



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Transport and Tourism

2012/2031(INI)

10.5.2012

OPINION

of the Committee on Transport and Tourism

for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

on the protection of animals during transport
(2012/2031(INI))

Rapporteur: Luis de Grandes Pascual

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Transport and Tourism calls on the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Supports the objectives of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations¹, and observes that its implementation has led to increased costs for transport companies, mainly owing to the new requirements as regards vehicle facilities; expresses disappointment that better use has not been made of emerging technologies which would assist in this area and reduce costs in the long run;
2. Emphasises that EU legislation must guarantee animal welfare in transport and stresses that it is important to take the economic costs into account while also avoiding harm or stress to animals; emphasises that, if full compliance is achieved across the Union, this should not lead to any distortion or loss of competition in the free trade of goods, or unfairly disadvantage the EU's outermost regions, peripheral areas and islands; calls on the Commission to monitor the situation to ensure that this continues to be the case;
3. Stresses that all activities relating to the protection and welfare of animals must be based on the principle that animals are sentient creatures, whose specific needs must be considered in the drafting of EU legislation; notes that animal welfare problems persist and recalls that Recital 5 of the aforementioned regulation states that 'for reasons of animal welfare the transport of animals over long journeys [...] should be limited as far as possible'; asks the Commission to assess whether reducing the volume of transport of live animals by increasing the transport of carcasses would have a positive impact on the environment, improving the carbon footprint of the transport sector, and on regional development;
4. Notes that the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe recommends that animals should be reared as close as possible to the premises on which they are born, and slaughtered as close as possible to the point of production;
5. Recalls that Article 32 of the aforementioned regulation states that the Commission report must take into account 'scientific evidence on welfare needs of animals', and may be accompanied if necessary by appropriate legislative proposals concerning long journeys; calls on the Commission and the Council, therefore, to revise Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 in order to establish a maximum eight-hour journey limit for animals transported for the purpose of being slaughtered, as also requested in Written Declaration 49/2011, adopted by Parliament on 15 March 2012; suggests that this maximum eight-hour limit could be enforced effectively by, inter alia, incorporating it into the digital tachograph instrument;
6. Calls on the Commission to examine the economic impact of adapting road infrastructure (animal loading and unloading areas, rest areas, availability of drinking troughs, etc.) before adopting new legislation on resting time for animals;

¹ OJ L 3, 5.1.2005, p. 1.

7. Notes that Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 requires vehicles transporting animals on long journeys to use a satellite navigation system to aid enforcement; believes that such systems would do more to improve enforcement if they transmitted data regarding travelling times and rest periods to the competent authorities in real time;
8. Expresses disappointment that existing satellite navigation devices are not used widely enough in the Member States owing to a lack of harmonisation of the technical specifications for their use; calls for these systems to be used equally in all Member States in order to provide effective monitoring and supervision of the transport of animals;
9. Calls on the Commission to research how new and existing technology can be applied in livestock vehicles in order to regulate, monitor and register temperature and humidity, which are essential elements for controlling and protecting the welfare of specific categories of animals during transport, in line with European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) recommendations;
10. Calls for a transition to electronic technologies so that Member States can make things easier for companies by facilitating the storage and communication of data requested by the various administrative offices;
11. Calls on the Commission to consider harmonising monitoring tools so as to enable data collection to be standardised, while reducing administrative tasks and the unnecessary use of multiple instruments on board; expresses concern at the number of reports of inappropriate vehicles being used to transport live animals on both land and sea, and calls for the monitoring of such practices to be stepped up;
12. Considers that good training for transporters and people accompanying animals in transit, in particular education of drivers, is the basis for animal protection and welfare, as it is essential for the proper handling of animals, and therefore calls on the Member States to step up training and education programmes where necessary;
13. Agrees with the Commission's approach based on the introduction of measures to improve compliance with this legislation in the Member States, including the publication of general guidelines to ensure proper interpretation of the regulation and the drawing-up of codes of good practice, but emphasises that guidelines and codes of good practice alone will not ensure compliance, and therefore stresses the need for frequent and thorough inspections to be carried out routinely at both land and sea borders;
14. Expresses disappointment that the regulations are often inadequately enforced in the Member States and that their uniform application leaves much to be desired; calls on the Commission to take every available step to promote and monitor the standardised application of these regulations;
15. Calls on the Member States to ensure the implementation of the minimum standards which are in force in relation to the inspection of the transport of animals, and to impose sanctions that are effective and proportionate and act as a deterrent; highlights the fact that particular attention must be paid to checking journey time and rest periods, feeding and watering intervals, space allowances for animals in vehicles, vehicle ventilation and the effective functioning of animal watering systems; also calls on the border authorities of

each Member State to collaborate and share information regarding the cross-border transportation of animals;

16. Calls on the Commission to assess the need to standardise sanctions in the various Member States in relation to the transport of animals;
17. Considers that the reports submitted annually by the Member States are essential to understanding the impact of the legislation and taking appropriate corrective action; calls on the Commission to adopt measures on controls and a more harmonised reporting structure by 1 January 2013;
18. Calls on the Commission to pursue legal action against, and impose sanctions on, those Member States which fail to apply the regulation correctly.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	8.5.2012
Result of final vote	+: 38 -: 1 0: 3
Members present for the final vote	Magdi Cristiano Allam, Inés Ayala Sender, Georges Bach, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Philip Bradbourn, Antonio Cancian, Philippe De Backer, Christine De Veyrac, Saïd El Khadraoui, Ismail Ertug, Carlo Fidanza, Knut Fleckenstein, Jacqueline Foster, Mathieu Grosch, Jim Higgins, Juozas Imbrasas, Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, Georgios Koumoutsakos, Werner Kuhn, Jörg Leichtfried, Bogusław Liberadzki, Eva Lichtenberger, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Gesine Meissner, Hubert Pirker, Dominique Riquet, Petri Sarvamaa, Vilja Savisaar-Toomast, Olga Sehnalová, Brian Simpson, Keith Taylor, Silvia-Adriana Țicău, Giommaria Uggias, Thomas Ulmer, Peter van Dalen, Artur Zasada
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Spyros Danellis, Michel Dantin, Eider Gardiazábal Rubial, Sabine Wils, Janusz Władysław Zemke
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Janusz Wojciechowski