



19.12.2018

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Subject: Petition No 0412/2018 by I. B. (German) on animal transport and animal trade in the EU

1. Summary of petition

The petition alludes to German media reports of abusive practices within the animal trade and transport industries in the EU. The petition provides details of these practices, including overseas and road transport journeys of excessive duration, resulting in extreme animal suffering. The petition lists a set of measures and ideas on how to improve the trade and transport of animals in the EU to render it more humane and mindful of animal health and safety.

2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 12 September 2018. Information requested from Commission under Rule 216(6).

3. Commission reply, received on 19 December 2018

The welfare of animals during transport is influenced by many factors, not only travelling time. Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport¹ takes this multifactorial approach into account. Long journeys are only permitted on condition that additional requirements, addressing the higher animal welfare risks associated with such journeys, are met. These include, for example, rules on transporters' authorisations, approval of means of transport, preliminary checks of the journey plan, water supply, ventilation equipment and on-board navigation systems. Mandatory training on animal welfare principles

¹ Council Regulation (EC) 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).

for drivers and attendants is also required¹, so that the animals are cared for during transport.

In addition, the fattening of animals is a specialized activity that does not necessarily take place in the same locality as slaughterhouses. The place of fattening of animals is determined by many agronomic and environmental aspects, including feed availability and the management of manure. The location of slaughterhouses is again determined by other factors. These complex issues could not be dealt with by simply imposing maximum travelling times of six hours to slaughter.

Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 already lays down a number of provisions on the transport of unfit animals². First and foremost, animals may not be transported unless they are fit for the intended journey. These include animals that are unable to walk unassisted, animals that present a severe open wound or prolapse, heavily pregnant females and new-born mammals, and animals that present other physiological weaknesses. These provisions go beyond the requests being made by the petitioner.

Conclusion

The Commission is of the opinion that the petitioner's request to restrict the travelling times to slaughterhouses to six hours is not admissible, as the welfare of animals during transport is influenced by many factors, not only travelling time. The higher animal welfare risks associated with long journeys are already specifically addressed through Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.

The Commission is of the opinion that the rules laid down in this Regulation already cover the petitioner's request for specific rules on the care of animals during transport and on the conditions of transport of unfit, new-born and heavily pregnant animals.

¹ Articles 6(4) and 6(5) 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)

² Chapter I, Annex I of Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005.