

Commissioner Stella Kyriakides
European Commission
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Brussels, 22 February 2021

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Established in 1983

Dear Commissioner Kyriakides,

As members of the Intergroup's Working Group on Animal Transport, we are contacting you to express our concern for **the health and welfare of the more than 2,000 cattle stuck at sea for two months** after departing from Spain in December 2020, bound for Libya. Those cattle were loaded into the vessels Elbeik (1,776 head) and Karim Allah (895 head), but they were refused at the port of arrival by the local authority due to bluetongue disease.

Despite the fact some cattle were unloaded in other ports, there is evidence that animals are still on board of the two vessels; given that they have been at sea for two months, we are seriously concerned about their status as well as the feed availability. It seems that the Spanish authorities, that are legally responsible for the welfare and health of the animals until the final destination (CJEU, [case C-424/13](#)), have not taken all the necessary measures to guarantee their well-being, in disregard of Articles 22(1) and 22(2) of Regulation 1/2005 (Transport Regulation). We have been informed that Karim Allah is now back at Cartagena and Elbeik remains close to Cyprus: both vessels still have live animals on board. **We ask for your support to make sure that these animals will reach their final destinations as soon as possible.**

Dear Commissioner, the fate of these cattle shows once more that Article 11.1(b) of the Transport Regulation, that requires competent authorities to only grant authorizations to transporters that have contingency plans in place in the event of an emergency, sadly remains unimplemented; as well as the CJEU judgement on live export - as recently acknowledged by the European Commission's auditors ([2019-6835](#)).

We trust the European Commission is fully committed to revise the Transport Regulation to ensure higher animal welfare, and we reaffirm our conviction that the European Union must stop sending live animals to third countries, and facilitate a trade of a meat/carcasses and genetic material.

We thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

The Working Group on Animal Transport:

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MEP Anja Hazekamp (GUE)
MEP Francisco Guerreiro (Greens)
MEP Eleonora Evi (Greens)
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