

ADDRESS REMOVED

To:

Mr. Jean Claude Juncker – President of the European Commission.
Mr. Donald Tusk – President of the European Council
Mr. Martin Schultz – President of the European Parliament.

6th March 2016.

Sirs; I thank you for your time;

I write first and foremost as an existing (UK) EU citizen; although (with a UK referendum this June) this will probably not be the case for very much longer. I also write as the founder of 'Serbian Animals Voice', a UK based organisation dedicated to the improvement of welfare for the stray animals of Serbia.

I have personally had over 25 years of experience in anti live animal transport campaigning and have witnessed untold animal cruelty during transport investigations. In all this time, I feel that there has never been a worse period than at present to be an EU citizen; a 'member' of the EU, and also a campaigner for improvements to EU animal welfare. The EU does not currently appear to understand what the term 'animal welfare' really means, now, this present day - 2016. In my personal experience the EU is very good at 'talking the talk', but the reality on the ground is, as presented to you time and time again by animal welfare organisations, a very different one to the world of regulations and directives.

In Commissioner Phil Hogan for example - responsible for Agriculture and Rural Development; we have a man here who unfortunately, despite being the Agriculture Commissioner, and someone who therefore should be putting animal welfare at the top of his interests and actions, does not actually appear to have any concerns regarding the welfare of EU farm animals in situations such as the export of live (EU) animals to Turkey. He has made it clear many times that he supports the live export of animals. Commissioner Hogan does however appear to be very keen in promoting his dialogue with the Irish farming community; the possible fact why he is so pro live exports !

In the last month, Amsterdam based (NL) 'Eyes on Animals' produced another excellent video showing the disgusting conditions and suffering of live EU animals waiting to cross the EU border into Turkey – here is the video link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udReHkAumrY&feature=youtu.be>

As Lesley (Director / founder of EoA) says during the video – *“after 5 years of sending endless complaints to (EU) responsible authorities, the only conclusion to draw is that animals exported to third countries are not protected at all. This trade is a systematic violation of Article 13 of the Treaty of Lisbon. Behind the statistics and legislative promises, there has only been suffering”.*

The situation for EU animals exported live to non EU nations; as well as for those in transportation between existing EU member states, is an utter embarrassment for your so called EU Regulation for the 'protection' of animals during transportation (Regulation 1/2005 of 22nd December 2004 refers).

During 2010 I personally worked with 'Eyes on Animals' to produce a 125 page report for the EU which involved a compilation of 5 individual investigations undertaken to expose the trade in live calves shipped from Ireland (EU member state) to France (EU member state). Dozens of copies of the report were supplied to the EU; hopefully at the time to those persons who it was hoped could make a difference; as well as to MEP's, asking for their support and action against the clear animal abuses exposed in the reports. A further print run of the combined reports was undertaken in 2011 due to the further demand for copies.

And so, where are we now ?, what progress has been made by EU 'officials' some six years further on ?; and what action has been taken by the EU to stop the suffering of very young calves exported from Ireland as shown in our reports ? – **NOTHING; that is what;** nothing for the improvement of animal welfare is the result of all the investigative actions undertaken, investigators have been utterly ignored

by people like Commissioner Hogan, who at the same time he ignores the evidence, meets with Irish farmers and discusses with them the ways that they can export yet more calves to Europe !!

As has been exposed by EU wide animal welfare organisations for many, many years; animals have for years in the past, currently do, and will continue to suffer terribly during long distance road transport, either within the EU or beyond. When investigative information is presented to the EU by animal welfare organisations, these EU officials should, and are in a position to listen and act as a result. Instead, we are simply met every time with official EU heads that simply turn in the opposite direction, and heads which carry official EU ears that suddenly seem unable to understand what is being said to them !

The entire EU 'system' is failing animals, be they suffering in intensive farming complexes, experiencing live transport or being used for research of some kind. And if we move over to the issue of stray dog control and management; which was the whole reason for the foundation of my 'Serbian' group some 11 years ago; once again it is more than clear that the EU is failing here also. Why does the EU not have a regulation for the management of all strays ?, which would include compulsory sterilisation and other improvements for the better welfare of sentient beings ? – could it be that sheep and cows and pigs make the EU money, and that stray animals do not ?

Working with Serbian groups, we have for many years, through Commissioner Hahn (EU Enlargement) and his operatives, presented overwhelming video evidence (just like 'Eyes on Animals') that the current situation for stray animals, and animal welfare in general, is NOT compliant with the 'Rules of Law' (ie. enforcement of their own Serbian national legislation) which candidate countries such as Serbia need to present to the EU as being fully enforced prior to their EU membership. We are informed on the 'EU europa' website that application of the 'rule of law' is an absolute necessity for candidate countries; and yet when we provide information which clearly shows Serbian non compliances of their own laws to the EU officials, we are met yet again just like the live transport issue, with EU heads which turn the other way and EU ears which suddenly do not have the ability to listen !

