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Multi-regional Whole Journey Scenario (WJS) workshop  
on long-distance transport by land and sea  
between Europe, the Middle East and North Africa

8-10 November 2022

MEETING REPORT

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## Summary

The multi-regional Whole Journey Scenario (WJS) workshop on long-distance transport by land and sea between Europe, the Middle East and North Africa was held on 8-10 November 2022 in Cairo, Egypt.

The workshop was built upon routes with similar transportation challenges identified through previous workshops and through the requests received from Members who transport live animals from Europe to the Middle East and North Africa. Representatives from 17 WOAHA Members participated in the meeting, namely: France, Ireland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Spain from Europe; Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and United Arab Emirates from the Middle East; and Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia from North Africa.

The main objectives of the workshop were to help countries improve animal welfare during long distance and cross-border transport in compliance with WOAHA standards for the whole duration of the journey along the selected route with focus on the responsibilities of the Competent Authorities over the entire journey. In addition, the workshop aimed to share best practices and strengthen collaboration and communication between Competent Authorities. Moreover, the workshop provided the opportunity to deepen Members' understanding of the level of compliance of animal welfare standards and identify key issues, constraints and/or challenges experienced while implementing these standards. The workshop highlighted the need for enhancing and strengthening communication and cooperation between Competent Authorities and all actors involved in the transport of live animals, the importance of well-defined responsibilities and appropriate planning and establishing emergency procedures.

The participants found the workshop acutely useful and quite instrumental to improve multiregional collaboration. They called for further activities on animal transport which would support the implementation and compliance with WOAHA standards such as future whole journey scenario workshops, training, the development of IT tools and guidance documents.

## Acknowledgments

The World Organization for Animal Health is grateful to the European Union, Ireland to provide financial support for the Multi-regional Whole Journey Scenario (WJS) workshop on long-distance transport by land and sea between Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. The WOAHA is also thankful to Egypt for providing support for organization and hosting the event.

## Background

The WOAHA WJS workshops aim to support countries to improve animal welfare during long-distance and cross-border transport in compliance with WOAHA standards on animal transport by land and by sea. The approach is built on bringing together all the stakeholders involved in the transport of live animals from the departure point to the destination in order to ensure the same level of understanding of WOAHA standards on animal welfare. Since 2018, the WOAHA has organised series of WJS workshops at regional level (Europe in 2018; the Middle East in 2019) and at multi-regional level (Europe and Middle East 2021). A multi-regional WJS on long distance transport between Europe, the Middle East and North Africa has been organised to address the specific issues to ensure the welfare of animals during transport by land and sea between selected WOAHA members on Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

## Objectives

The main objectives of the workshop were to help countries improve animal welfare during long distance and cross-border transport in compliance with WOAHA standards for the whole duration of the journey along the selected route with focus on the responsibilities of the Competent Authorities over the entire journey. In addition, the workshop aimed to share best practices and strengthen collaboration and communication between Competent Authorities.

The workshop given an opportunity to the participants to strengthen their understanding of the relevant WOAHA standards (Chapters 7.2 and 7.3 of the WOAHA Terrestrial Code), especially concerning responsibilities of each stakeholder involved in the process and the required information exchange

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between the various Competent Authorities. Moreover, the workshop will enable to assess the animal welfare situation in the participating countries, identifying key issues, constraints and/or challenges experienced with the implementation of the relevant WOAHS standards.

### Participants

The workshop targeted WOAHS members involved in the route of long distance and cross border transport of animals (countries of origin, transit countries including harbours for sea transfers, destination countries) with two participants per country invited: (i) representative of Competent Authority working at central level (e.g., the nominated WOAHS National Focal Point for Animal Welfare, regional contact point); and (ii) representative of Competent Authority working on regional level/border control post (main entry point);

List of invited countries:

- the Middle East: Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates
- North Africa: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia,
- Europe: France, Ireland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Slovenia, Türkiye.

The representatives 17 out of 18 invited WOAHS members with total of 45 participants (including speakers) attended the meeting.



The full list of participants as well as the agenda of the workshop can be consulted in Annex.

### Workshop programme

Tuesday, 8 November 2022

Dr Ghazi Yehia (WOAHS RR ME), Dr Rachid Bouguedour (WOAHS SRR North Africa) and Dr Abdelhakim Mohamed Ali (Egypt Delegate - President RC ME) opened workshop with welcome address.

#### Session I: Setting the scene

Dr T. Grudnik presented WOAHS mandate on animal welfare, main elements of the Global Animal Welfare Strategy, regional animal welfare platforms and strategies, relevant WOAHS regional activities and objectives of the workshop. [\(WOAHS and WOAHS mandate on animal welfare, regional Platforms and strategies\)](#)

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Dr G. Yehia presented the main objectives, expected results and activities of the Middle East Regional strategy for animal welfare for 2022 – 2025, highlighting the commitment made by the ME countries to implement the WOAHA animal welfare standards with focused efforts on priority areas of the transport by land, by sea and by air, killing for disease control purposes, and dog population management. ([The Middle East Regional strategy for Animal Welfare 2022 – 2025](#))

The provision of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, Chapter 7.2 transport of animals by sea and Chapter 7.3 transport of animals by land, were recalled by Dr T. Grudnik highlight main points on animal behavior, responsibilities, competences, planning the journey, pre-journey period, loading, travel, unloading and post-journey handling and Actions in the event of a refusal to allow the completion of the journey. ([WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code - Chapter 7.2 and 7.3](#)).

