



Commissioners Kyriakides and Wojciechowski  
European Commission  
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Agriculture and/or Health ministers of the European Member States  
Chief Veterinary Officers of the Member States

Please reply to:  
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## No Animal Transports During High Temperatures

Dear Commissioners Kyriakides and Wojciechowski,  
dear Agriculture and/ or Health Ministers of the European Member States,  
dear Chief Veterinary Officers of the European Member States,

'No animal transports if it's too hot, otherwise it is a clear violation of animal welfare' – this is last years' statement of the German Agriculture Minister Julia Klöckner<sup>1</sup>. Measures in this direction were taken by some German federal states and by several EU member states.

These measures, as halting exports to Turkey, are very welcome steps into the right direction to ensure compliance with Council Regulation EC 1/2005 and to improve animal welfare during transport.

Yet, more is needed. High temperatures are one of the main causes of animal welfare problems during journeys<sup>2</sup>. Heat stress causes severe suffering to the animals.

Transport in extreme heat is still an unsolved problem, thirteen years since the Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transports<sup>3</sup> came into force. This has repeatedly been detected by European Commission's fact-finding missions and NGOs working in this field and is recognised by the European Parliament in its implementation report<sup>4</sup>.

Stringent measures are needed to counteract this and finally improve the situation for animals transported in summer. Firstly, article 1(3) of the regulation allows member states to adopt any stricter national measures aimed at improving the welfare of animals during transport. This option

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<sup>1</sup> BMEL, 14.07.2019; <https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/2019/154-tiertransporte.html>

<sup>2</sup> DG(SANTE)2019-6834; Overview report on welfare of animals exported by road

<sup>3</sup> Hereafter "the regulation"

<sup>4</sup> 2018/2110(INI); Report on the implementation of Council Regulation No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport within and outside the EU

should be applied by the member states for short-distance transports, where no temperature limits are laid down, and for sea transports departing from the territory of a member state.

Secondly, the legally permitted temperature limit within the animal compartments of 5- 30°C for long-distance transports must once-for-all be fully enforced. The temperature requirements are applicable for all long-distance transports, within and leaving the EU. It is common knowledge that temperatures in the northern hemisphere by far exceed the 30°C benchmark during summer. Australia has reacted accordingly and prohibited exports of sheep during a fixed timeframe, to reduce the risk of heat stress<sup>5</sup>. It is embarrassing that the EU, which boasts itself with world-best animal welfare standards, is lagging behind.

Extremely high temperatures are reached also inside the EU. For example, last July, pigs were transported from Spain to Italy even during outside temperatures of 36.5°C, with hindered ventilation and limited access to water. The heat susceptible animals were suffering severe heat stress.<sup>6</sup> A total of more than 107'000 pigs<sup>7</sup> were transported from EU Member States to Italy in August 2019, despite temperatures exceeding the 30°C benchmark on 27 days out of 31<sup>8</sup>.

Temperatures of up to 40°C did not hinder the transports of sheep to Greece neither. Last year, the teams of Animals' Angels observed their alarming transport conditions. Sheep were found in severe heat stress, panting, thirsty, exhausted, or even in death throes on a boiling hot metal floor<sup>9</sup>. Over 150'000 animals were exposed to this high risk of heat suffering in July and August 2019<sup>10</sup>.

It is the duty of all member states to pay full regard to animal welfare when formulating and implementing agricultural and transport policies, acc. to Article 13 of the TFEU. It is furthermore the responsibility of all member states to implement the European transport regulation and on the European Commission, to ensure the member states' effective enforcement. To date, neither is the case when it comes to (i.a.) transports of live animals during high temperatures.

We believe it is high time to act for all member states. It is long overdue to halt exports of live animals (at least) during summer, yet not enough.

Policies should be established to prevent mass-transportation of live animals during summer. Now, measures should be implemented to ensure that animals are not exposed to heat suffering.

- **Specifically, long-distance transports should not be authorized if temperatures are likely to be above 30°C even only in parts of the transport- route**
- **Short-distance transports must be planned carefully and carried-out in the cooler night and early morning only**
- **Slaughterhouses should be reminded to adapt the delivery times of the animals to the morning hours. Under no circumstances should animals have to remain on transports parked on abattoir areas under scorching heat**
- **Importing countries also share responsibility! In communication with exporting countries it must be ensured, that animals are not imported in times of high temperatures**

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/export/controlled-goods/live-animals/livestock/information-exporters-industry/sheep-to-middle-east>

<sup>6</sup> Animals' Angels, July 2019

<sup>7</sup> Acc. to Eurostat, extracted on 15.05.2020

<sup>8</sup> In Bologna Italy, acc. to weather data collected by [www.timeanddate.com](http://www.timeanddate.com)

<sup>9</sup> Animals' Angels, July and August 2019; Transports of live animals by land during high temperatures, from Romania to Greece and Albania, Parts 1 and 2

<sup>10</sup> Transports of ovine and caprine from EU MS to Greece, acc. to Eurostat, extracted on 15.05.2020

We call on you to perform your responsibility and act within your means **before summer**.

Yours sincerely

ANDA, Alberto Díez Michelena, Director  
Animals' Angels, Julia Havenstein, Chairwoman  
Animals' International, Gabriel Paun, EU Director  
Animal Welfare Foundation, Iris Baumgärtner, Vice-Chair  
Compassion in World Farming, Peter Stevenson, Chief Policy Advisor  
Eyes on Animals, Lesley Moffat, Director  
GAIA, Ann De Greef, Director  
Svenska Djurskyddsföreningen, Johan Beck-Friis  
Tierschutzbund Zürich, Iris Baumgärtner, Vice-Chair  
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