

## Country report on animal welfare during long distance transport by land and sea

TÜRKİYE

Speaker(s) name

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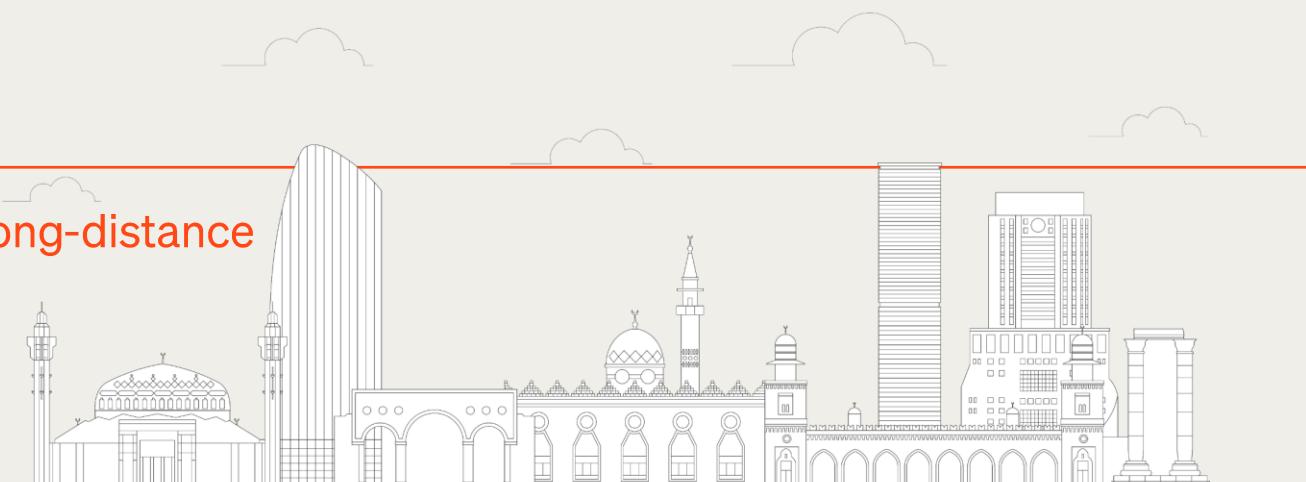
Cüneyt Cem GÜRKAN

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

13- 15 January 2026, Amman, Jordan

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World Organisation  
for Animal Health



Competent Ministry  
"Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry"



Competent Authority "General Directorate of Livestock"  
Managing animal health, border control procedures for live animals, and animal welfare  
inspections on farms and during transportation.



Department responsible for import – export of live animals  
"Department of Animal Import, Export and Border Control"

Department responsible for Animal Welfare  
"Department of Animal Welfare, Identification and Registration"

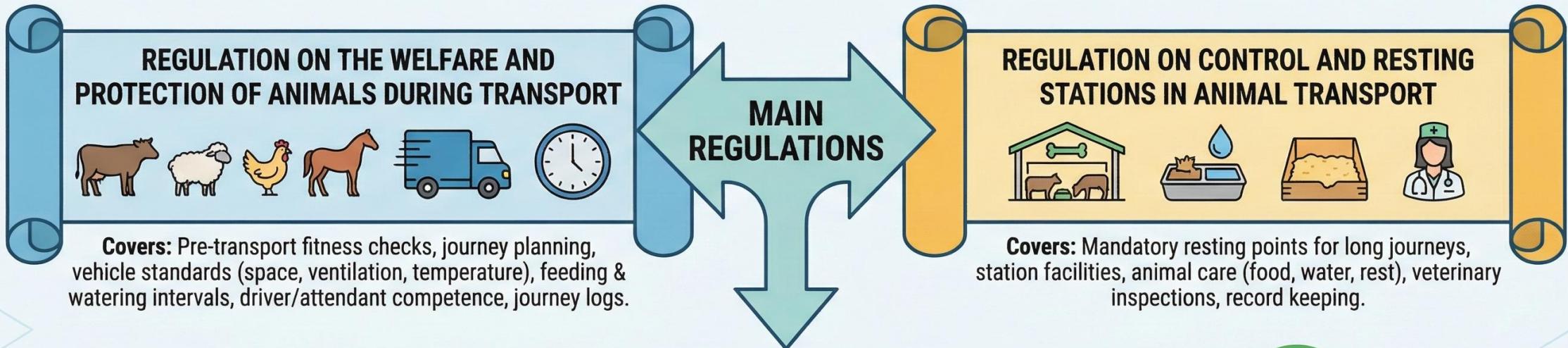


Regional units responsible for animal imports:  
"25 Veterinary Border Control Point Directorates"

