



13.8.2018

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

**Subject: Petition No 0149/2018 by K. S. (German) on the transport of living animals within the EU and outside**

### 1. Summary of petition

The petitioner reflects upon cruelty against the livestock animals transported in the territory of the EU or to the countries outside of the EU. She describes frequent suffering and trauma of often injured animals travelling for hours on very long journeys without water. She also recalls Halal-style one cut slaughtering without numbing animals. The petitioner argues that EU animals are protected not only in the territory of the EU but also outside. She calls to put an end to this situation and to enforce stricter regulations and controls.

### 2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 4 June 2018. Information requested from Commission under Rule 216(6).

### 3. Commission reply, received on 13 August 2018

#### The Commission's observations

The Commission is aware that there are difficulties in the application of the current EU animal welfare requirements during transport<sup>1</sup>, particularly outside the EU borders. The Commission has in fact made the transport of animals one of its key animal welfare priorities, with particular focus on live animal exports. It is constantly working with Member States as they are primarily responsible for the implementation and enforcement of EU legislation on the protection of animals during transport.

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<sup>1</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)

To ensure that the EU legislation is correctly applied, the Commission is auditing several Member States within a two-year project (2017-2018) focusing exclusively on the welfare of live animals being exported to non-EU countries, both by road and by sea. Although the project audits related to transport by road have been completed, the audits related to sea transport have just started. In light of the findings collected from these audits, the Commission will consider follow-up actions as appropriate to ensure a satisfactory level of protection for the animals exported. The reports of the individual audits will be published on the Commission's website, once finalised<sup>1</sup>.

The Commission launched a three-year project in 2015 on Animal Transport Guides. This project aims to improve animal welfare during transport, by developing and disseminating "*Guides to Good and Best Practice*" for the transport of the main livestock species<sup>2</sup>.

The Commission's EU Animal Welfare Platform has prioritised live animal transport as one of its main concerns. This platform is intended to be an opportunity to engage all stakeholders concerned, including animal welfare NGOs, to discuss concrete improvements to animal welfare by sharing best practices, discussing new approaches and identifying shared paths of improvement. Given the strong interest in this topic, the Commission established a sub-group on animal welfare during transport under the EU Animal Welfare Platform in its meeting of 10 November 2017. The members of this sub-group identified the export of cattle, the transport of unweaned calves and the transport of animals in extreme temperatures as their three priority areas to work on. The first meeting was held on 16 May 2018<sup>3</sup>.

The network of National Contact Points (NCP) of the Member States responsible for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the welfare of animals during transport meets regularly under the chairmanship of, and facilitated by, the Commission services to exchange experiences in implementing relevant official control activities. The NCPs are currently drafting a consensus guidance document for official controls on the transport of animals in extreme temperatures.

As for the slaughtering practices in non-EU countries, it must be noted that the setting of rules and their enforcement in these countries are under the competence of their national competent authorities. Non-EU countries are only bound by relevant EU Regulations when slaughtering animals for the export of meat to the EU market<sup>4</sup>.

Beyond the EU, the Commission is cooperating with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and supports the implementation of the internationally adopted animal welfare standards.

Furthermore, the Commission is also providing financial support for the implementation of the OIE Animal Welfare Action Plan for Middle East countries for 2016-2019, in particular for its activities related to the protection of animals during transport and at slaughter.

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1 [http://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit\\_reports/index.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit_reports/index.cfm)

2 <http://animaltransportguides.eu/>

3 [https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/eu-platform-animal-welfare/thematic-sub-groups/animal-transport\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/eu-platform-animal-welfare/thematic-sub-groups/animal-transport_en)

4 Chapters II and III of Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 of 24 September 2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing (OJ L 303, 18.11.2009, p. 1–30)

## Conclusion

The Commission is already actively working to ensure proper implementation of current EU animal welfare rules during transport and it has in fact made the transport of animals one of its key animal welfare priorities. These actions include the project focusing exclusively on the welfare of live animals during export, and, in association with other interested parties, the EU Animal Welfare Platform and the guidance for official controls drafted by the Member States' network of National Contact Points for transport. These actions are, in the opinion of the Commission, addressing the petitioner's requests for enforcement, training of people involved in the trade and awareness-raising.

Possible additional actions require more information which is expected to be gathered during the remaining audits on live animal exports that are expected to be completed in 2018.