

Basic information	
2012/2031(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure Protection of animals during transport Subject 3.10.04.02 Animal protection 3.10.08 Animal health requirements, veterinary legislation and pharmacy 3.20.06 Transport regulations, road safety, roadworthiness tests, driving licence	Procedure completed

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development		WOJCIECHOWSKI Janusz (ECR)	20/12/2011
			Shadow rapporteur DE LANGE Esther (PPE) KADENBACH Karin (S&D) PAULSEN Marit (ALDE) SMITH Alyn (Verts/ALE) LE HYARIC Patrick (GUE/NGL)	
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		LIOTARD Kartika Tamara (GUE/NGL)	08/03/2012
	TRAN Transport and Tourism		DE GRANDES PASCUAL Luis (PPE)	06/02/2012
European Commission	Commission DG		Commissioner	
	Health and Food Safety		BORG Tonio	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary

10/11/2011	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2011)0700 	
15/03/2012	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
11/10/2012	Vote in committee		
16/10/2012	Committee report tabled for plenary	A7-0331/2012	Summary
11/12/2012	Debate in Parliament		
12/12/2012	Decision by Parliament	T7-0499/2012	Summary
12/12/2012	Results of vote in Parliament		
12/12/2012	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2012/2031(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AGRI/7/08412

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE480.640	02/03/2012	
Committee opinion	ENVI	PE485.848	09/05/2012	
Committee opinion	TRAN	PE483.778	10/05/2012	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE486.028	05/06/2012	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A7-0331/2012	16/10/2012	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0499/2012	12/12/2012	Summary
European Commission				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Follow-up document	COM(2011)0700 	10/11/2011	Summary	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2013)175	13/05/2013		

Protection of animals during transport

2012/2031(INI) - 10/11/2011

PURPOSE: presentation of the European Commission's report on the impact of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport.

CONTENT: in accordance with the provisions of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, the purpose of this report is to examine the impact of the Regulation on the welfare of animals being transported and on the trade flows within the EU, its socio-economic and regional impact, as well as the implementation of navigation systems. Furthermore, the report contains information in relation to enforcement of the EU legislation.

It should be borne in mind that the Regulation applies to the transport of vertebrate animals transported in connection with an economic activity. It does not take the transport of other species, such as dogs and cats, poultry, animals kept for scientific purposes, and exotic species, into account.

Specific problems and actions concerning the transport of fish - identified under the [Commission Strategy for the Sustainable Development of European Aquaculture](#) – are also examined in the context of this report.

Main conclusions: based on the information presented in the report, the following main conclusions can be drawn:

- The Regulation has had **beneficial impacts** on the welfare of animals during transport.
- The Regulation introduced the requirement for vehicles approved for long journeys to be equipped with **navigation systems**. However, it appears that the full potential of the systems to decrease the administrative burden for the industry or to improve official controls is not being utilised.
- According to the available data, the Regulation has **not had any impact on the volume of the intra-Union trade in live animals**.
- The Regulation appears not to have provoked **any impact on the animal production in remote regions**. The introduction of the Regulation has led to an increase of transport costs but, likely due to competition in the transport sector, this increase has not been evenly distributed along the food chain and transport operators are mainly bearing the extra costs.
- According to the EFSA opinion, it appears that parts of the Regulation are **not fully in line with the current scientific knowledge**.
- **Enforcement of the Regulation** remains a major challenge, partly because of differences in interpretation of the requirements and because of lack of controls by the Member States. Furthermore, the **quality of monitoring data**, submitted to the Commission by Member States, is often insufficient to provide a clear analysis of the situation and to allow planning of specific corrective measures at EU level.

The Commission's position: although the Regulation has had a beneficial impact on the welfare of animals during transport, it appears that there is **room for improvement**. Those improvements could be achieved by different actions and it should be emphasized that for the vast majority of animals falling under the scope of the Regulation, the Commission **does not see that an amendment would be the most appropriate approach** to address the identified problems.

As regards the gap between the requirements of the legislation and available scientific evidence, the Commission sees that, for the time being, this is best addressed by the adoption of **guides to good practices**.

As regards **live fish**, the Commission will launch a study on the welfare of fish during transport, with a view to determining the appropriateness of a revision of the provisions of the Regulation to improve the clarity of the legal framework on the transport of live fish for aquaculture operators, in accordance with the Commission Aquaculture Strategy.

Actions to be undertaken: to correct the identified problems, the appropriate enforcement of existing rules should remain the priority. For that purpose, the Commission will consider the following actions for the near future:

1) Adopt implementing measures concerning **navigation systems** and establish a **simplified version of the journey log**, in accordance with point 8 of Annex II to the Regulation. Furthermore it should, in close co-operation with the European GNSS Supervisory Authority (GSA), be ensured that drivers are informed on how to take the best profit of the device.

