

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2354/05  
by Peter Skinner (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Exports of live cattle to Egypt and Lebanon

Can the Commission confirm that live animals continue to be exported to Egypt and Lebanon for human consumption, and that this is subsidised by the EU taxpayer?

Noting that a recently-published report by the European Commission has highlighted the fact that, for the first time in 20 years, beef consumption in the EU is higher than production (a trend likely to continue until 2011)<sup>1</sup>, what reasons can the Commission give for continuing to subsidise live cattle shipments at an estimated €200 per animal<sup>2</sup>?

Given the fact that a significant proportion of EU taxpayers remain opposed to the transportation of live animals over long distances, and given the recent initiative by the Dutch Presidency to restart talks on the Commission proposal for a regulation on the protection of animals during transport (COM(2003)425) in Council on 22 November, would the Commission take this opportunity to send a clear signal of intent by scrapping these subsidies which cause needless suffering to animals that could otherwise be eaten in the EU?

---

<sup>1</sup> Prospects for Agricultural Markets 2004 - 2011 Update for EU-25  
(<http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/publi/caprep/prospects2004a/fullrep.pdf>)

<sup>2</sup> Figures given by Compassion in World Farming, Press Release 26 August 2004 Ireland.