

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Elizabeth Lynne, Satu Hassi, Roger Helmer and Christel Schaldemose

on transportation of horses for slaughter in the European Union

Lapse date: 12.3.2009

Written declaration on transportation of horses for slaughter in the European Union

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas approximately 100 000 horses are annually transported unnecessarily long distances into and across the European Union for slaughter,
- B. whereas there is well-documented evidence that horses are being transported over long distances in insufficient space and without the adequate rest required by law, causing a variety of welfare problems such as injury, disease, exhaustion and dehydration,
- C. whereas there is strong evidence that Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations has not been robustly enforced,
- D. whereas a review of Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005 is being carried out by the Commission,
- 1. Urges Member States and the European Commission to robustly enforce Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005;
- 2. Notes the comprehensive dossier of evidence collected by World Horse Welfare on the long distance transportation of horses to slaughter in Europe;
- 3. Calls on the Commission and Member States to effectively scrutinise this evidence in the context of the Commission's review of Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005;
- 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission, and the parliaments and government of the Member States.