- **Objective:** Improved harmonisation of the implementation of the Regulation, and improved animal welfare through increased possibility to control the journey times, space allowance etc. of animal transports. This action should also contribute to a reduced administrative burden for the transporters, but may increase the administrative burden for Member State authorities. However, this should result in better enforcement of animal transport legislation.

2) Adopt **implementing measures concerning the controls to be performed** by the competent authorities of the Member States, in accordance to Article 27(1) of the Regulation. At the same time, the structure of the reporting system should be further harmonized.

- **Objective:** An increase in the number of inspections, where needed, should lead to improved enforcement. The information received from the Member State's reports would provide better and more comparable data when based on the same structure and would then offer more useful information for the FVO when auditing the Member States.

3) Commence a **study on the welfare of fish during transport**. The current work to launch a study on the welfare of fish during stunning will continue.

- **Objective:** To receive an overview of the current situation regarding the welfare of fish during transport, with a view to identifying and addressing possible shortcomings of the EU legal framework in this context, in accordance with the commitments undertaken under the Commission Aquaculture Strategy.

4) Increase **co-operation and communication** with the competent authorities of the Member States and stakeholders, including Non Governmental animal welfare Organisations. The contact points for the Regulation, and existing working groups such as the Advisory group on the Food Chain and Animal and Plant Health, could be used for this purpose.

- **Objective:** Collect and analyse information on difficulties and share experiences on possible solutions related to the implementation of the Regulation.

5) Dissemination of **Commission guidance** on the interpretation of the Regulation and support of the development of guides to good practice, as foreseen in the Regulation. Guides could focus on different aspects of day-to-day management that may be problematic and would encourage best practice that considers the latest scientific knowledge.

- **Objective:** Would cover some ambiguities and inefficiencies in the current animal welfare legislation and would improve harmonisation of the implementation of the rules. At the same time, it would encourage industry and other relevant parties to exceed the minimum welfare standards for transporting animals.

Based on the elements above, the Commission invites the European Parliament and the Council to discuss the issues highlighted in this Report.

Protection of animals during transport

2012/2031(INI) - 16/10/2012 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development has adopted an own-initiative report by Janusz WOJCIECHOWSKI (ECR, PL) on the protection of animals during transport.

The competent committee takes note of the Commission report presenting the state of implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, which contains the conclusion that the Regulation has had a positive impact on the welfare of animals during transport, but notes that **severe problems during animal transport persist**, due mainly to poor compliance and implementation in the Member States.

The report calls on the Commission:

- to ensure an **effective and uniform enforcement of existing EU legislation** on animal transport across all Member States and to adopt measures to secure full and uniform monitoring of adherence to the transport conditions;
- to present a **full evaluation of all the economic, environmental and social costs and benefits** incurred by the transport of animals, including a comparison between the transport of animals for slaughter and the transport of carcasses and food products, as well as the effect of transport on the price of meat products, paying particular attention to the outermost regions and involving all stakeholders;
- to implement an extensive **consumer information campaign** on the subject of the European regulations on animal welfare, providing continuous information on the changes being required of European producers for the purposes of raising the profile of their work and improving the added value of their production;
- proposes a **considerably shortened maximum journey limit for all movements of horses for slaughter**, and insists furthermore on a thorough, science-based review of welfare standards for horses, if necessary accompanied by legislative proposals, including a reconsideration of vehicle design standards, space allowances and water provision;
- demands, in its bilateral trade negotiations with third countries, **implementation of the EU's animal welfare rules** and to defend the internationalisation, within the framework of the World Trade Organisation, of the Community provisions on the subject;
- make legislative proposals before 1 January 2014, aimed at creating an **EU-wide common framework for data collection and control through satellite navigation**, based on the uploading of data in real time;
- to undertake research into how new and existing technology can be applied in livestock vehicles to regulate, monitor and **register temperature and humidity**, which are essential elements for controlling and protecting the welfare of specific categories of animals during transport;
- to increase the number of **unannounced Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) spot inspections** focused on animal welfare and the transport of animals;
- to ensure that **veterinary controls** on animals to be transported take place at the end of their transport.

The report insists on a **reconsideration of the issue of limiting the transport time of animals destined for slaughter to eight hours** taking account of loading time, irrespective of whether this takes place on land or at sea, with some exceptions taking into account geographic conditions in the outermost regions, provided that it is confirmed by scientific research results and that the rules on animal welfare are complied with.

