

**Question for written answer E-009681/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Keith Taylor (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Export of live farm animals to third countries

The EU exports around two million cattle and sheep to Turkey, the Middle East and North Africa every year. A substantial body of evidence shows that animals are regularly slaughtered in this region in ways that breach international OIE standards on welfare at slaughter, resulting in extreme suffering for exported EU animals.

The Commission states that Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) does not apply to live animal exports, arguing that it is part of the common commercial policy. However, this trade is also part of EU agricultural policy and thus covered by Article 13. Indeed, DG Agriculture welcomes increases in live exports, stating that they benefit the EU beef market.

In light of the Article 13 requirement that in formulating and implementing agriculture policy the EU must 'pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals', what steps does the Commission plan to take to ensure that exported EU animals are slaughtered in accordance with OIE standards?

The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East's Action Plan on Animal Welfare for 2016-2019 includes slaughter as a key focus area. Will the Commission offer to give help during 2017-2019 to countries in this region in implementing OIE standards?