

Country report on animal welfare during long distance transport by land



BULGARIA

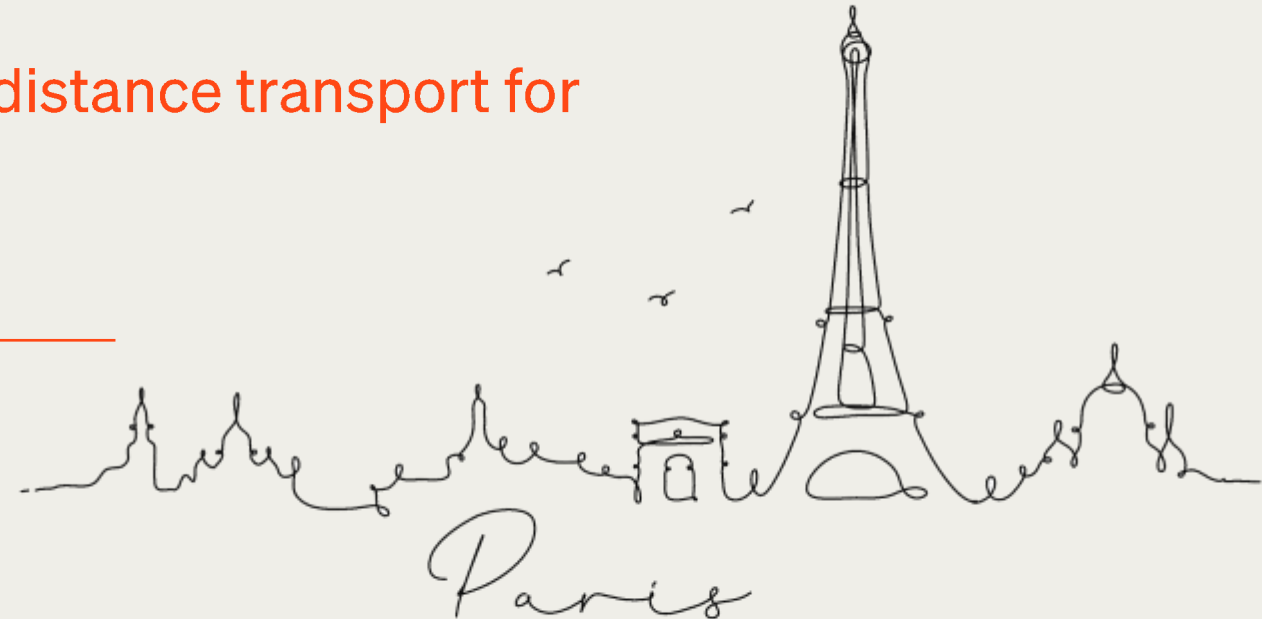
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Whole Journey Scenario workshop on long-distance transport for Europe

16 – 18 December 2024, Paris, France



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded in 1924



Overview of country livestock transport and trade

- Main trading countries and routes - Albania, Kosovo and Turkije
- Number of exported/imported animals and trends:

Import

Type of animals	Number of consignments	Number of animals
Equidae	242	242
Dogs&cats	17	28

Export via KA

Type of animals	Number of consignments	Number of animals
Large Ruminants	3115	105465
Small ruminants	13	2465
equidae	525	674

- Main border control posts/animal holding or quarantine facilities – Kapitan Andreevo, Kalotina, air port Sofia

Map of Bulgaria

north

west

east



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south

Main Road Routes from Western Europe to Turkey

1. Vidin – Svilengrad

- 524 km

- 6 h 50 min

2. Ruse– Svilengrad

- 289 km

- 5 h 51 min



Competent Authorities in Bulgaria

The Competent Authorities responsible for animal welfare during transport in Bulgaria is CCA – BFSA and all 28 Regional Food Safety Directorates

The other authorities involved cross-border transport of animals are:

- Border police (Ministry of interior|);
- Customs;
- Ministry of Transport;
- National Revenue Agency

National animal welfare standards

Our country complies with the requirements of Regulation (EO) № 1/2005 for the whole travel process - before, during and after

- requirements for inspection of animals before travelling – check for animal health status; ID, fitness for transport;
- during the journey – fitness for transport;
- and after their travel – general condition;
- the definition of animal “fitness to travel” – good health, fitness for transport, enough space, water and ventilation;
- certification and record keeping: the certificates are written and issued by official veterinarians in RFSD;

Do you have established standards for facilities, containers and vehicles for the transport of animals established in your country?