Provincial directorates responsible for animal welfare:  
81 Provincial Directorates



# TURKEY'S ANIMAL TRANSPORT WELFARE REGULATIONS & EU COMPLIANCE



**FULLY COMPLIANT WITH EUROPEAN UNION LEGISLATION**  
(e.g., Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005)



Aligns with EU standards for animal welfare during transport, including journey times, resting periods, and vehicle requirements.



**PRE-TRANSPORT**  
Fitness for transport check, documentation, journey plan approval.

**DURING TRANSPORT**  
Monitoring conditions (temp, space), scheduled stops, feeding/watering, GPS tracking.

**RESTING STATIONS**  
Mandatory off-vehicle rest, feed, water, vet inspection at approved stations for long journeys.

**POST-TRANSPORT**  
Arrival inspection, welfare check, final documentation.

# Examinations of Animals Before, During and After Transport

Mandatory monitoring of animal welfare status at every stage of transportation.

## BEFORE THE JOURNEY



### Suitability & Documentation Check

- Animals checked for transport suitability at departure by official veterinarians.
- For long journeys, verification of:
  - Carrier authorization certificates
  - Driver competence certificates
  - Vehicle approval certificates

## DURING THE JOURNEY



### Regular Monitoring & Resting

- Welfare status regularly checked during transport.
- For journeys >8 hours:
  - Stop at control & resting stations.
  - Examined by official veterinarians.
  - Feed and water needs are met.

## AFTER THE JOURNEY



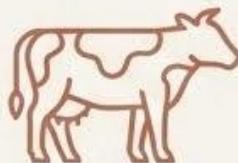
### Arrival Inspection & Action

- At arrival (e.g., slaughterhouse/establishment):
  - Check general health status.
  - Check for signs of mistreatment.
- If deficiency detected: Official veterinarian takes necessary measures.

# Definition of the Animal's “Fitness to Travel”

The sources prohibit transporting animals that are not fit to travel.

## General Condition



Animals must be in a condition in which they will not be injured or suffer unnecessary pain.

## Situations Considered Not Fit



- Animals that cannot move by themselves without pain or cannot walk without assistance.
- Those with a serious open wound or organ prolapse.
- Animals that have passed 90% of the pregnancy period or animals within the first week after giving birth.
- Newborns whose umbilical cord has not fully healed.
- Except for distances shorter than 100 km; calves younger than 10 days, lambs younger than one week, and piglets younger than three weeks.

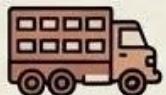


## Exceptions

Permission may be granted only if the illness/injury is mild and transport will not cause additional pain, or if transport is carried out under veterinary supervision for treatment/diagnostic purposes.

# Standards for Facilities, Containers and Transport Vehicles

The sources set technical standards for transport vehicles and facilities as follows:



## Transport Vehicles and Containers

- Must be designed to prevent animals from escaping, falling and being injured.
- Floors must be covered with non-slip material and minimize leakage of urine and feces.
- Adequate ventilation and appropriate space (square meter/height) according to each animal's species must be provided.
- Vehicles for long journeys must have light-colored and insulated roofs, as well as temperature monitoring and warning systems.
- Containers must bear signs indicating the presence of live animals and arrows showing the top side.



## Resting Stations

- Must have appropriate equipment for safely unloading and loading animals such as ramps, bridges and piers (with non-slip floors and protective barriers).
- Must have separate quarantine compartments for sick or injured animals.
- Stations must provide sufficient lighting, ventilation, drainage and cleaning equipment.

# Certification and Record Keeping for Animal Transport

## AUTHORIZATION & COMPETENCE

It is mandatory for each element involved in the transport operation to be authorized with specific documents:



**CARRIERS:** Carriers must obtain a "Carrier Authorization Certificate" from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Separate certificates for journeys <8h (Type 1) and >8h (Type 2).



