

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002302/19
to the Commission
Anja Hazekamp (GUE/NGL)
(16 July 2019)

Subject: Serious infringements of EU rules in animal transport authorised by Romania

The Romanian authorities recently authorised the mass transportation of 70 000 sheep to the Persian Gulf. The sheep were transported on the ship Al Shuwaikh by transport company Kuwait Livestock Transport & Trading (KLTT).

It was already clear in advance that this transport would be contrary to Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, for example because the maximum temperatures at which animals may be transported would be hugely exceeded.

In the port of Midia, the tabler of this question observed the use of serious violence against the sheep while they were being loaded onto the vessel. Video footage of this exists ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission warned the Romanian authorities as long ago as March that concerns existed about Romanian inspections and authorisations of animal transport. In addition, the Commission asked them not to authorise the shipment using the Al Shuwaikh.

1. Is the Commission considering bringing infringement proceedings, in view of the fact that Romania has on several occasions, knowingly and deliberately, infringed Regulation (EC) No 1/2005?
2. In its resolution A8-0057/2019, Parliament called on the Commission to draw up a red list of economic operators who had perpetrated repeated and serious breaches of the regulation. When will this list be available, and does the carrier KLTT figure on it?
3. In view of the systematic welfare problems, does the Commission intend to prohibit the transport of live animals to countries outside the EU if Member States fail to take measures?

Answer given by Mr Andriukaitis on behalf of the European Commission
(27 August 2019)

The Commission plans to carry out an audit in Romania shortly. The audit will provide the necessary information for the Commission to decide on further actions.

The Commission, as indicated in its reply to Parliament's resolution on the implementation of Council Regulation No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport within and outside the EU ⁽²⁾, is examining the request in paragraph 11 of the resolution to draw up and publish a list of operators who have perpetrated repeated and serious breaches of the regulation in light of applicable European and national legislation. A list of sea transporters with repeated and serious breaches of the regulation has not yet been compiled.

The Commission cannot impose a general ban on export of live animals to non-EU countries on the basis of animal welfare violations in the non-EU country.

As the Commission pointed out in its replies to written questions P-004562/2018 and E-005366/2018 *'the setting of animal welfare rules in non-EU countries and their enforcement is under the competence of the respective national competent authorities. An export ban on live animal transports to non-EU countries would also need very careful examination under World Trade Organisation rules, which are binding upon the Union and its Member States'*.

The Commission does not plan to introduce a ban on live animal exports as it considers trade of live animals an integral part of agricultural activity.

As regards animal welfare violations on transports of animals starting in the EU, it is the responsibility of Member States not to authorise transports in violation of Regulation No 1/2005. If necessary, a Member State has to refuse authorisation of a particular export.

⁽¹⁾ <https://player.vimeo.com/external/347864053.source.mp4?s=66c2bcc3fa4d12178a44eaf9d196c178f79c0cdb&download=1>

⁽²⁾ http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-8-2019-0057_EN.html