



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 14 May 2014
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**AGRILEG 101
VETER 50**

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Protection of animals during transport
- Request from the Danish and Swedish delegations, supported by the
Austrian and Netherlands delegations

Delegations will find in Annex a request from the Danish and Swedish delegations, supported by the Austrian and Netherlands delegations to be presented under "Any other business" at the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") at its session on 19 May 2014.

Protection of animals during transportation:

Follow up on the Council conclusions on the protection and welfare of animals approved during the Danish presidency 2012

Denmark and Sweden with the support of Austria and Netherlands would like to draw attention to the Council conclusions on the Protection and Welfare of Animals that were adopted in June 2012 during the Danish Presidency.

The conclusions are a step in the right direction. Unfortunately, the Council was not able to agree on requesting the Commission to present a proposal to enhance the protection of animals during transport, in particular the establishment in the European Union of a restrictive maximum time limit for the transportation of live animals for slaughter.

The conclusions contain some very important elements to improve animal welfare in general and a number of actions to be taken in the near future.

These include that the Council called upon the Commission to finalize before the end of 2014 the establishment of a simplified version of the journey log and measures concerning navigation systems. Moreover the Commission was encouraged to pursue additional actions outlined in the report on the impact of the regulation on the protection of animals during transport, and in doing so, take into account scientific evidence, such as EFSA's opinions. Priority should be given to dissemination of Commission guidance on interpretation of different aspects of the animal transport regulation including economic activity. Finally it should be recalled that the Commission was invited to examine the possibility of adopting implementing rules in relation to livestock vessels and other areas where it is particularly important to ensure adequate and uniform enforcement of the legislation.

In March 2012, the European Parliament adopted a declaration on a maximum 8-hour journey limit for animals for slaughter transported in the EU. The European Parliament called on the Commission and the Council to review the animal transport regulation to establish such a maximum limit.

Improving welfare for animals during transportation is also a matter of concern for EU citizens. By June 2012, more than 1.1 million Europeans had signed a petition to limit the transportation time of animals for slaughter to a maximum of 8 hours.

In light of the aforementioned, the Commission is asked to inform the Council when it will take legislative action to revise the animal transport regulation and when it will propose a new animal welfare legislation.
