

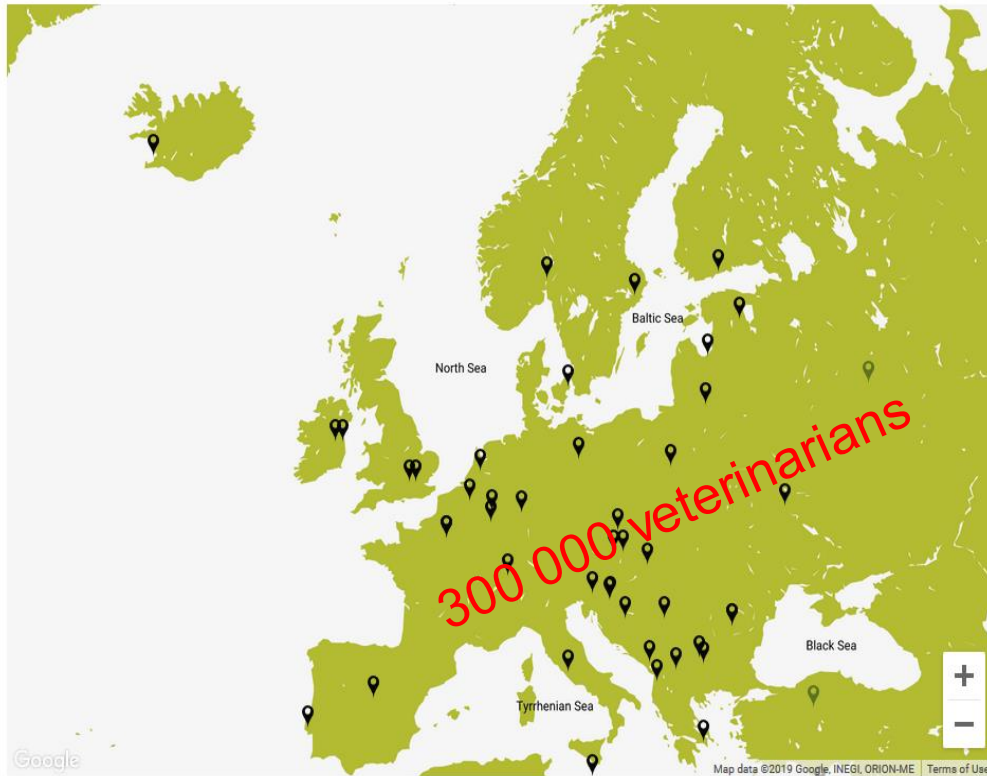
PUBLIC HEARING on the Enforcement of Regulation 1/2005

EP ANIT Committee 10/12/2020

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Federation of
Veterinarians of Europe



Federation of veterinarians of Europe

47 national associations

39 European countries

4 Sections

- UEVP (*Practitioners*)
- UEVH (*Hygienists – Public Health Officers*)
- EASVO (*Veterinary State Officers*)
- EVERI (*Education, Research, Industry*)

FVE's mission

The European veterinary profession, embodied by FVE, **enhances animal health, animal welfare, public health and protect the environment** by promoting the veterinary profession.

Together with its members, FVE supports veterinarians in delivering their professional responsibilities to the best possible standards and ensures that veterinary expertise is recognised and valued by society.



Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

FVE position



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‘Animals should be reared as close as possible to the premises they are born and slaughtered as close as possible to the point of production and Live animal transport should be replaced as much as possible by transport on the hook.’



Primary focus should be on welfare, not on market needs

- ‘Animals are sentient beings’, from Protocol to Treaty → Art 13 in current EU Treaty

Article 13

In formulating and implementing the Union's agriculture, fisheries, transport, internal market, research and technological development and space policies, the Union and the Member States shall, since animals are sentient beings, pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals, while respecting the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of the Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage.



Multiple main concerns:

- export of live animals to far away countries often with lower welfare status;
- Too high/low temperatures;
- transport of sensitive animals e.g. unweaned calves, end-of-life animals;
- Insufficient head space above animals (to prevent injuries and allow air circulation);
- loading unfit animals;
- Not appropriate transport means (unsuitable nipples, flooring, etc)
- no detailed rules for the transport of rabbits, fish, etc;
- insufficient controls at loading;
- transport Regulation allowing to repeat transport times cycles;
- implementation, enforcement and penalties



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Animal Transport Guides Project: good and better practices to transport



We need to assume joint responsibility



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- ✓ Ensure loading only of fit animals → Operator/Driver/Vet
- ✓ Make a realistic road plan and contingency plan, support drivers underway → transporter/organisator
- ✓ Control the road plan → official veterinarian
- ✓ Take care of the animals during transport → driver
- ✓ Check the animals at the market/slaughterhouse -) official vet
- ✓ Ensure a proper implementation and enforcement → MS government, official vets, possibly with support police
- ✓ Support official veterinarians → government

Need to improve implementation and enforcement



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- ✓ Enforcement still differs a lot between Member States
- ✓ Countries need to designate adequate resources for implementation and enforcement
- ✓ Need for improved cross-border collaboration e.g. competency framework driver authorisations, harmonised framework for penalties
- ✓ Export: EU database controlled resting and supply facilities. If the vet thinks the route is not feasible, they can not sign the certificate.
- ✓ Vet should be present during loading, especially for long distance transport and ideally also during long sea journeys
- ✓ Official vets need more support regarding signing certificates for export to third countries. Can they refuse e.g. if the place of destination is known not to respect EU legislation?



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Conclusions:

- Need to aim at reducing transport as much as possible → shorter supply chains, have enough slaughterhouses, etc.
- Need to act on the most concerning transport practices e.g. in hot weather, transport of unweaned calves, end-of-life animals: some will need legislation
- Export to third countries: need development of EU database of controlled and authorized facilities along the route outside EU & agreement on destination: will need revised legislation to clarify certificate signing procedures
- Need to continue fostering cross-country collaboration on implementation and enforcement

Animal welfare should always be the priority

Main references



www.fve.org

- ✓ *Animal Transport Guides project:* <http://www.animaltransportguides.eu/materials/>
- ✓ *FVE PR on long distance transport:* <https://fve.org/fve-calls-to-prevent-suffering-of-animals-during-long-distance-transports/>
- ✓ *FVE position on transport:* https://fve.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/fve_08_016_transport.pdf
- ✓ *FVE paper on veterinary role in transport:* https://fve.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/044-Vets-and-the-transport-of-animals_final.pdf