

Harmonizing efforts on the front line

Animal Transport conference

Amsterdam, 23-24.06.2009

Memorandum of the Official Animal Transport Inspectors and other participants

hosted by:



- To:
- the European Commission
 - the European Parliament
 - the European Food Safety Agency's Panel on Animal Health and Animal Welfare
 - the Scientific Committee of the Food Chain and Animal Health

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We would like to inform you of a conference held in The Netherlands June 23 and 24, 2009 with the aim of better harmonizing efforts on the frontline and improving the quality of animal welfare during transport.

Attendants
from:

Austria
Italy
Lithuania
Netherlands
Poland
Spain

During this conference, veterinarians and approved & authorized Live Animal Transport Inspectors from various Member States expressed deep concern about the situation of live animals being transported throughout Europe.

Our many years of experience give us the impression that there is

- no approved or evidence-supported conformity regarding technical requirements of the vehicles appropriate to the species, numbers, size and age of the animals being transported, nor of the stocking density
- insufficient communication between the Member States for solving problems ,
- unequal implementation of performing on-the-spot inspections in different Member States and thus
- the possibility for transporters to carry out animal transportation through countries with no or insufficient controls.

We came to the conclusion that there are urgent needs to improve the system in all countries of the European Union, and during the conference session "Putting our Thoughts Together" we put these needs down on paper to create this memorandum.

There is a need for:

- clarifying the provisions of the transport legislation,
- educating the persons involved in and dealing with live animal transport,
- precluding shortcomings in dealing with living beings,
- enabling the authorities to judge correctly non-suitable equipment used for transport and discern situations of poor animal welfare,
- forcing transporters, according to article 3 (f), to use the fastest route and
- installing more effective measures to avoid repeated violations.

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With regard to the legislation directly pertinent to animal welfare in transport and also taking into account Animal Health legislation and TRACES, we, Veterinarians and Live Animal Transport Inspectors, strongly recommend the following adjustments:

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1. The European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) (Panel on Animal Health and Welfare), after consultation with the companies building the lorries, must define and set standards for drinking devices, for partitions, for moving floors, for ventilators, for navigation systems and other prods used on-board vehicles designed for live animal transport. Our group is willing and able to make available a check-list (with photographic examples) to EFSA, illustrating suitable and unsuitable equipment that EFSA can then make available to the public.

This EFSA approved check-list must form the basis for amending the Regulation (EC) 1/2005, thus eliminating non-suitable equipment on vehicles.

2. The European Commission must clarify and specify the following details of the regulation:
 - the minimum age when an animal is considered “weaned” under the transport regulation,
 - space allowances for swine of all ages/weights, as well as lambs and kids,
 - the circumstances in which animals need to have extra space
 - the exact start of a journey (this varies according to the different translations of the regulation and due to the different interpretations of the range of the judgement in Case C-300/05 of the Court of Justice of the European Communities) and
 - the minimum amount of space above the highest point of the animal that must be granted to each species.

(To be continued...)

3. The TAIEX-instrument (Technical Assistance Information Exchange) of the DG Enlargement as well as the DG SANCO must provide their knowledge with the goal of achieving uniformly-educated transport attendants as well as transport inspectors in all Member States regarding live animal transports, so that a harmonized approach to animal welfare provisions is achieved.
4. The European Commission must grant full, European-wide access to TRACES for all official inspectors. It should be set in such a way that by plugging the ID of an animal one can trace its entire earlier and current movements. The European Commission must also provide a European-wide database listing all authorizations of European transport companies and their certificate of approval for means of transport to all official inspectors
5. The European Commission must make public their replies to FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) on their webpage and keep it updated.
6. The European Commission must provide and guarantee better translation of the regulation.

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7. The European Commission must require that vehicles used for short-distance also have a certificate of approval for means of transport, as well as bedding for all animals.
8. The European Commission should take action so that the drivers' transport time is harmonized with the rest/feed/and water intervals for animals in transport.
9. The European Commission must insist that veterinarian inspectors from Member States harmonize the loading density with the maximum lorry weight allowances in those countries that will be transited by their transport consignments, so as to avoid immobilization of the vehicle by highway police abroad.
10. The European Commission must require live satellite tracking and tracing systems of animal movement.