**DRIVERS & ATTENDANTS:** Must receive training (behavior, physiology, emergency care) and hold a "Competence Certificate".



**TRANSPORT VEHICLES:** Mandatory "Vehicle Approval Certificate" for long-journey road vehicles and sea vessels >10 nautical miles. Valid for 5 years.

## DOCUMENTS DURING THE JOURNEY

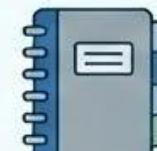
It is a legal requirement to keep the following documents in the vehicle during transport:



**ORIGIN & DECLARATION:** A document showing the origin of the animals, a transport declaration, or a veterinary health report.



**JOURNEY DETAILS:** Documents indicating place of departure, date, time, estimated duration, and destination.



**JOURNEY LOG (LONG JOURNEYS):** For planning, controlling, and reporting the journey.

## RECORD-KEEPING OBLIGATIONS

Records are of critical importance for traceability and inspection of animal welfare:



3 YEARS RETENTION

**JOURNEY LOG:** Includes planning, departure, destination, carrier declaration, and non-compliance report. Retain for at least 3 years.



3 YEARS RETENTION

**GPS RECORDS (LONG JOURNEYS):** Carriers must use a GPS system and retain the data for 3 years for inspections.



3 YEARS RETENTION

**CONTROL & RESTING STATIONS:** Managers must record vehicle entry-exit times, veterinary information, and any deaths/injuries. Retain for 3 years.

# Implementation of the standards

## The competent authority's management processes

### 1. PRE-JOURNEY PLANNING & APPROVAL (Journeys >8 Hours)



Competent authority reviews 'Journey Log' plan. Official veterinarians approve and seal based on:

- Carrier's authorization certificate
- Vehicle's long-journey suitability approval
- Driver/attendant competence certificates.

### 2. TECHNOLOGICAL MONITORING & GPS SYSTEM



Mandatory GPS for long-distance transports. Carriers retain GPS data & in-vehicle temperature records for at least 3 years. Verified during inspections for:

- Temperature maintenance (5°C - 30°C)
- Compliance with rest periods.

### 3. CONTROL & RESTING STATIONS



Approved stations for long journeys. Official veterinarians supervise:

- Unloading, feeding, and resting for at least 24 hours
- Check health status & journey suitability
- Record findings in the journey log.

### 4. CROSS-BORDER TRANSPORT CONTROLS



Final checks at exit/border points by official veterinarians:

- Verify carrier documents & animal fitness to travel
- Check compliance with international agreements (e.g., European Convention)
- Authority to unload & rest animals if unfit to continue.

### 5. INSPECTIONS & SANCTIONS



Random or risk-based targeted controls.

Detected non-compliance measures:

