

# Addressing livestock vessel emergencies -

## Greece experience

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Acting CVO of Greece  
Greek Focal Point on  
Animal Welfare for  
WOAH

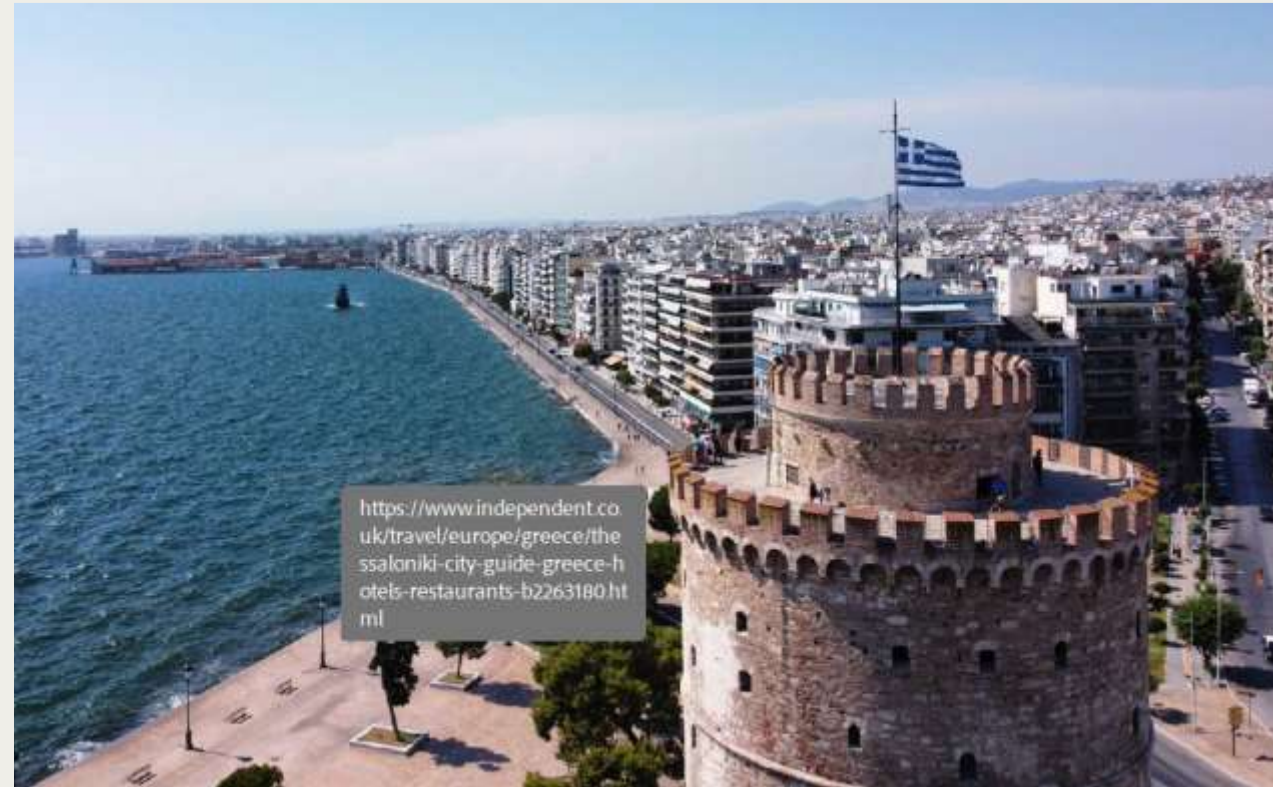
Thessaloniki 11-13  
March 2025



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# EMERGENCIES CAN ALWAYS OCCUR!

Bureaucracy reasons due to.....

Animal health reasons – lack of authorization to unload the animals

Vessel Mechanical and/or equipment breakdown

Crew serious illness/or death

- Unfit, ill and traumatized animals

Greece is involved in incidents with livestock vessels that travel through the Mediterranean sea due to its geographical position.



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# CASE NO 1: THE ELBEIK CASE (pic from Animal Welfare Foundation)



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# THE EVENTS (1)

- On 03.03.2021, a request to accept the vessel “ELBEIK” carrying 1789 cattle was submitted, through its shipping agent, to the Ministry of Shipping and Island Policy to approach the port of Piraeus.
- On 4 March 2021, the Ministry of the Environment and Energy informed the Ministry of Rural Development and Food of the above request.
- On 5 March 2021, the Directorate-General for Veterinary Affairs of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food requested, on grounds of overriding public interest, that the vessel not enter Greek territory.
- On the same day, the Ministry of the Environment and Energy issued a document prohibiting the ship from entering Greek territory.
- On the same day, through its shipping agent, the ship, in order to ensure its seaworthiness in order to be able to reach Spain, requested to receive fuel and supplies (and spare parts).
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# THE EVENTS (2)

On the same day, for humanitarian reasons, the ship's request was accepted and it was launched to receive fuel from the anchorage of the Good Ports of Crete, which was implemented on 07.03.2021, and to receive supplies for crew and animals from the anchorage of Kalamata, which was implemented on 09.03.2021.

- It should be noted that the above management was known, agreed and cooperated between the Directorate-General for Veterinary Affairs and the officials of DG SANTE, as indicated by the Commissioner for Health to Ms Deputy Minister on Friday 5 March 2021.
- The ship departed on 10.03.2021 with a navigation order mark from the port of Kalamata.
- The ship on 17.03.2021 sailed to the declared destination of the port of Cartagena, Spain.



