

**Question for written answer E-003673/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Kriton Arsenis (S&D)**

Subject: Long-distance animal transport from the EU to Turkey

Hundreds of thousands of sheep and cattle (destined for slaughter and breeding) are transported over long distances from EU Member States (MS) to Turkey each year. Reports from NGOs, supported by empirical evidence, have demonstrated that these long-distance journeys cause immense suffering to the animals. Extremely long transport time – regularly prolonged by enormous delays sometimes lasting entire days at or near the border between the EU and Turkey – are often a result of incorrect/incomplete accompanying documents issued by the competent authorities in the MS of departure.

The NGO Animals' Angels has repeatedly documented the fact that animals regularly suffer as a result of this long-distance transport from dehydration and malnutrition, severe respiratory disorders, heat stress and exhaustion. A significant number of animals that did not survive the long-distance transport have been documented. Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport has been in effect for five years now. However, in 2013 the relevant EU laws are still not being enforced by MS, and several incidents of irregular transport authorised in MS have been documented. The European Commission needs to step up its efforts to ensure the efficient enforcement of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 and the effective protection of animals during transport.

This being the case, will the Commission answer the following questions:

1. How many live bovine and ovine animals were exported from MS (broken down by MS) to Turkey in the years 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012?
2. How does the Commission intend to rectify the systematic and permanent failure of MS of departure to enforce Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 in the context of transport of animals to Turkey?
3. How does the Commission intend to rectify the systematic and permanent failure of the competent Bulgarian authorities to enforce Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 at the EU exit point Kapitan Andreevo on the EU border with Turkey?
4. In connection with questions 2 and 3, what does the Commission consider to be an appropriate time to grant the MS in which to finally enforce Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005?