

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Neil Parish, Paulo Casaca, Marios Matsakis, Caroline Lucas and Miguel Portas

on export refunds for live cattle to third countries

Lapse date: 11.7.2005

Written declaration on export refunds for live cattle to third countries

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. noting that around 200 000 live cattle are exported each year from the EU to Lebanon and Egypt,
- B. noting that export refunds of around € 60 million a year have been paid in recent years on these animals and that up to € 77 million are available for export refunds in 2005,
- C. concerned that journeys can last up to 10 days, that upon arrival animals are often handled and slaughtered by methods which are illegal under EU law, and that consequently great suffering is imposed on the animals,
- D. concerned that existing legislation is not enforced and is in any case inadequate to protect the welfare of the animals,
- 1. Acknowledges that the EU recognises that animals are sentient beings;
- 2. Calls on the Commission and the Council to bring an immediate and permanent end to the system of export refund payments on live cattle exports to third countries;
- 3. Calls for public funds to instead be spent on schemes which promote and protect the welfare of animals;
- 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and the Commission.