

John Dalli
Member of the European Commission

Brussels, 30. 06. 2011
HV/cs/A 541712 (11) D

Dear Mr Taylor,

Thank you for your letter of 12 May 2011 on the transportation of horses.

The report on animal transport in accordance with Article 32 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport¹ will indeed consider the results presented in the Scientific Opinion Concerning the Welfare of Animals during Transport² adopted by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), as well as other reliable sources of information on the implementation of the Regulation.

The Commission will consider which actions are appropriate to address any problems identified in the report the discussions following its publication and through inputs from the European Parliament, Member States and stakeholders.

During the last year, the Commission has also sent a letter to all the Member States in order to draw their attention to the risks associated with the transport of slaughter horses and to invite them to take action to improve their welfare.

The implementation of the animal health legislation, such as the Directive concerning prevention of spread of infectious diseases among horses³, is the responsibility of the Member States. The Commission's veterinary inspection services (the Food and Veterinary Office based in Grange, Ireland) regularly carries out inspections into animal health and welfare during the transport of animals. Where the inspectors establish that, equidae unfit for travelling because of pre-existing conditions are certified for long distance transport, the violations of European animal health and welfare legislation are acted upon according to the Treaty.

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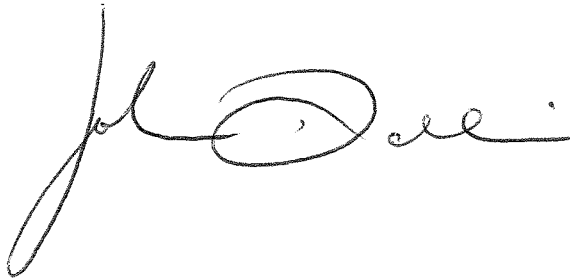
¹ OJ L 3, 5.1.2005, p. 1.

² EFSA Journal 2011;9(1):1966 [125 pp.].

³ Council Directive 2009/156/EC of 30 November 2009 on animal health conditions governing the movement and importation from third countries of equidae.

To further safeguard the health of horses in relation to the outbreak of equine infectious anaemia in Romania last year, the Commission took measures⁴, which led to a significant decrease in the transport of equidae from that Member State. Over and above, in 2010 the Commission adopted a number of Decisions to prevent the introduction into the European Union of infectious and contagious disease of equidae from third countries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. D. All'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a small dot at the end.

⁴ Decision 2010/346/EU of 18 June 2010 establishing certain protection measures as regards equine infectious anaemia in Romania