Question for written answer E-003874/2020/rev.1
to the Commission
Rule 138
Pascal Durand (Renew)

Subject: Live animal exports by sea

In recent reports, the Commission has stressed that organisers often fail to appoint an authorised transporter to be in charge of the welfare of animals during the sea stage of export journeys to the Middle East and North Africa. Under Article 6(6) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, transporters must ensure that ‘an attendant accompanies any consignment of animals’, including during sea journeys. Article 2(c) defines an attendant as ‘a person directly in charge of the welfare of the animals who accompanies them during a journey’. This means that a representative of the transporter – the attendant – must accompany the animals while they are in the port, during loading, during the sea journey and during unloading.

However, organisers rarely appoint an authorised transporter for sea journeys. As a result, no attendant is employed and no one present on the ship has clear legal responsibility for ensuring day-to-day animal welfare.

What can the Commission do to remind the Member States that:

1. journey logs are needed for live exports that involve long sea journeys, even if the road journey to the port is under eight hours;

2. they cannot approve journey logs unless an authorised transporter has been appointed for the sea stage of the journey?