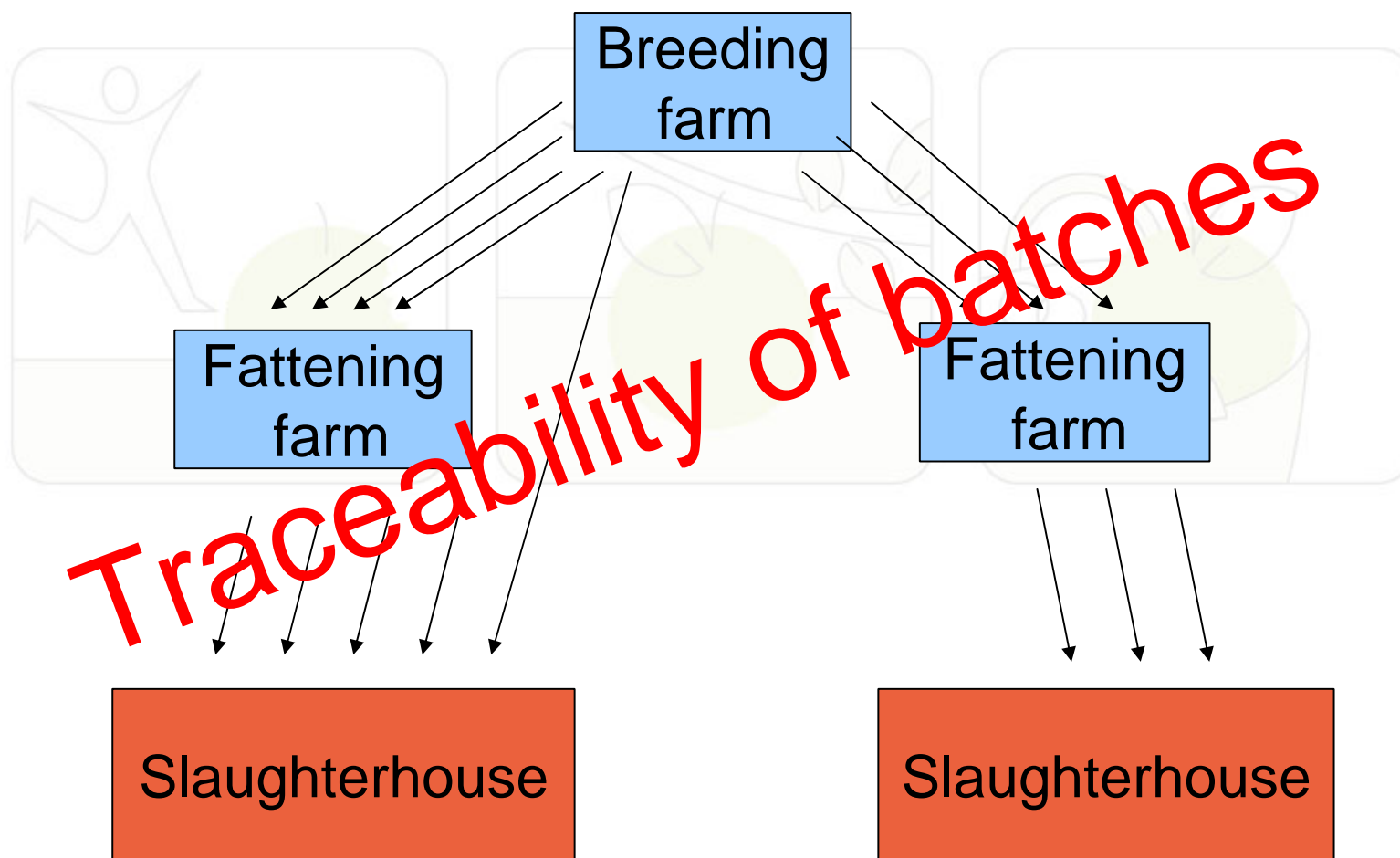
Link to EU legislation

- http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/identification/index_en.htm
- <http://eur-lex.europa.eu>

