



## Press Release

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### ***FVE calls to prevent suffering of animals, during long distance transports, in particular under extreme temperatures***

The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) cares about the health and welfare of animals. A point of serious concern that keeps coming back are welfare issues caused by failure to comply with the agreed standards for animals during long-distance transport and export of livestock. Especially in the summer, hot weather can have a serious impact on the welfare of animals on transport.

Therefore, and in line with its long-standing position on the welfare of animals during transport<sup>1</sup>, FVE emphasizes the urgent need to implement and respect agreed laws for the welfare of animals during transport.

In the summer of 2018, with temperatures rising above 30°C, again 500+ consignments were exported from the EU to third countries. For a number of reasons waiting periods for trucks arriving at the border can be 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. The very high temperatures aggravate the situation, leading to animal suffering, exhaustion and sometimes even death of animals.

Additionally, an EU Court Judgment<sup>2</sup> ruled that the provisions of Regulation 1/2005 continue to apply even when a consignment has left the EU; until the place of destination is reached.

This cannot go on and action is urgently needed. FVE therefore calls upon:

- Animal transporters to start a journey well prepared and in accordance with the requirements of Transport Regulation 1/2005. It is not acceptable to risk 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;

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fve.org/publications/fve-calls-to-ensure-better-animal-welfare-during-animal-transport/>

<sup>2</sup> Zuchtvieh case, C 424/13 from 23.04.15. <http://curia.europa.eu/juris/liste.jsf?num=C-424/13>

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- All to make use of the good and better practices developed under the Animal Transport Project<sup>3</sup> to optimize welfare during transport and the EU fact sheet on export of live animals to Turkey.
- Competent authorities of exporting countries to assume responsibility for a more rigorous, uniform implementation and strict enforcement of the Transport Regulation;
- Official Veterinarians to only sign certificates and approve the loading if they can verify that all the legal requirements (journey length, unloading, watering, feeding, etc) can be ensured up to the place of destination. Competent authorities to support their official veterinarians;
- Extreme temperatures<sup>4</sup>:
  - EU countries to instigate a 'hot weather' protocol for all transport (short and long) when temperatures are above 30°;
  - EU countries to avoid long distance export of animals in periods when temperatures are expected to go above 30°, which puts the welfare of the animals at risk;
  - Competent Authority to support Official Veterinarians to refuse signing certificates if the temperatures are forecasted to be above 30° on any part of the journey;
- 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;
- 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;

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<sup>3</sup> Animal Transport Guides Project: [www.animaltransportguides.eu](http://www.animaltransportguides.eu)  
[EC factsheet on export live animals to Turkey](#)

<sup>4</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 Annex I point 3.1 of Chapter VI " Ventilation systems on means of transport by road [...] maintaining a range of temperatures from 5°C to 30°C within the means of transport, for all animals, with a +/- 5 °C tolerance [...]. "

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 46 veterinary organisations from 40 European countries, representing a total of around 300 000 veterinarians. The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) strives to promote animal health, animal welfare and public health across Europe.
- 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).