

**Question for written answer E-011385/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Julie Girling (ECR)**

Subject: Equine transport

Equidae are recognised as being particularly vulnerable to welfare problems during transport. Immunosuppression has been noted in horses transported for more than 12 hours, increasing the risk that these animals will develop signs of acute respiratory disease. In addition, the stress of transport may cause latently infected animals to proceed to clinical disease, causing welfare problems and posing a risk to the EU's EUR 100 billion equine sector.

In recognition of this, the European Food Safety Authority recommended a maximum journey limit of 12 hours 'when untrained horses of uncertain health status are transported for slaughter' in its 2011 Scientific Opinion on the Welfare of Animals during Transport. What action does the Commission plan to take with regard to this scientifically supported recommendation?