



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Directorate F – Health and food audits and analysis
Director

Grange,
SANTE.F2 PC/jh

Dear Petitioner,

Subject: Petition calling on the European Commission to stop the long distance transport of live animals

Commissioner Andriukaitis asked me to thank you for presenting a petition¹ calling to stop the long distance transport of live animals and to respond on his behalf.

I am fully aware that long distance transport raises legitimate animal welfare concerns: the longer the transport the higher the risks for the welfare of animals. This is why Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport² contains additional provisions for these journeys.³

Animal welfare during transport is a complex multidimensional issue which cannot be solved by simply imposing a limit on transport time. As already indicated by the relevant Commission report of 2011⁴, efforts should indeed focus on the enforcement of the existing legislation.

I would like to inform you that the Commission has no plans to stop the long distance transport of live animals in the near future and is investing more efforts to assist Member States in the process of enforcement of the EU legislation through various actions.

The most recent action being taken by the Commission in this regard is the establishment of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare⁵ that brings together Member States and stakeholders from different backgrounds to enhance dialogue on animal welfare issues. To this purpose, a subgroup on animal transport will be proposed within the context of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare at the next meeting in November this year. This will

¹ Your e-mail refers to a "petition", which in the framework of EU Law is used for petitions addressed to the European Parliament pursuant to Article 227 TFEU. Your letter is dealt with by the Commission according to the rules for correspondence with citizens.

² Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97 (OJ L 3, 5.1.2005, p. 1).

³ Article 11 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport.

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/aw_practice_trans_study_report_en.pdf

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/eu-platform-animal-welfare_en

be an appropriate forum to raise non-legislative initiatives and exchange potential solutions in the area of enforcement of EU legislation on animal welfare during transport.

Please rest assured that the Commission will continue to closely monitor the situation and pursue its actions to improve the implementation of EU legislation on animal transport within the remit of its competence.

Yours sincerely,

Paola Colombo
Director