Without doubt, and we fully understand the reality of the situation, Commissioner Hahn at EU Enlargement has only one simple objective; and that is to get yet more member states into the 'EU club', regardless of the non compliances on issues such as animal welfare. He will conveniently turn his head the other way to clear evidence of animal suffering and will not require adhesion to the EU 'rule of law' when it is convenient for him to ignore it and shut up his 'EU ears'. In other words, just like Regulation 1/2005 for the so-called animal 'protection' during transport, the EU is great at putting out weasel words and regulations for allegedly 'protecting' vulnerable animals; whilst at the same time turning heads the other way and closing ears when animal welfare organisations step forward to say, 'this is wrong, it does not comply with EU law, and here is our video evidence that proves vulnerable animals are suffering'.

Please can you explain to me in your response to me which I trust you will provide; on the specific subject of EU live animals suffering immensely en route to Turkey, how exactly are all the requirements of EU Article 13 of the Treaty of Lisbon enforced ? – where is enforcement of, and by whom at the EU, of the so-called 'Five Freedoms', based on the 'European Convention for the Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes' ?

With live EU animals being transported to Turkey and enduring a wait of many days at the EU / Turkey border, where do we witness the enforcement of the 5 EU freedoms under the Treaty by those officials of the EU; freedoms which should include:

Freedom from hunger and thirst;
Freedom from discomfort;
Freedom from pain, injury and disease;
Freedom to express their normal behaviour; and finally,
Freedom from fear and distress.

Possibly you can review (from the above video link) the very disturbing video evidence produced by 'Eyes on Animals' showing live EU animals being exported to Turkey, and write in your response to inform me where I am going wrong when I state that you in the EU are utterly non compliant with implementation of the five freedoms which are given in Article 13 of the Lisbon Treaty to animals which

are by law, sentient beings. Article 13 came into force in 2009 and introduced at that time the recognition of animals as 'sentient beings'. Title II of the same Treaty declares that in formulating the (European) Union's transport policy, "*since animals are sentient beings, pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals*".

Again, please can you inform me where I am going wrong, and you are correct with your interpretation of existing EU legislation such as the Lisbon Treaty ? – both I and the European Court of Justice would be very keen to hear your responses and implementations no doubt.

March 2016 - I have created a petition targetting selected EU Commissioners regarding the disgusting abuses of animals en route to Turkey, and the non enforcement of EU Regulations (such as Article 13) by the EU as is shown in the video referenced. The petition has currently been signed by concerned citizens of all EU member states that EU transport rules are not being enforced, and their signatures will be presented to the Commissioners who are responsible and as a result, failing the animals in transit, when the time is necessary.

On 23/6/16 the citizens of the UK will vote on the future of existence of the UK in the EU. UK citizens will base their vote on what the EU is actually doing positively for them as EU citizens. As an Englishman, I, along with other UK members of my group will have the opportunity to vote in this referendum. When I look at the current situation for EU animals; as I have briefly outlined above, I will allow their welfare and the non enforcement of regulations by the EU to play a very major part in influencing my decision to remain in or leave the EU.

As I have hopefully made it very clear to you; the EU is failing animals; especially those in factory farms and those which are having to endure long distance transportation such as to Turkey as exposed by EoA in their videos. YOU are the people responsible for the implementation / enforcement of existing EU legislation, and you are failing miserably to enforce the rules and give protection to sentient being animals that so much require it. With this in mind, and the complete failure of the EU animal welfare system, I very much look forward to voting to get the UK **OUT of the EU** on June 23rd. Getting out of the EU does NOT mean that UK animal welfare organisations cannot still obtain evidence showing where you as a Union are failing; but their campaigning can instead be worked from the outside the EU to still show existing EU member states where the EU regulations are not being enforced. Being away from the EU does not mean going away and not continuing with our work; in fact it may even strengthen our resolve !.

With my opinions in mind, I ask that you have until June 2016 to make a difference for animals; for once stand up and enforce the EU regulations and treaties which currently evade you and all your officials. By June 2016 we need to see a complete cessation of all animals transported to non EU nations; as well as the introduction of a maximum one off journey time of 8 hours for all animals suffering transportation within the EU. If these requests are not implemented by this time, we at least need to see official statements to the effect that they will very soon after June 2016 be implemented by the EU.

Some big asks; I appreciate that; but with the UK vote in June it will show existing EU citizens where your actual realities really lie; are they in actually enforcing existing EU rules and regulations as you claim verbally and on documentation which means nothing, or is it a case of EU officials bowing only to the farming industry and ignoring the requests the people / citizens of Europe ?

The choice is yours, but if there are to be changes, we need to see them implemented immediately and before June 2016; or at least a formal declaration that something will be done in the NEAR future. If the UK does vote to leave the EU, then this will no doubt set a precedent for other EU nations to follow suit and ask "what exactly is the EU doing for me" ? and what is it doing for EU animal welfare ? - obviously something you gentlemen do NOT wish to see happen, but it will be a possibility if you do not implement urgent changes to the benefit of sentient beings.

The choice Sirs lies with you; but please remember, in the UK and the EU, every day is one day nearer to UK referendum day !

Thank you for your time;

Regards
Mark Johnson
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<http://serbiananimalsvoice.com/>



Photographs – 'Eyes on Animals' (NL).