Question for written answer E-002554/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Pavel Poc (S&D) and Carl Schlyter (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Watering of animals during long-distance transport (follow-up question to Question E-005724/2012)

In parliamentary Question E-005724/2012, the Commission was asked whether it is of the opinion that it is realistic to think that the inspection authorities of the Member States are in a position adequately to verify whether animals have in fact been watered during long-distance transport (e.g. a watering stop of at least one hour for cattle, sheep and goats in between two transport periods of 14 hours, while horses and donkeys must be given water every eight hours during a 24-hour transport period).

Furthermore, the Commission was asked how these checks are carried out in practice.

Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 does not require these watering stops to be carried out in particular places and thus there is no inspection authority present. If these watering breaks are carried out, they usually take place at service stations along the motorway or similar places.

The Commission did not answer these questions but just replied by stating that the Commission's inspection service, the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO), had 'not identified particular failure of the competent authorities to provide training to verify that animals have been watered during long-distance transports'.

The Commission is therefore now asked to answer the following questions:

1.   What does 'training to verify that animals have been watered during long-distance transports' consist of, i.e. in practice, how is effective watering supposed to be verified in a measurable manner?

2.   Has the FVO, the Commission's inspection service, verified during its audits/missions whether training alone has been provided, or to what extent and with what frequency these checks are really carried out in practice, i.e. what percentage of long-distance transports have been checked? If so, what were the results?