



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Directorate G - Veterinary and International affairs
Animal Welfare

Brussels,

8 July 2015

Dear Petitioner,

The Commission has received many letters from citizens in which they express their concerns on the suffering of animals exported live from the EU to third countries and ask the Commission to take action.

The Commission is aware of the ongoing debate on issues concerning slaughterhouses in a number of third countries and is taking this matter seriously.

The Commission has brought this issue to the attention of the Chief Veterinary Officers of the Member States.

Furthermore, the Commission has been working to organise the first multi-beneficiary Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) workshop on welfare practices at the time of slaughter. This was held in Beirut on 9 – 10 March 2015 and involved expert speakers from not only the EU but also the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). The workshop aimed to address the information pointing towards serious failures by slaughterhouses in meeting international OIE guidelines and standards on welfare at the time of slaughter. Experts from the EU and other countries presented information and shared experiences in best practice for slaughter. Participants included state veterinary officials and those responsible for slaughterhouses.

The trade bans which the Commission has put in place with regards to seal products, and cat and dog fur should be treated as individual and very specific cases. They are not comparable to each other and are extremely different to this issue since they address end products, rather than exports in live animals.

Signed by,
Ladislav Miko