



## ***FVE calls to end suffering of animals during long distance transports***

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The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE)<sup>i</sup> is concerned about serious animal welfare issues related to the long-distance transport and export of livestock. With reference to its long-standing position on the welfare of animals during transport<sup>ii</sup>, FVE emphasizes the urgent need to really implement and to respect agreed standards for the welfare of animals during transport.

Over the years progress is made, however serious problems keep coming back. A clear example of not-respecting animal welfare requirements occurs with the export of livestock. For a number of reasons waiting periods for trucks arriving at the Bulgarian-Turkish border can become very long. Animals, which in certain cases have travelled for thousands of kilometers already, have to stay in the trucks without proper space to rest, and with very limited facilities to give them feed, water and care. High temperatures during day and night further aggravate the situation, leading to animal suffering, exhaustion and sometimes even death of animals.

This cannot go on and action is urgently needed. The FVE is convinced that with goodwill and pragmatism of all parties involved progress will be made and systemic problems can be prevented. FVE therefore calls upon:

- Animal transporters to start a journey well prepared and in accordance with the requirements of Transport Regulation 1/2005<sup>iii</sup>. Deliberately taking the risk for serious animal health and welfare problems by undertaking long-distance animal transports when at the start of the journey it is clear that problems are likely to occur, is not acceptable;
- Competent authorities of exporting countries to assume responsibility for a more rigorous, uniform implementation and enforcement of the Transport Regulation to achieve acceptable standards for animal health and welfare during transport;
- Authorities at border crossings to take practical measures to reduce the time needed for clearance at the border as much as possible, and to create adequate facilities for unloading and caring for the animals when needed;

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Rafael Laguens

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- Animal transport organisations and companies to develop a system to coordinate the arrival of trucks at the border crossing, for example by setting up an on-line registration / reservation system;
- All parties involved to discourage as much as possible long-distance transport of livestock; especially in the face of serious traffic congestion problems, high temperatures or any other circumstances that are likely to threaten animal welfare requirements;
- All parties involved to take their share of responsibility in the protection of animal welfare and to do the best they can to prevent the re-occurrence of well-known problems;

A very effective way to solve the problem is replacing the transport of live animals by the transport of carcasses / animal products. FVE therefore wishes to restate that:

**Animals should be reared as close as possible to the premises on which they are born and slaughtered as close as possible to the point of production.**

#### NOTES TO EDITORS

- The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) is an umbrella organisation of 44 veterinary organisations from 38 European countries, representing a total of around 240 000 veterinarians. The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) strives to promote animal health, animal welfare and public health across Europe.
- FVE together with partners is working to produce 'Guides to Good and Best Practice for animals<sup>iv</sup>' transported within Europe and to third countries for slaughter, fattening and breeding. The project is funded by the European Commission DG SANTE. It started in May 2015 and will finish by the end of 2018.
- For further information, consult the FVE website [www.fve.org](http://www.fve.org) or contact the FVE Secretariat on Tel +32 2 533 70 20 or by e-mail to [info@fve.org](mailto:info@fve.org).

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<sup>i</sup> [Federation of Veterinarians of Europe](http://www.fve.org)

<sup>ii</sup> [FVE's position on the welfare of animals during transport](#)

<sup>iii</sup> [Implementation and Enforcement of Regulation 1/2005](#)

<sup>iv</sup> [Animal Transport Guides](#)