

**Question for written answer E-003423/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Audit 2019-6898 carried out by DG SANTE in Romania to evaluate animal welfare during transport by livestock vessel to non-EU countries

This audit attests to poor quality in the tests carried out and the records kept. It states that 'the central competent authority has not provided sufficient information, instructions or access to suitably qualified staff to support official veterinarians in checking the technical requirements [...]. There is also a general lack of records in the system of controls to ensure animal welfare during transport by sea to non-EU countries.' The report also notes that there is no evidence of checks to confirm that the animals are fit to continue the journey or of the adequacy of the vessels used for animal transport. More than 50 % of livestock vessels operating in the EU are Romanian. Given this situation, animal welfare problems arise during transport on board these vessels, and animals are likely to suffer injury or undue suffering during transport by sea to non-EU countries. In its reply to written question E-004206/2019 the Commission stated that it is exploring ways to improve compliance with relevant EU rules in the light of the outcome of the aforementioned audit, and that infringement actions will remain measures of last resort.

Given that Romania's unwillingness has led to poor implementation and enforcement of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, what measures is the Commission taking to ensure that the country does enforce Regulation 1/2005?