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We urge the Commission as well as the MEPs and the people within the scientific bodies to take our concerns seriously.

We would be pleased to provide the addressees with our expertise and – as far as we are not obliged to keep them confidential - with documentary details such as photos of instruments, footage of transports and other proofs of shortcomings.

Please notice: all attendants were asked to provide input for creating the memorandum.

Sincerely yours,

Attendants **from:**

Austria
Italy
Lithuania
Netherlands
Poland
Spain

Dr. Alexander Rabitsch

Official veterinarian and animal transport inspector (Austria)
Chairman of Session 5- "Putting our thoughts together"
at the

Animal Transport Conference "*Harmonizing efforts on the front line*"

Lesley Moffat, Tatjana Weissmueller

Eyes on Animals
Organizing Committee
for the
Animal Transport Conference "*Harmonizing efforts on the front line*"

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Registered participants

Official veterinarians and inspectors:

Name	Name	Title/country
Mariano	Acedo Domínguez	Chief of Animal Welfare, Official veterinarian inspector (Mérida) Spain
Paul	Bours	Policy Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture The Netherlands
Algis	Dranseika	Senior officer Animal Health and Welfare Department State Food and Veterinary Service Republic of Lithuania
Valdemaras	Kontautas	Animal Health and Welfare Department State Food and Veterinary Service Republic of Lithuania
Manfred	Pledl	Official veterinarian and Animal transport inspector (Salzburg), Austria
Alfredas	Puodziunas	Animal Health and Welfare Department State Food and Veterinary Service Republic of Lithuania
Alexander	Rabitsch	Official veterinarian and Animal transport inspector (Carinthia) Austria
Mario	Sapino	Official veterinarian Animal transport inspector (Piemonte) Italy
Gert	Steunenber	General Inspection Service (AID) Chief of combi-teams and inspector The Netherlands
Paulina	Uszyńska	Veterinarian inspector General Veterinary Inspectorate Animal Health and Welfare Office Poland

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****Two more officials were present but not authorized to include their names on this list if made public.**

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Hosting NGO's of the conference:

NGO	Name	Name
Eyes On Animal	Lesley	Moffat
	Tatjana	Weissmueller
WSPA	Raul	Matamoros
	Dirk-Jan	Verdonk
Varkens in Nood (Pigs in Peril)	Madelaine	Looij
	Leon	Varitimos

hosted by:



Invited NGO:

Animals Angels	Iris	Baumgaertner
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Cc:

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CVO's of each EU Member State
Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE)
TAIEX
European People's Party
S&D
ALDE
Fraktion der Grünen/Freie Europäische Allianz
Europäische Konservative und Reformisten ECR
Confederal Group of the European United Left – Nordic Green Left
Europa der Freiheit und der Demokratie
Neil Parish- The Parliamentary Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals
Philippe Vannier- chair of the AHAW panel
Oriol Ribó Arboledas - EFSA
Hubert Deluyker - EFSA
Swedish Ministry of Agriculture
Olga Zorko -DG SANCO
Mladen Tomšič -Veterinary Administration of Republic Slovenia
Johan Beck-Friis - Schwedischer Veterinärverband, SVF
Terence Cassidy - FVO
Androulla Vassiliou - European Commission
Andrea Gavinelli - European Commission
Demetris Vryonides - dealing with LAT in DG SANCO/COM
Denis Simonin -dealing with LAT in DG SANCO/COM
Willem Penning - dealing with LAT in DG SANCO/COM
Maria Ferrara - dealing with AW in DG SANCO/COM
Paola Testori-Coggi - dealing with AW in DG SANCO/COM
Project Office Welfare Quality- Animal Sciences Group of Wageningen-UR
Animals' Angels
Eurogroup for Animals
RSPCA
L214
PMAF
LAV
CIWF
World Horse Protection
GAIA
AATA

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