Yes, according with requirements in *Regulation (EO) № 1/2005 and Chapter VII of WOAH*

National animal welfare standards



What are the standards for the competences of animal handlers, drivers and managers of facilities, business operators in relevant animal welfare issues established in your country?

All persons working with animals must be trained and have a certificate of competence (course) for animal welfare (professional training centers and the two veterinary medicine universities). Training programs are approved by the Executive Director of the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency.

Certificates are valid for life. Programs have a validation 3 years.



Implementation of the standards



How is the Competent Authority implementing standards on animal welfare during long distance and cross-border transport in your country?

Our country complies with the requirements of Regulation (EO) № 1/2005 for the whole travel process - before, during and after and Chapter VII Transport of animals by road, see and air of the WOAH and SOP for AW during long distance transportation.

Monitoring and evaluation



How is the Competent Authority monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of standards on animal welfare during long distance and cross-border transport in your country?

Standard Operating Procedure for long distance transportation - this procedure regulates the official controls rules which are carried out to ensure compliance with animal welfare rules during long journeys.

- Official controls are carried out at all periods of the transport of live animals, with the same attention - from the place of departure to the place of destination, both when exporting and when importing from third countries. These controls can be carried out unscheduled or after a report has been submitted.

Cross-border transport of animals



1. Procedure including certification applicable before departure:

- clinical examination;
- list of ear tags;
- 24 hours before journey the health certificate is sent it to Türkiye for review and comments (accept or reject of the consignment);
- TRACES certificate;
- vaccination (which are included in the certificate of the imports country)

Cross-border transport of animals

2. Procedure during departure:

- water system and drinkers;
- fans;
- bedding;
- lights;
- documents;
- separation of animals
- ect



3. Procedure during transit

Bulgaria is a transit country for road transportation about almost all EU consignments with live animals. We have a major responsibilities for the final checks at the control post in Svilengrad and the Kapitan Andreevo border checkpoint.

According to data from the mission carried out (ref. № 2017-6109), the export of farm animals from the EU to Türkiye is over 45%. After 2017, there is a tendency for a significant decrease in the number of shipments of live animals from the EU to Turkey passes through Bulgaria.

What is the procedure to report back to the sending Competent Authority significant animal welfare problems which occurred during the journey?

Of both places – control post&border control point Kapitan Andreevo official veterinarians send the information with noncompliance to the CA on the central level – to the national contact point for animal welfare during the transport (liaison bodies). The next step is sending the notification to the liaison bodies and in some cases to CVO of the MS.



WOAH standard regarding animal welfare during long distance and cross-border transport of animals by land?

Gaps/weaknesses

Legislation is not clear enough and there are some gaps;

Animal health requirements should go together with animal welfare requirements, because now with regard to the animal health status, such consignments are not allowed to re-enter the Union. Republic of Türkiye is not listed in Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 as provided for in Article 178 1(a) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692.

Challenges:

As a country of increased transit and an external border of the European Union (EU), Bulgaria meets on a daily basis the challenges of long-distance animal transport and the strict compliance with Regulation (EC) № 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport.

The **responsibilities** of the transporter, the organizer, the buyer and the driver of the consignment of animals are not clearly defined and are transferred from one to another (example with Bulgarian transporter in 2023);

In case of a problem, no one takes **responsibility** for the animals;

It is necessary to define what means “**no man land**” – **area** between Republic of Bulgaria and Republic of Türkiye;

WOAH standard regarding animal welfare during long distance and cross-border transport of animals by land?

Gaps/weaknesses

- Challenges:

- unsettled business relations and/or as a result of incorrect and incomplete documentation (missing tests, lack of permit to transit via the Republic of Türkiye, lack of a contract for the trade of the animals, etc.).
- pressure coming from companies lawyers, sales agents, non-governmental organizations, citizens, journalists, medias etc.



Take care for animals during their long journey!!!

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