

**Question for written answer E-000618/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Time spent transporting animals by sea should no longer be considered a rest period

Transporting animals by sea, particularly when they are exported outside the European Union, causes great distress to livestock. The animals are cooped up in crowded pens, with not enough room to move around, and suffer from motion sickness, a lack of ventilation, inappropriate drinking facilities and poor hygiene conditions as a result of insufficient litter facilities.

Such conditions are deplorable and cause the animals severe stress, sometimes even resulting in their death while on board. Yet Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport considers the time taken to transport animals by sea as a rest period.

1. Is the Commission aware of the distress caused to animals during transport by sea?
2. Does it acknowledge that transporting animals by sea does not allow them real time to rest?
3. Does it intend to prohibit or severely curtail the transport of animals by sea given how difficult — even impossible — it is for animals to rest during journeys which may take several weeks?

Supporters¹

¹ This question is supported by Members other than the authors: Harald Vilimsky (ID), Jean-Paul Garraud (ID)