

Preparation of 2nd meeting of the transport sub-group - EU platform on Animal Welfare

Thanks to each of the three co-ordinators for the updates on actions of the working groups. The co-ordinators have already indicated specific tasks for certain members and I hope all of you get actively involved before the next meeting and reflect on what can be achieved from the proposed work.

1. Extreme weather conditions

Update includes:

- Develop factsheets, based on Animal Transport Guides, for driver training courses as well as for organisers, transporters, official veterinarians and police;
- Identify research gaps, possible solutions for improvement of vehicles and define interaction with "unweaned" and "export" working groups;
- Identify problematic legal requirements and provide solutions;
- A scenario-solution document.
- A strategy for dissemination of all of the above.

REQUEST: [REDACTED], as both hot and cold extreme temperatures are a major risk for transport of poultry we suggest inviting an expert to cover this, let us know what you think and perhaps AVEC will have suggestions on this point.

2. Exports of cattle

Update indicates group to focus on:

- Planning of the journey;
- List import requirements for the main destination non-EU countries;
- List resting facilities for animals in non-EU countries;
- Encourage authorities in main non-EU destination countries to set up a contact point;

It also indicates steps needed to respect 1/2005 and good practice during the sea transport and steps to prevent recurrence of breaches, particularly when several Member States are involved in the journey.

The focus is on planning the journey and the second and third bullet points will facilitate better planning. Equally work on steps to take for recurring breaches could contribute to better planning, and this should remain the focus of the group.

REQUEST: Prior to the first meeting, SANTE F2 was in contact with [REDACTED] (Hunland) regarding an App his company use to support drivers. We propose inviting him as an expert to the meeting. Also [REDACTED] (IRU) has been proposed as an invited expert. [REDACTED] please let us know what you think.

3. Unweaned animals

The group looking at transport of calves two to five weeks of age will focus on:

- Prolonged hunger
- Thermal comfort
- Health/fitness of calves. Preparation for transport and assessment during and after transport.

The next meeting will focus on "prolonged hunger" with the aim of outputs: identification of knowledge gaps; information (factsheet) for organisers/transporters; (if applicable) technical specifications for vehicle manufacturers.

At the last meeting this group had [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as independent experts. We will extend an invite to the next meeting to [REDACTED]; a driver or representative from PALI group (proposed by [REDACTED]) and [REDACTED] from the Animal Welfare Foundation.

REQUEST: [REDACTED] – Please let us know if we should also invite [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

All members of the transport sub-group should be reminded that the priorities in the mandate for the group are innovations; policy indicators; knowledge transfer and enforcement. In the context of this sub-group, "enforcement" should be understood as meaning any government activity aimed at encouraging compliance with legislation (inspections and sanctions are two factors in a much wider range of measures). Knowledge transfer should also encourage compliance and it is important that the key actors (organisers and transporters, as well as drivers), as indicated by [REDACTED] and UECBV, are included in the sub-group's strategy, when setting down to whom this information should be disseminated. I attach a document "Table of 11" prepared by the Dutch Ministry of Justice, which gives a list of factors to be considered for any action to achieve compliance with rules. We have promoted this to the network of National Contact Points following a study visit to the Netherlands in 2013.

At the meeting on 17th October 2018, we will present an update on SANTE F's project on exports of live animals, now running for two years. We will be interested to hear how you see the work of the sub-group contributing to good animal welfare during transport and if there are any developments we should know about before the next meeting, please keep us informed.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]