



STELLA KYRIAKIDES
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Rue de la Loi, 200
B-1049 Brussels – Berl 10/380
Stella.KYRIAKIDES@ec.europa.eu

Brussels,

Subject: Animal exports to Libya

Dear Ms Kikou,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 8 May 2020 to Commissioner Wojciechowski and myself on live animal export to Libya. I note that your letter represents a common request from several animal welfare organisations and I would like to kindly ask you to forward my reply to them.

In your letter, you ask the Commission to ban animal exports to Libya on the grounds of Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and on the basis of the judgment of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) in the Zuchtvieh case (Case C-424/13).

The Commission is aware that some unfortunate events, regrettably, occur with the transport of live animals and that there are difficulties in the application of the EU requirements beyond EU borders.

These exports are taking place in a context of private operations and not as the result of Union's policy on agriculture or any other Union's policy mentioned in Article 13 TFEU. In the light of the above, the Commission cannot prevent such operations as long as they are carried out in accordance with EU legislation.

Moreover, in line with Article 14 of Regulation 1/2005 and with the ECJ judgment in the Zuchtvieh case, it belongs to the competent authority of the place of departure to assess if the arrangements proposed by the organiser are sufficient to ensure compliance until the final destination.

Ms Olga Kikou
Compassion in World Farming
Email: Olga.Kikou@ciwf.org

As you know, I have on many occasions stated that the Commission has made animal transport one of its top priorities in the field of animal welfare, and is continuously working with Member States, which are primarily responsible for the implementation and enforcement of EU legislation. I would also like to note that we have started to work on a project to improve the inspection on livestock vessels. The objective is to adopt a delegated act, which will define how inspections on livestock should be carried out. Inspection results will be recorded in a unique EU database developed in cooperation with the European Maritime Safety Agency.

The Commission continues to actively boost the animal welfare at different levels. In 2019, the Commission started an evaluation of the EU animal welfare strategy 2012-2015(COM/2012/6). The evaluation is expected to be completed by the end of 2020. In parallel, in the context of the European Green Deal (COM/2019/640), the Commission has adopted the Farm to Fork Strategy (COM/2020/381), which includes actions for animal welfare. Both the evaluation of the EU animal welfare strategy and the Farm to Fork Strategy will contribute to design future activities in the field of animal welfare, including animal transport.

I want to reiterate that the Commission will continue to monitor exports of live animals within the remit of its competence and take the necessary measures. I personally intend to continue closely following the situation.

Please rest assured that the Commission remain committed to achieving a high level of compliance with animal welfare rules including exports to third countries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Kyriakides', written in a cursive style.

Stella Kyriakides