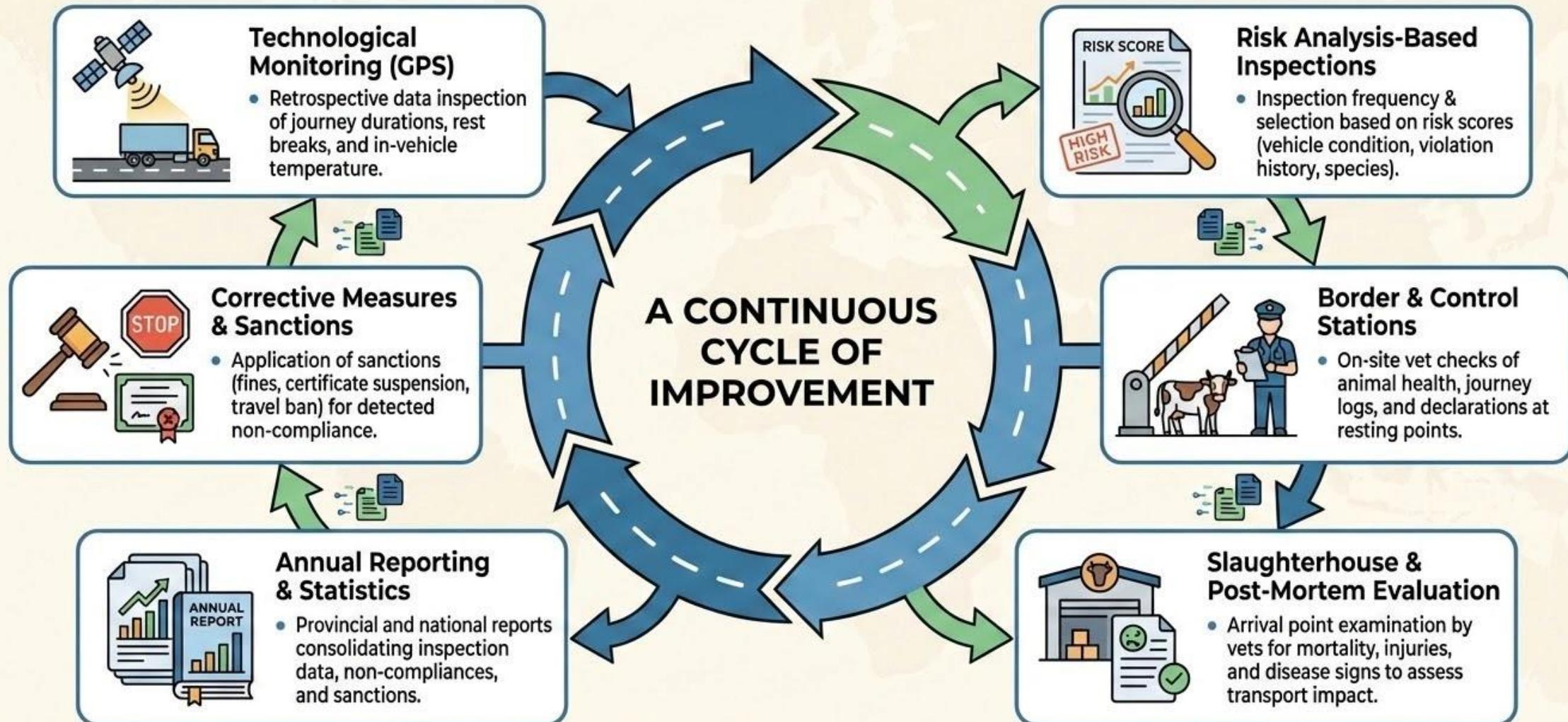
- Replace driver/attendant
- Return animals to origin by shortest route
- Emergency slaughter (welfare appropriate).

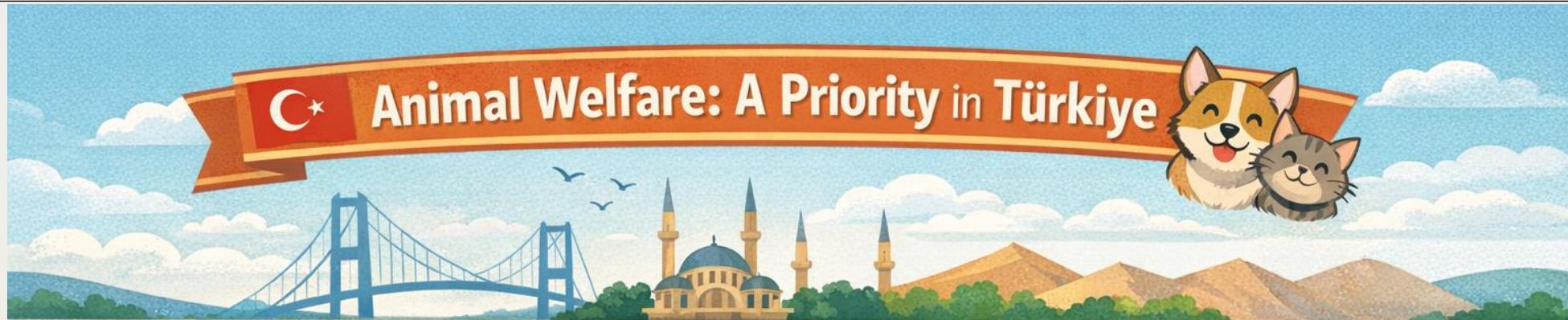
Administrative sanctions:

- Suspension or revocation of authorization certificates.



# MECHANISMS FOR MONITORING & EVALUATING ANIMAL TRANSPORT STANDARDS





Türkiye closely follows global developments in the field of animal welfare and takes swift action to adapt to new advancements.



Our legislative framework regarding control and rest stations is fully in place.



However, these provisions cannot yet be implemented, as the establishment of our control and rest stations has not been completed.

