

Landsbygdsminister Jennie Nilsson  
Näringsdepartementet

2019-06-27

Dear minister Jennie Nilsson,

Djurens Rätt, in cooperation with Eurogroup for Animals, would like to draw your attention to the animal welfare crisis that risks occurring again this year for the animals transported alive during the high temperature season. On this basis and following the example of some other EU Member States, we are calling on your support to suspend live animal export, in and outside the EU, during the high temperature season.

Over the past years the EU Commission has warned Member States not to export animals during hot weather conditions, in line with the Transport Regulation. However evidence collected by NGOs at the main EU exit points demonstrates that animals are systematically loaded into trucks and vessels regardless of weather forecast and EU requirements in this regard.

Animals are exported also from Sweden. For example, in 2019 already more than 100 cattle (pregnant heifers) were [exported from Sweden to the UK](#), according to statistics from Jordbruksverket. During 2018 the corresponding number was 140. Pregnant heifer export from Sweden is not a new phenomenon. In 2012 around 1000 cattle were exported from Sweden to Russia and another 600 to Pakistan and Turkey.

Due to the length of the journey and the lack of proper facilities, transportation of live animals EU has proven to be problematic from a welfare point of view, even under normal circumstances. With the increase of temperature, the situation drastically worsens. [As stated](#) by DG SANTE: “Due to the inability of the livestock vehicles ventilation system to lower the temperatures in the animal compartment below the external environmental temperature [...] it is very difficult for transporters to ensure that animals inside the lorry are kept below 35°C when ambient temperatures are over 30°C”.

Consequently, we strongly believe that suspending live export during summer is the only way to effectively protect the welfare of animals and to fully comply with the EU Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005 provisions as well as with the EU CoJ verdict in case C-424/13. [The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe \(FVE\) supports our call](#) and stresses that transportation of live animals should not be started if temperatures are expected to exceed 30 degrees during any stage of the journey.

We trust you are committed to work towards effective implementation of the EU rules and to protect the transported animals from unnecessary suffering. We urge you to suspend live export during summer and to align with other EU Member States that have already taken steps in this direction.

Given the urgency of the current situation and the seriousness of the problem, your prompt answer and intervention would be highly appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration, we are looking forward to hearing from you on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

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