The Member States, for their part, are called on:

- to **strengthen controls across the entire production chain** in order to halt practices that infringe the Regulation and worsen the conditions for the transport of animals, such as allowing overstocked vehicles to continue their journeys, or permitting control posts with inadequate facilities for resting, feeding and watering the animals to continue in use;
- to introduce effective, proportionate and dissuasive **sanctions** for infringements of the Regulation, pursuant to Article 25 thereof.

Drawing attention to the differing levels of penalties and sanctions for the same infringement in different Member States, the Members call for a **greater harmonisation of sanctions** across the EU to ensure better enforcement of the Regulation. The Commission is requested to present, before 1 July 2013, a report analysing the penalties for serious infringements relating to animal welfare in road transport in all Member States, comparable to its report on penalties in the area of social rules in road transport.

Protection of animals during transport

2012/2031(INI) - 12/12/2012 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 555 votes to 56, with 34 abstentions, a resolution on the protection of animals during transport.

An alternative motion for resolution, tabled by the Greens/EFA and GUE/NGL was rejected in plenary by 421 votes to 226, with 15 abstentions.

The adopted resolution takes note of the Commission report presenting the state of implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, which contains the conclusion that the Regulation has had a positive impact on the welfare of animals during transport, but notes that **severe problems during animal transport persist, due mainly to poor compliance and implementation in the Member States**.

Parliament calls on the Commission:

- to ensure an **effective and uniform enforcement of existing EU legislation** on animal transport across all Member States and to adopt measures to secure full and uniform monitoring of adherence to the transport conditions;
- to present a **full evaluation of all the economic, environmental and social costs and benefits incurred by the transport of animals**, including a comparison between the transport of animals for slaughter and the transport of carcasses and food products, as well as the effect of transport on the price of meat products, paying particular attention to the outermost regions and involving all stakeholders;
- to implement an extensive **consumer information campaign** on the subject of the European regulations on animal welfare, providing continuous information on the changes being required of European producers for the purposes of raising the profile of their work and improving the added value of their production;
- to propose a **considerably shortened maximum journey limit for all movements of horses for slaughter**, and insists furthermore on a thorough, science-based review of welfare standards for horses, if necessary accompanied by legislative proposals, including a reconsideration of vehicle design standards, space allowances and water provision;
- to demand, in its bilateral trade negotiations with third countries, **implementation of the EU's animal welfare rules** and to defend the internationalisation, within the framework of the World Trade Organisation, of the Community provisions on the subject;
- to make legislative proposals before 1 January 2014, aimed at creating an **EU-wide common framework for data collection and control through satellite navigation**, based on the uploading of data in real time;
- to undertake research into how new and existing technology can be applied in livestock vehicles to regulate, monitor and **register temperature and humidity**, which are essential elements for controlling and protecting the welfare of specific categories of animals during transport;
- to increase the number of **unannounced Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) spot inspections** focused on animal welfare and the transport of animals;
- to ensure that **veterinary controls** on animals to be transported take place at the end of their transport.

Parliament acknowledges **Written Declaration No 49/2011** of 30 November 2011 supporting an eight-hour journey limit for animals to be slaughtered, but recognises that such a demand alone has no scientific basis and that animal welfare during transport in some instances depends more on proper vehicle facilities and on the proper handling of animals. It, nevertheless, asks the Commission and the Member States to **lay down guidelines for best practice** with a view to improving the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, and to reinforce control mechanisms in order to guarantee animal welfare.

The report insists on a **reconsideration of the issue of limiting the transport time of animals destined for slaughter to eight hours** taking account of loading time, irrespective of whether this takes place on land or at sea, with some exceptions taking into account geographic conditions in the outermost regions, provided that it is confirmed by scientific research results and that the rules on animal welfare are complied with. Members point out that it should be possible to extend transport times, **in the event of unforeseeable transport delays** (traffic jams, breakdowns, accidents, diversions, force majeure, etc), while complying with animal welfare principles.

The Member States, for their part, are called on:

- to **strengthen controls across the entire production chain** in order to halt practices that infringe the Regulation and worsen the conditions for the transport of animals, such as allowing overstocked vehicles to continue their journeys, or permitting control posts with inadequate facilities for resting, feeding and watering the animals to continue in use;
- to introduce effective, proportionate and dissuasive **sanctions** for infringements of the Regulation, pursuant to Article 25 thereof.

Drawing attention to the differing levels of penalties and sanctions for the same infringement in different Member States, Members call for a **greater harmonisation of sanctions** across the EU to ensure better enforcement of the Regulation. The Commission is requested to present, before 1 July 2013, a report analysing the penalties for serious infringements relating to animal welfare in road transport in all Member States, comparable to its report on penalties in the area of social rules in road transport.