

Business operators' perspective on ensuring animal welfare during long distance transport of animals – main challenges and best practices

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First OIE “Whole Journey Scenario”
Workshop

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in Zaborek, Poland

EU exports of bovine cattle to Third countries (calendar year 2017)

- Overall 985.000
 - thereof slaughter cattle 300.000, breeding cattle 275.000 and other cattle (fattening) 410.000
- Major origin slaughter cattle:
Spain, Croatia, Slovenia, Romania, France
- Major origin breeding cattle:
Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Austria, France
- Major origin other cattle:
Romania, Croatia, Portugal, Spain, France
- *deliveries from Germany to Uzbekistan: 6.700*

EU exports of bovine cattle to Third countries (calendar year 2017) **cont.**

- Main destinations (all categories combined): Turkey, Israel and Lebanon
 - Exports to countries participating in the workshop:
 - Russia 63.000
 - Uzbekistan 11.000
 - Kazakhstan, Ukraine 1.500 each
 - Belorussia 400
- Main destination breeding cattle: Turkey, Russia
- Main destination slaughter cattle: Lebanon, Turkey
- Main destination other cattle: Israel, Turkey

Live animal exports – general remarks

- Important part of a global economy based on the division of labour
- Transport as such is not the only part of the operation – need to have a more holistic perspective
- Many well-established and specialised companies with a long-standing experience
- close seller-buyer relations
- ExPla focussed on breeding livestock

Live animal exports – our objectives

- get all animals healthy from origin to destination!!
- reduce as much as possible any inconveniences, ensure quick and smooth transaction (-> proper planning)
- maintain client's trust and confidence
- in the case of breeding cattle: build long-term relationship and help to develop a modern competitive and sustainable agricultural and food sector

Exporting animals is a complex task (1):

- Planning
 - Journey log
 - Certification (zootechnical, I&R, animal health, customs)
- Selection
 - High animal health standard, even when gathering from different regions
 - Controlled breeding stock
 - Meet clients' requirements

Exporting animals is a complex task (2): *ExPla* European Platform of Exporters of Bovine Genetics

- Quarantine
 - Modern barns with straw bedding
 - Highly trained staff
 - Good feed
 - Continuous veterinary controls (by local vet and official vet (government))
 - Good animal care (sometimes even hoof care ...)



Exporting animals is a complex task (3): *ExPla* European Platform of Exporters of Bovine Genetics

- Transport (by land)
 - well-equipped, suitable trucks with ventilation system and water container (officially approved for long-distance transport)
 - Training for drivers and animal handlers, done by independent organisations
 - Straw bedding and hay



Exporting animals is a complex task (4):

- Unloading at arrival
 - Checking animals
 - Providing after-care, feeding, housing, health
 - Advisory services



Exports and (official) controls

- Example Germany:
„implementation note“ that federal and regional authorities have agreed to (not legally binding)
- official veterinarian present during loading
- returning journey log to competent authority (double check after the transport)
- national control systems checked by EU COM (7 audits in 2017)
- use of TRACES certificate (where possible)



Main challenges

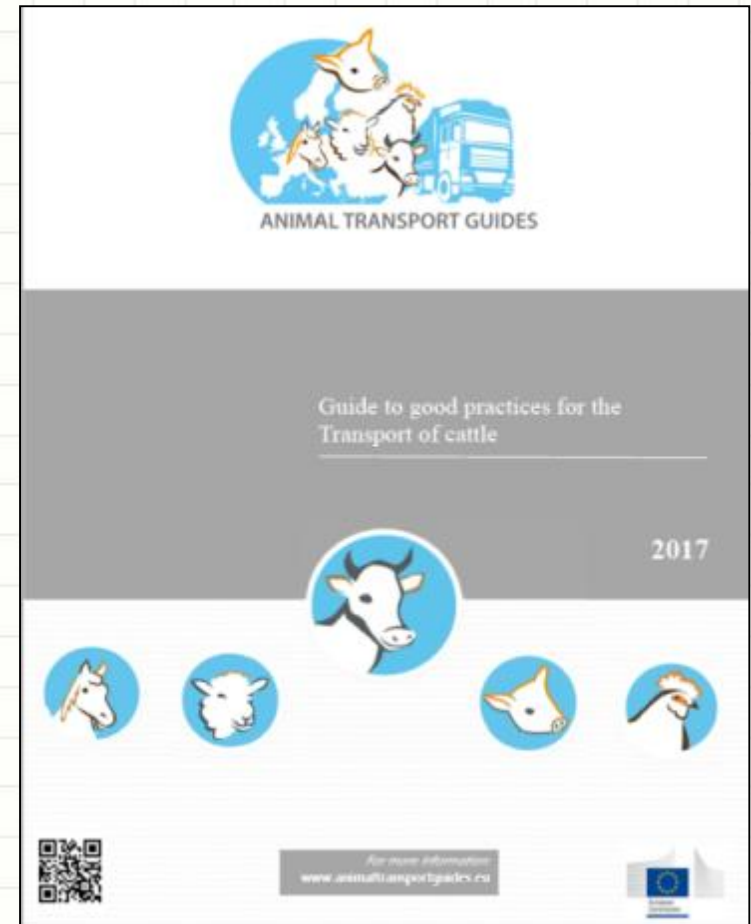
- Predict conditions during travel
- Weather
- Unforeseen circumstances
- Choosing the right transport company
- conflicts of interest in the legislation
- Application of EU law in Third countries
- Animal health test requirements may determine possible start date

Other challenges:

- Animals (in particular for breeding) must not be in contact with other animals with a lower health status
- Un- and uploading are the most stressful parts of the journey
- Limited duration of validity of the veterinary certificates
- Restrictions for transit through certain countries prevent shortest route

Best practices

- Animal Transport guides project
- commissioned by GD Sante
- Research consortium led by University of Wageningen
- May 2015 – End 2018
- 5 Species-specific guides (cattle, pigs, horses, poultry, sheep)
- 17 fact sheets (in 8 languages)
- <http://animaltransportguides.eu>



Best practices:

- Control by official vet at the time of loading
- Use TRACES certificates (all authorities have the same information, less waiting time)
- Use control post with high biosecurity standard



Our demands:

- set appropriate standards for animal transport (no „one size fits all“-approach, take into account specific needs of the different categories of animals, e. g. slaughter bulls = male and pregnant heifers = female)
- eliminate conflicting rules in relevant laws
- Legal certainty
- support further research on animal welfare during transport and dissemination of results



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**

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