



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Director-General

Brussels,
 SANTE/G2/SR/rb(2016)5639400

Dear Petitioner,

Subject: Long journeys transport of live animals

Commissioner Andriukaitis asked me to thank you for your e-mail of 5th September 2016 presenting a petition entitled "*No to long journeys transport of live animals*"¹ and to respond on his behalf.

The petition calls for amending the EU legislation on animal transport by limiting transport time to 8 hours for mammals and to 4 hours for birds.

Member States are primarily responsible for the application and enforcement of the EU legislation in this field. The Commission has taken several complementary actions at various levels to assist and support Member States in this process, including recent discussions with the Member States. Rest assured that the Commission will continue to closely monitor the situation and pursue its actions to improve the enforcement of the animal welfare legislation on animal transport.

The Commission is particularly attentive to the application of the EU legislation on animal transport in Member States having borders with third countries. Commissioner Andriukaitis raised the issue recently with the Bulgarian Minister of Agriculture, Ms Taneva, given the fact that one of the main EU exit points to Turkey is on Bulgarian territory. He asked in particular to apply stricter dissuasive sanctions on transporters not respecting the rules and provide regular data to the Commission in order to evaluate the evolution of the situation.

In addition, I would like to inform you that the Commission is actively promoting animal welfare internationally and has conducted numerous initiatives to increase awareness among non-EU countries, including the ones concerned by exports of live animals from the EU.

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 portal².

Xavier Prats Monné

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