Meeting Copa-Cogeca—animal welfare legislation review, 13/11/2023

COM: Ms J. Stawowy (CAB AGRI) (AGRI, B3)
Copa-Cogeca: Mr P. Pesopnen, (AGRI, B3)

This meeting was initiated on the request of Copa-Cogeca Ares(2023)7424811

Copa-Cogeca raised the following points on animal transport rules review:

- In general, acknowledges need for a revision and an update which can ensure harmonised enforcement of the legislation;
- Outlined the key principles for the revision:
  o Transport of animals is a key measure to maintain the economic strength and social vibrancy of rural areas where main production is taken place, normally they are depopulated areas. Reviewed rules should take into account the various production types, climate, environmental and traditions in each region to ensure that animals are transported in a responsible way;
  o Transport sector experience and also scientific research has shown that the main priorities should be focused on quality and fitness to travel rather than distance. Thus, to seek science-based adjustments to improve quality of long distance transport and not on reducing the length of journey;
  o Local and mobile slaughterhouses are not fully suitable alternative to animal transport as slaughterhouses are set up as a result of commercial decisions and the legislative requirements for food hygiene etc. for slaughterhouses often requires a significant scale of production to cover the costs. A EU-wide specific support should be considered to any business wanting to build a new slaughterhouse if this offers farmers a wider range of sales options. It should be also bear in mind that third country trading partners might not accept meat and meat products coming from mobile slaughterhouses;
  o Supports the harmonisation of the enforcement of the transport rules, which are at the moment implemented differently in MS and does not strengthen the single market;
  o New legislation should support new technological solutions so that transport companies could demonstrate transparency and compliance with AW provisions and which also could alleviate some of the administrative burden related to paperwork and other procedures;
  o Invites COM to continue to develop mutual understanding on AW in international trade via WTO, OIE, FAO etc, also via bilateral and multilateral negotiations;
  o To ensure that the export of breeding animals is not disrupted as strong contribution in reducing the environmental impact of livestock around the world.
  o The newly proposed measures should accompanied with appropriate transitional times to balance the investment needs.

DG AGRI
  - Reminded that DG SANTE has the lead on this file;
- Reminded that the impact assessment has not been finalised yet, but emphasised that in addition to EFSA’s recommendation economic-social impacts will be taken into account;
- The legislative proposal is still expected before the Christmas;
- The main reviewed measures would be following those identified by AW Fitness Check;
- Good note has been taken of the various issues raised by Copa-Cogeca.