

**Question for written answer E-002161/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: New Zealand, a pioneer in animal transport

Following several incidents and accidents involving animal transport by ship, New Zealand has decided to ban this form of animal transport entirely.

The fact that there is also a lot wrong with animal transport by ship in Europe was highlighted by the situation, or rather the odyssey, of almost 2600 cattle on board the 'Karim Allah' and the 'Elbeik' criss-crossing the Mediterranean Sea for months. The ships departed for Tripoli (Libya) from a Spanish port on 18 December 2020 but were not permitted entry to the destination port, as the cattle were infected with bluetongue virus. After an odyssey of many months in the Mediterranean, during which some of the cattle died on board the ships as a result of disease, inadequate care and hygiene, the remaining animals had to be slaughtered.

1. Should the Commission not follow New Zealand's example and immediately ban this form of animal transport?
2. Why were both ships allowed to leave the port, despite clearly not having an emergency plan in line with the EU regulations?
3. If animal transport by ship is not prohibited altogether, is it not time to at least amend the Regulation so that animals' journey time on ships is no longer considered as a rest period, but as actual journey time?