

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Directorate G – Crisis management in food, animals and plants
Director

Brussels,
SANTE G2/SR/rb D(2016) 3614100

Dear Madam/Sir,

Subject: Reply to your e-mail of 15 June

Commissioner Andriukaitis asked me to thank you for your e-mail of 15th June and to respond on his behalf.

You provided photos showing animals in poor welfare conditions and shared two web posts pointing at alleged cases of non-compliance with Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transportⁱ. Based on this you are of the opinion that the Commission is not doing the necessary to improve the welfare of transported animals.

The Commission is aware of the ongoing challenges with the enforcement of the Regulation. As you may also be aware, the enforcement of EU legislation is primarily the responsibility of Member States. The Commission continues to evaluate the most suitable actions within the framework of its remit to ensure better enforcement of Union law, and in particular on the protection of animals during transport.

In this context I would like to recall several actions already taken for the purpose of assisting Member States in the daily application and enforcement of EU legislation.

At the meeting of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed of 12 January 2016, the Commission again reminded Member States of their obligation to protect the welfare of animals during transport mainly with a focus on how to improve coordination between competent authorities to increase the efficiency of official controls on live animal transports and exports.

The protection of animals during transport and in particular during export to non-EU countries is again included in the agenda of the forthcoming meeting of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed of 5 July 2016.

Moreover, the Commission facilitates regular meetings of Member States represented by their National Contact Points on animal welfare during transportⁱⁱ. During the last meeting on 18-20 May 2016 it had been agreed to enhance checks and timely actions in case of non-compliance with the provisions of Regulation 1/2005.

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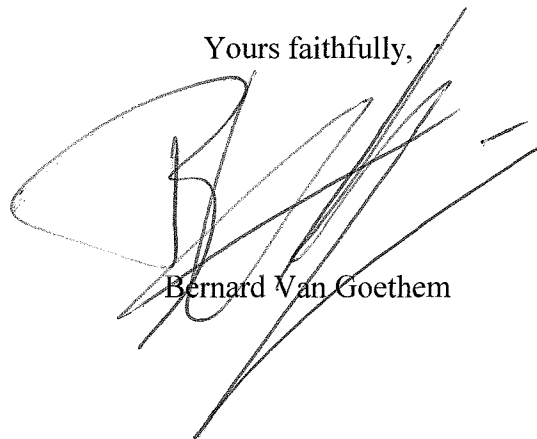
The Commission launched a pilot project to develop and disseminate best practices for animal transport and is focusing its efforts on developing guides to good practices and improved co-operation amongst Member States, to achieve greater harmonisation of the implementation of existing rules, therefore improving animal welfare conditions during transport.

I consider strengthening the training activities of all actors involved in the transport of animals as an important factor to improve the current level of enforcement.

To conclude, I believe that this broad spectrum of tools for better application and enforcement of existing rules represents a concrete and fast way to help improve the welfare of animals.

Please rest assured that the Commission will continue working with Member States and relevant stakeholders to address, within the Commission's remit of competence, your concerns relating to the transport of live animals.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'B' followed by several sweeping, overlapping strokes that extend to the right and downwards.

Bernard Van Goethem

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- i Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97 (OJ L 3, 5.1.2005, p. 1).
 - ii This network has been established on the basis of Article 24 of Regulation 1/2005 which requires mutual assistance and exchange of information between Member States and a contact point to facilitate these exchanges.