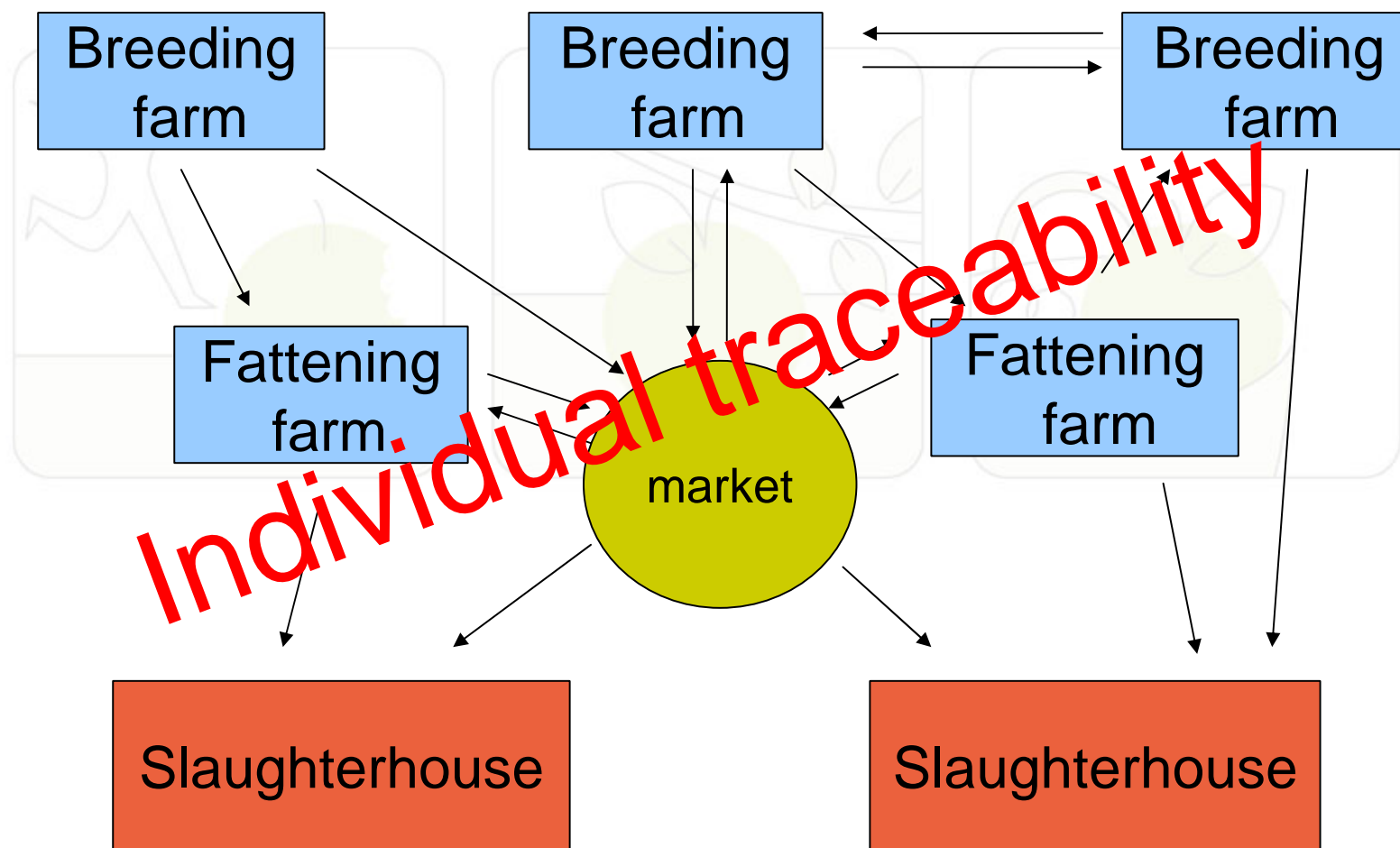
Identification and Traceability in the EU

Species	Identification	Traceability (movement recording)
Bovine	individual	individual (national database)
Ovine/ caprine	individual (EID)	individual (hold group (national c
Porcine	group	group (national c
Equidae	individual (EID)	
Pets		