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# Legislation on animal health and Third countries

The inspection of the animals on board by the competent authorities of Greece was not possible because the vessel remained for 3 days in the port of Alexandria, Egypt and transited through other third countries. Egypt is a third country that is not free from serious diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease.

This consignment had lost the EU status, and was considered a third country consignment, so it must meet the entry requirements into the EU territory that are stricter than the EU ones.

Given the EU legislation governing imports and re-imports from third countries, as well as the serious suspicion of transmission of infectious diseases that may endanger the country's and the EU's livestock, it was not possible to allow the ship to berth in a Greek port and unload the animals in order to undergo a veterinary check.

Greece does not have an approved border inspection post for live animals in any port in Greece. Therefore, animal health and welfare reasons did not allow the ship to enter a Greek port but instead made it imperative for the ship to sail directly to the place of departure.



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# Feed Supplies outside the port of Kalamata

The vessel received exclusively feed for personnel and the animals (food, feed and water), in order to return to the place of departure in Cartagena, Spain.

The Greek local veterinary competent authorities, in collaboration with local maritime services checked the quantity and quality of food, feed and water, in order to safeguard the welfare of animals.



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# Case no 2: Breakdown of Spiridon livestock vessel – Transfer of animals to Adel I – Elefsis Port 3.2022



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# THE INCIDENT

The livestock vessel “Spiridon II” which departed from Tarragona, Spain carrying 320 bovines and 10000 sheep, broke down close to Crete in Greece.

On Friday 4 March 2022 morning time, it arrived at the port of Elefsis. The Greek competent veterinary authorities, following communication with port services of Elefsis approved the direct transfer of all sheep to the vessel "Adel" without unloading which was approved in Croatia.

The Greek competent authorities decided to offer this assistance since the vessel had not reached any Third country yet, so the consignment was still considered as an EU consignment for the sake of the welfare of the animals and in order to avoid problems like the Elbeik case the previous year.

The animals departed for Aqaba, Jordan, on Saturday 5 March 2022.



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# Transfer of sheep from a livestock vessel to another



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Sheep and goat to be transferred from the vessel that has broken down to the empty one



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ΕΛΕΓΧΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΠΡΟΣΤΑΣΙΑΣ ΤΩΝ ΖΩΩΝ ΚΑΤΑ ΤΗ ΦΟΡΤΩΣΗ  
ΣΤΙΣ ΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΕΣ ΜΕΤΑΦΟΡΕΣ

1 — ΓΕΝΙΚΑ ΔΕΔΟΜΕΝΑ

Λιμένας ελέγχου: ΕΛΕΥΣΙΝΑΣ

Ημερομηνία ελέγχου 04/03/2022

Αριθμ. πρωτ.:189103

Χρόνος ελέγχου: 10:00 έως 13:00

Επιθεωρητές που διενήργησαν τον έλεγχο:

1

2 — ΤΑΥΤΟΠΟΙΗΣΗ

Όνομα μεταφορέα:

Όνομα πλοίου: SPIRIDON II, ADEL I

Όνοματεπώνυμο διοργανωτών:

|

3- ΑΝΘΡΩΠΙΝΟΙ ΠΟΡΟΙ, ΔΙΑΔΙΚΑΣΙΕΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΡΧΕΙΑ

3.1 Ανθρώπινοι πόροι

ΑΠΑΙΤΗΣΗ	Ναι	Όχι
Κατάλληλος αριθμός χειριστών	✓	
Εκτός από το πλήρωμα, συνοδοί ή/και κτηνίατροι συνοδεύουν τα ζώα		✓
Παρατήρηση: Μετέβη εκπρόσωπος της εταιρείας HUNLAND στο λιμένα Ελευσίνας, ο οποίος επέβλεψε τη διαδικασία μεταφόρτωσης των ζώων από το πλοίο SPIRIDON II στο πλοίο ADEL I		

6 — ΑΠΟΤΕΛΕΣΜΑΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΕΛΕΓΧΟΥ

Ο έλεγχος που διενεργήθηκε είχε ως αποτέλεσμα:

Έγκριση φόρτωσης  ✓

Ανάρτηση/ανάσχεση από φόρτωση

Ναι, όχι

Παρατηρήσεις:

Ποιογραφία των υπευθύνων για την επιθεώρηση.



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# Supply of Adel I with feed before the animals were transferred in.



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# Transfer of animals



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# COMMENTS

The transfer of the animals directly from one vessel to the other was not an easy task. Official Veterinarians had to:

- cooperate with Port Services that, in their turn, performed inspection on technical aspects and safety issues of the vessel.
- check the animals' fitness for transport
- Transport conditions
- The vessel structure in relation to health and welfare of the animals

The transfer of animals lasted for 10 -12 hours.



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# LEGISLATION ON MARITIME EXPERT

COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2023/842, of 17 February 2023

- 

(a) an official veterinarian; and

- 

(b) a maritime expert authorised by the maritime authorities of the Member State.

PT- Maritime expert from the Maritime Authority- Also makes the PSC

Very positive experience



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# Mutual assistance with Spanish Central Competent Authority

2017/625 modifies Regulation 1/2005

Liaison bodies or National Contact point?

Many thanks to Spain for the wonderful collaboration in both cases!  
And to the European Commission for the support!!!



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# Thank you very much!

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