

Dear Commissioner Borg;

I write regarding the urgent need for the EU Commission to review its farm animal transport legislation. At the moment, transport legislation for all farm animals is covered by Regulation 1/2005 of 22/12/04. This allows different (live vertebrate) species to be transported by road for different amounts of time within the EU member states; which includes authorising some animals to be transported for well over 24 hours without an off vehicle break. In my opinion as a concerned EU citizen, this is outrageous !

Any amendment of the existing Regulation 1/2005 can only be made if proposed by the European Commission; since it has the sole right to initiate law-making actions within the entire EU. The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) stipulates that the EU Commission and its commissioners must do their jobs fully independently and for the general good of the communities.

In November 2011; a Written Declaration; 49/2011, relating specifically to animal transport regulation change was introduced into the EU Parliament by some specific Members of the European Parliament (MEP's). This was further supported by a public EU wide petition calling for a one off 8 hour maximum journey time for all animals in transport. By the time voting on this issue took place on March 15th, 2012; a total of 395 MEP's had voted in favor of the document and demanded a maximum one off journey transport time of eight hours. To support this further, more than 1 million public signatures had been collected at this time by concerned EU citizens about the incredibly long hours that animals currently have to endure being transported on the roads of Europe as a result of the existing Regulation 1/2005.

The EU Commission has now been called upon to act accordingly. If it does not submit a legislative proposal then it must notify the Parliament of the reasons. On June 7th 2012, representatives of numerous European animal welfare organizations visited Brussels to reinforce the arguments of a one off journey time limit of eight (8) hours maximum. In doing this, the signatures of concerned EU citizens were officially presented to (then Commissioner) John Dalli's cabinet.

The petition included in its text the wording of the Written Declaration mentioned above. The EU Commissioner Dalli stated on camera at the time that "by 2014 the Commission will publish a legislative proposal." A few days later however, Commissioner Dalli retracted his statement without further comment. In response to the retraction of the statement, the EU Commissioner then received a further 30,000 complaints within the following days.

However, the indignation about simply ignoring the will of more than one million EU citizens, in addition to almost 400 members of the European Parliament remains unanswered. In June 2012, Animals' Angels (of Germany) submitted the boxes of these signatures to the Petitions Committee of the European Parliament in Brussels. On 16th September 2013 Animals' Angels were invited to Brussels to speak to MEP's and members of the Petitions Committee about the demands of the 8 hours campaign. This was viewed as an opportunity to ask why the EU Commission had so far done nothing to respond adequately to the will of both concerned EU citizens and also many members of the EU parliament. A formal request to the Petitions Committee was also made at the time to examine the case and obtain a formal reply from the Commission regarding the 8 hours campaign petition. The fact that the Petitions Committee had been convened made it absolutely clear that it was without doubt prepared to support the petition and seek answers to the many questions.

In March 2014 Animals' Angels received confirmation from the Petitions Committee that the European Commission had not only been told to consider the petition, but also seek further input from the Committee for Agriculture and also the Rural Development of the European Parliament.

The Petitions Committee declared that it had taken the 1 million plus signature petition 'very seriously'.

*I thus ask you now in the latter part of 2014, to please give your full support to a drastic reduction in farm animal journey times throughout Europe; by introducing legislation immediately for a one off maximum journey time of eight (8) hours.*

*Thank you for your consideration of my request.*

*Yours sincerely;*

*From a supporter of 'Serbian Animals Voice' (which is UK based);*

*Note – The senders name, address and nationality is provided in the original e mail supplied as part of this letter.*



Photo: Valerie Cameron

*Regulation 1/2005 allegedly provides EU animals with 'protection during transport' ?*