

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	1996/2241(INI)	Procedure completed
Transport of horses and other live animals		
Subject 3.10.04.02 Animal protection		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Transport and Tourism		23/05/1995
		V VAN DIJK Nel B.M.	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 Agriculture and Rural Development		22/03/1995
		PPE PROVAN James L.C.	
	 Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	ELDR EISMA Doeke	17/12/1996

Key events			
07/10/1994	Non-legislative basic document published	B4-0183/1994	
15/11/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
03/07/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
03/07/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0266/1997	
02/10/1997	Debate in Parliament		
02/10/1997	Decision by Parliament	T4-0478/1997	Summary
02/10/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
27/10/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2241(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative

Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 143-p5
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	TRAN/4/08433

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document	B4-0183/1994	07/10/1994	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A4-0266/1997 OJ C 304 06.10.1997, p. 0007	03/07/1997	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T4-0478/1997 OJ C 325 27.10.1997, p. 0012-0038	02/10/1997	EP	Summary

Transport of horses and other live animals

Adopting the own initiative report by Mrs Nel VAN DIJK (V, NL) on the transport of horses and other live animals, the Members called on the European Commission to submit forthwith a proposal for a directive laying down standards for lorries and establishing criteria governing staging points. Members also found it unacceptable that some Member States had not yet transposed two directives in this area into national legislation and called on the Commission to start infringement proceedings against these Member States. The rapporteur, Mrs VAN DIJK, stated that animals for consumption continued to be transported under horrendous conditions. The EU policy on the transport of live animals for consumption therefore needed to be based on the following principles: a) animals should be slaughtered as close as possible to their place of origin; b) the transport of animals should comply with minimum requirements to guarantee the welfare of the animals and the transport of animals intended for consumption should not exceed a journey of eight hours. The rapporteur deplored the fact that the Commission and the Council had been unable to draft and adopt the necessary accompanying directives on standards for lorries and staging points and stated that, "control of legislation is quite inadequate. There is a lack of personnel and funds to ensure that the directive is applied. In addition, by granting high export refunds for live animals, the CAP is encouraging the transport of live animals rather than meat". The report also called on the Commission to: - submit an interim report on the measures taken by 31 December 1997; - put an end to export subsidies for exports of live animals for consumption to third countries and - set up a system for granting or renewing export licences at European level which would be conditional on transporters' respecting strictly the rules for the protection of live animals for export. These licences would be withdrawn immediately in the event of failure to comply with these standards. ?

Transport of horses and other live animals

In adopting the report by Mrs Nel B.M. van DIJK (V, NL) on the transport of horses and other live animals, Parliament noted that the 1995 Directive (95/29/EC) regulating the conditions of transport for live animals had not had the desired effects because it had been poorly implemented and five Member States had yet to transpose it into their national legislation. According to Parliament, the main principles of European policy in this field should be the following: - animals should be slaughtered as close as possible to their place of origin, - the transport of animals should comply with minimum requirements to guarantee the welfare of the animals, - the transport of animals intended for consumption should not exceed a journey of eight hours. Parliament asked in particular that the European Commission: (1) begin infringement procedures against Member States who had not transposed the directive; (2) put an end to the grants for the export to third countries of live cattle intended for consumption: these grants represented ECU 300-400 million every year and encouraged needless transport, the money could be put to better use; (3) submit forthwith the proposal for a directive laying down standards for lorries transporting live animals: Parliament defined in its resolution the standards with which transport of animals should comply; (4) encourage the slaughtering of animals as close as possible to their place of origin, through, for example, the promotion of mobile abattoirs with high standards of hygiene to reduce the risk of infection; (5) improve the quality of controls at external frontiers and within the Union: Parliament recalled that ECU 2.5 million had been earmarked in the 1997 budget to monitor the degree of compliance with the directive on the transport of animals. Parliament thought it advisable to hand over partial control to reputable NGOs active in the field of animal welfare and considered that efforts should also be made on the part of third countries sending animals to the European Union; (6) set up a system of granting or renewal of export licences which would be conditional on transporters' respecting strictly the rules for the protection of live animals; (7) convince the competent authorities in third countries to export meat to the Union, rather than live animals (given, in particular, the availability of high-quality refrigerated lorries): only those transporters who respected European regulations would be allowed to transport animals; (8) encourage new modes of transport for animals, especially via rail; (9) put forward a directive on the staging points during transport: these staging points should be equipped in such a way so as to ensure that contact with diseased animals was avoided. Finally, Parliament asked the Commission to present an interim report on the measures taken in these different fields and on the implementation of the Directive in the Member States. ?