



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) 1688029

Dear Petitioner,

**Subject: Petition to revise the EU Regulation on the protection of animals during transport**

Commissioner Andriukatis asked me to thank for your e-mail presenting a petition<sup>1</sup> calling to revise *Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport*<sup>2</sup> by limiting the transport time 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 the applicable legislation contains additional provisions<sup>3</sup> in this particular case.

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 2011<sup>4</sup>, the main problem in this field is the enforcement of the existing legislation.

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

Amongst them, a three-year pilot project on best practices during transport was launched in 2015. This project is aimed at identifying best practices on animal transport for all the main farm species. The best practices will be available by mid-2017. A series of events in the Member States will then follow to disseminate the results of this project.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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).

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

<sup>4</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/aw\\_practice\\_trans\\_study\\_report\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/aw_practice_trans_study_report_en.pdf)

The progress of this project can be followed on its website:  
<http://animaltransportguides.eu/>

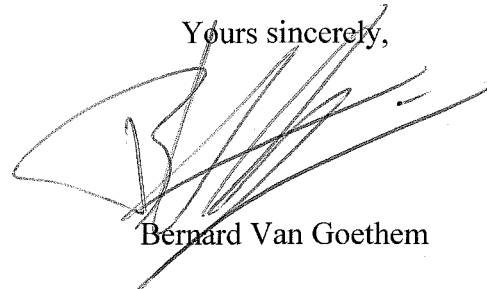
The Commission promotes and hosts regular meetings between national contact points<sup>5</sup> for this area and this is achieving better coordination and enforcement of long transport of animals.

In addition, I would like to inform you that the Commission launched a project – which includes audits – on animal transport focusing in particular on exports of live animals to non-EU countries in view of the problems encountered in this area. This will allow the Commission to have a better knowledge of the situation and subsequently address the main causes of the problems.

To conclude, I would like to inform you that in the near future the Commission has no plans to amend the existing legislation on the protection of animals during transport and is investing more efforts to assist Member States in the process of its enforcement.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bernard Van Goethem', written over a horizontal line.

Bernard Van Goethem

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<sup>5</sup> This network has been established on the basis of Article 24 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 which requires mutual assistance and exchange of information between Member States and a contact point to facilitate these exchanges.