

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Directorate G – Crisis management in food animals and plants
Director

Brussels,
SANTE G2/SR/rb (2017) 579307

Dear Petitioner,

Subject: Petition "Stop the massacre of millions of Romanian animals in the Middle East"

Commissioner Andriukaitis asked me to thank you for your letter presenting the petition "*Stop the massacre of millions of Romanian animals in the Middle East*"¹ and to reply on his behalf.

The petition calls to stop the export of live animals alleging that the Romanian authorities are not doing the necessary to avoid suffering of live animals exported by sea to Middle East where the same animals are later on subject of cruel methods of slaughter.

The Commission is aware of some challenging issues related to live animal exports and is making all the possible efforts in improving the welfare conditions of animals.

Whilst the daily application and enforcement of the EU legislation² falls under the responsibilities of the Member States, the Commission has been consistently working to help Member States improve enforcement through various actions.

The Commission also facilitates regular meetings of Member States represented by their National Contact Points on animal welfare during transport. The last meeting took place on 13-15 September 2016 and the next one is scheduled in March 2017. The transport of live animals on long journeys and their export will be again amongst the main points in the agenda.

The Commission has been very active in promoting animal welfare internationally and has conducted initiatives to increase awareness among non-EU countries, including those concerned by the export of live animals. In addition, the Commission will continue supporting training activities for non-EU countries, in the context of the Better Training for Safer Food initiative³.

¹ Your correspondence 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 correspondence 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 http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/btsf/index_en.htm

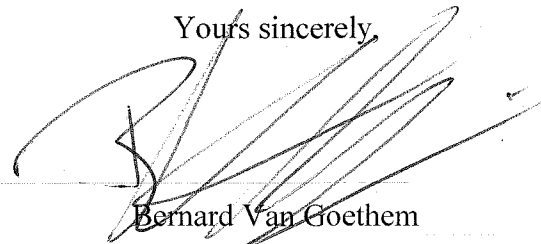
Furthermore, the Commission will continue cooperating with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) to support the implementation of the internationally adopted animal welfare standards.

The Commission is monitoring the state of implementation of the EU legislation on the transport of animals by using different tools, including annual reporting on the inspections carried out by Member States in accordance with Article 27(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005⁴, audits and specific discussions with Member States. A project addressing exports of live animals to non-EU countries has been launched and it will include audits in exporting Member States and at EU exit points during this and the next year.

As regards your call to prohibit the export of live animals to non-EU countries, the Commission is not currently considering any legislative initiatives to this effect since it considers that its activities in this area should be focused on improving the enforcement of the currently applicable legislation.

I would be very grateful if you could ask the author of this petition to publish the content of this letter on his/her website with a view to sharing this reply with all petitioners. On our side, we shall also publish this letter, expunged of protected personal data, on the Commission's transparency portal⁵.

Yours sincerely,



Bernard Van Goethem

⁴ More detailed rules on the contents of these annual reports are laid down in Commission Implementing Decision 2013/188/EU on annual reports on non-discriminatory inspections carried out pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport (OJ L 111, 23.4.2013, p. 107).

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/index_en.htm