#### **Session II: Understanding country's situation and identifying key challenges**

The workshop session dedicated to understanding countries' situation and identifying key challenges allowed representatives of WOAHA members to share an overview of the situation in their countries', legislation in place, main trading partners, border post and quarantine facilities and main challenges concerning the transport of animals. The facilitate and harmonize the country reports the WOAHA before the meeting shared proposed structured template. The country reports presentations are available online with following links:

- Europe: [France](#), [Ireland](#), [Portugal](#), [Romania](#), [Slovenia](#), [Spain](#), [Türkiye](#)
- the Middle East: [Jordan](#), [Iraq](#), Kuwait, [Lebanon](#), [Saudi Arabia](#), [United Arab Emirates](#)
- North Africa: [Algeria](#), [Egypt](#), [Morocco](#), [Tunisia](#)

Wednesday, 9 November 2022

#### **Session III – Addressing the challenges and sharing the best practices**

The working groups exercise based on four different case study scenarios give opportunity to identify issues and look for solutions for specific situation in the context of WOAHA standards and based on their competencies, experience, and their countries legislative framework and procedures.

Main points highlighted through working group discussions:

- need for strengthening communication and collaboration between Competent Authorities and all actors involved in the transport of live animals especially exchange of information before, during and after a journey,
- importance of defining responsibilities (especially between departure port and destination),
- importance of appropriate planning and emergency procedures,

The participants from Ireland, J. Larkin and A. Cahill, shared the details of the process for inspection and approval of dedicated livestock vessels in the context of the EU regulations and Ireland's national rules, highlighting the importance of joint work of the veterinary inspection with a specialized marine surveyor for vessels approval and appropriate checks before, during and after loading. In addition, the presentation provides short info on European Commission initiatives supporting the EU member countries' competent authorities, such as the EU national contact points network and guidance documents. ([Inspection and Approval of Dedicated Livestock Vessels](#) – Ireland).

Dr. A. Catalán Alcalá presented the procedures developed in Spain for integrated journey plan for animal sea transports combining animals arriving by tracks from different farms aiming to improve animal welfare as well as reduce administrative burden, improve the coordination and organization “To improve official controls ([Integrated journey plan](#)).

Dr M. Atea Ezz Eldin shared experience of the Egyptian competent authority coordinated response to emergency to address potential animal welfare issues on vessels anchored in the Suez Canal during the blockage crisis in March 2021, focusing on coordination between authorities, exporters and importers,

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WOAH office and NGO to provide assistance of veterinary team and feed supply. ([Coordinated response for emergency case](#)).

Captain Mubarak shared his experience as a master of a livestock vessel concerning the impact of ship design and operation on animal welfare focusing on feed and water arrangements, ventilation systems, procedures, staff competencies and facilities for animal handling and main challenges such as extreme weather conditions (rough seas, high temperatures and high humidity) and running out of supplies with extended journeys. ([Master of livestock vessel perspective](#)).

#### **Session IV: Movement of competition horses**

Dr M. Meske (WOAH - Status Department) with pre-recorded video presentation shared the update on WOAHS and International Horse Sports Confederation collaboration activities to facilitate the movement of competition horses including research projects and standards on horse related diseases, risk base tools (Equine Disease-Free Zone and High health, high performance horses), advocacy and capacity building activities. ([WOAH and International Horse Sports Confederation collaboration activities to facilitate the movement of competition horses](#)).

Dr A. A. Zahran presented brief overview of competent authorities' structure and responsibilities in relation to management of equine health and welfare, including movement, in United Arab Emirates ([United Arab Emirates – Equine File Management](#)). The continuing with sharing United Arab Emirates experience, Dr D. Craig (Emirates Racing Authority) presented details the procedures and quarantine practices for different horse competition events in in United Arab Emirates.

Dr Ghazi concluded this session presenting summary of completed and planned activities through Roadmap for Veterinary Services to support implementation of the WOAHS standards and developing tools on national and regional level to facilitate international movement of competitions horses. ([WOAH standards and tools to facilitate international movement of competition horses - Roadmap for Veterinary Services](#)).

Thursday, 10 November 2022

#### **Field visit**

#### **Conclusions**

The participants confirmed the multiregional whole journey scenario workshop as acutely useful and quite instrumental to improve multiregional collaboration and collaboration between Competent Authorities as mechanism to support implementation of the WOAHS standards and ensuring health and welfare of animals during long distance international transport.

Main points highlighted through the workshop discussion.

- need for strengthening communication and collaboration between Competent Authorities in the transport of live animals especially exchange of information before, during and after a journey
- importance of defining responsibilities (especially between departure port and destination)
- importance of appropriate journey planning and preparation before animals' departure
- importance of emergency procedures including process of verification, updates, and revisions
- need to further develop procedures in the event of refusal to allow the completion of the journey.

The participants of the workshop called for further activities supporting the implementation of WOAHS standards on animal transport aiming at strengthening the collaboration between Competent Authorities and inter-regional cooperation and sharing the experience (workshops, trainings, development of IT tools, guidance documents and checklist, harmonization of the exchanges of information).