Movements of pigs



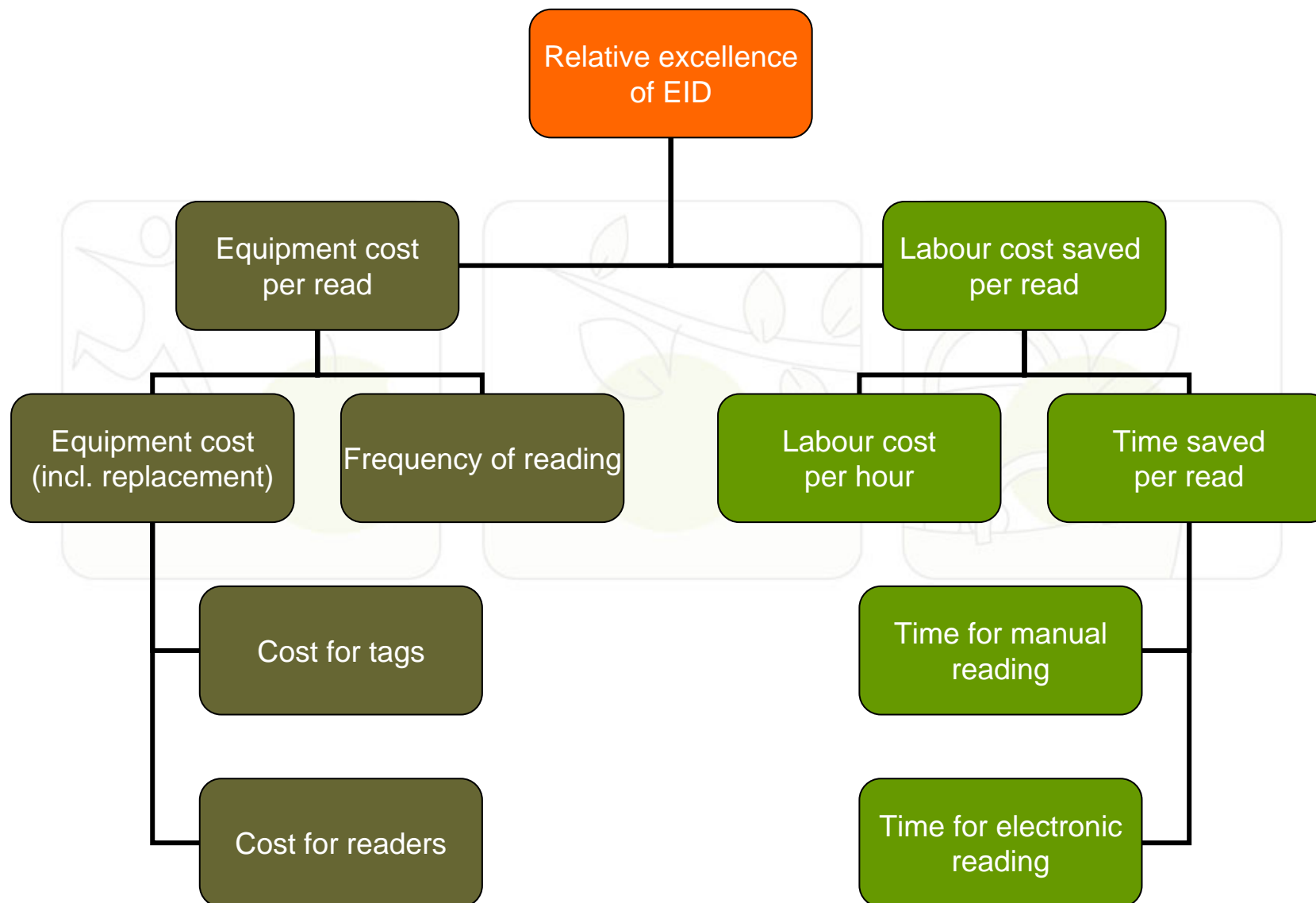
Movements of sheep



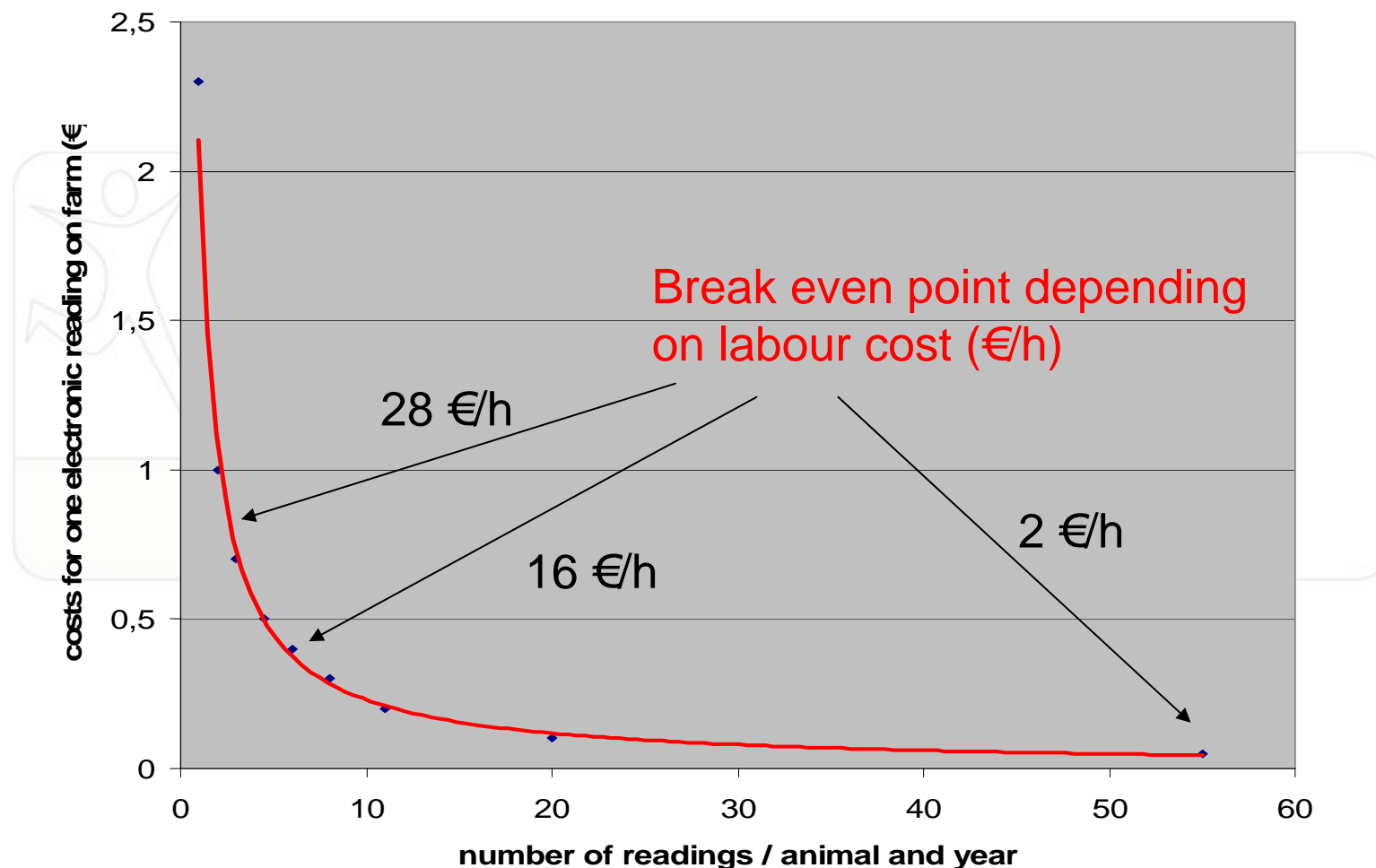
The next step: Compulsory EID for bovine animals?

- Individual traceability already achieved via conventional tagging (since 1997).
- What are the economic aspects of compulsory EID?

Is EID cost efficient?



The cost efficiency of EID depends first and foremost on the fact how equipment costs are compensated by saving of manpower



Unequal distribution of costs and benefits of EID along the production chain

- Tagging costs (~50% of the total EID costs) occur only in the holding of birth



- Highest frequency of (regulatory) readings occur in slaughter houses, markets, assembly centres

Combining **primary** and secondary **benefits**

Traceability of animals

(Foot and Mouth Disease, Classical Swine Fever, ...
Biotech-animals)

Management on farm

(lambing, milk recording, feeding,...
Precision livestock farming)

Traceability of products

(Animal +Public Health;
Quality schemes, Organic,
Geographic origin, PDO, PGI ...)



Proof of ownership

Breeding programmes

(predigree, performance,
genetic resources)

Health certificates

Application of certain medicaments

Animal Welfare

(transport monitoring)

Eradication programmes

(Brucellosis, Scrapie, Bluetongue ...)

Conclusions

- EU rules on EID have an **animal health** background
- EID can be the **essential tool** to achieve traceability
- The **multi purpose use** of EID is the essential incentive to combine all possible benefits

identification alone
does not ensure

Traceability ...



OIE (Code): ability to **follow** an animal or group of animals during all stages of its life

ISO (8402): ability to trace the history, application or location of an entity by means of **recorded identifications**

Approval of EID equipment (Regulation 21/2004 and Decision 2006/968)

- Member States approve
- **only approved identifiers** can be used
- but - **non approved readers** can be used
- However, if authorities approve readers (for specific purposes) this should be done based on harmonised standards