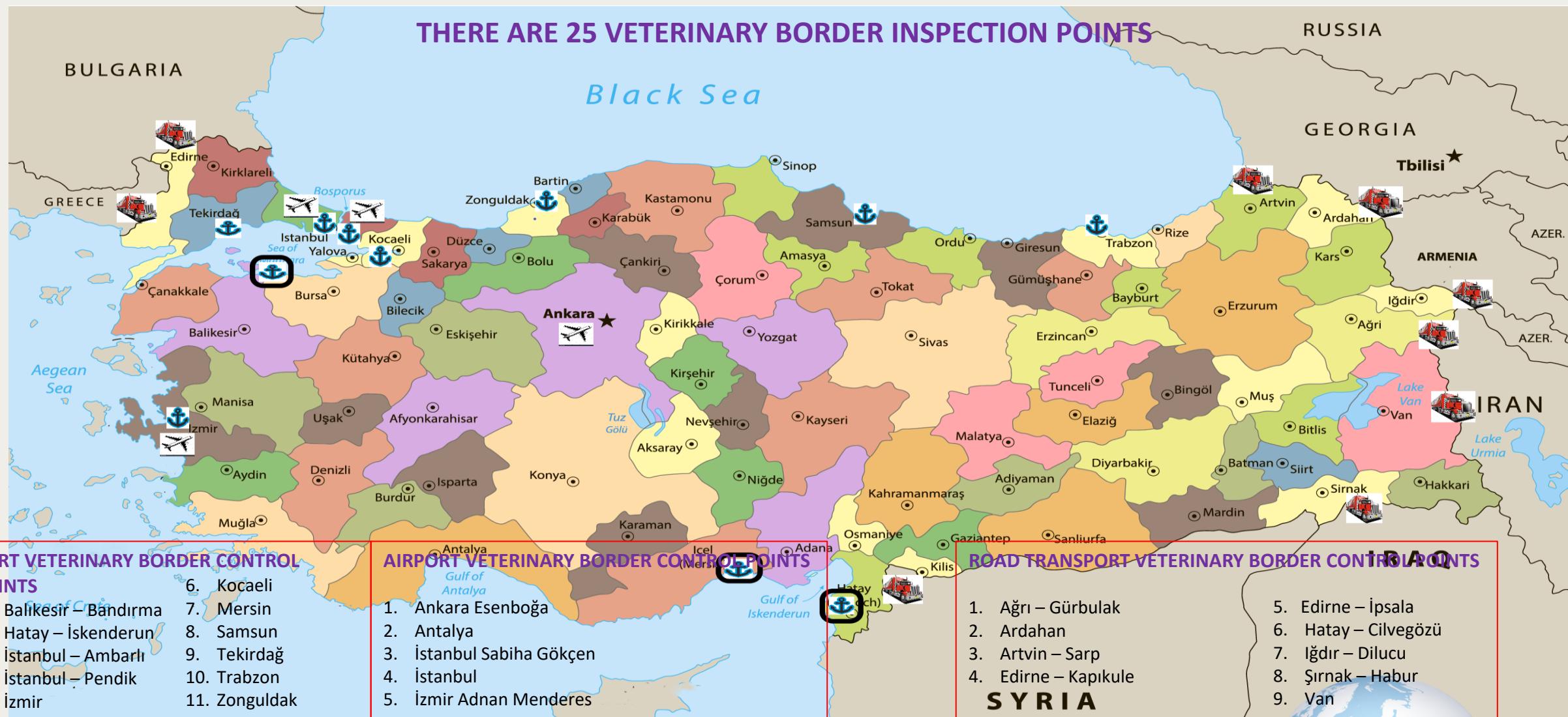


UNDER  
CONSTRUCTION

Installation efforts are ongoing.



# Overview of country livestock transport and trade





- Our country's import of bovine animals for fattening, slaughter, and breeding has been realized mainly from European Union countries, Australia and South America.
- Due to recent outbreaks of Bluetongue, Foot and Mouth Disease and Sheep and Goat Pox in EU countries, imports from these countries have been suspended.
- Bovine animals were mainly imported from Brazil and Uruguay during the last 3 years.

YEAR	Cattle
2023	607.000
2024	450.000
2025	447.000



- *In our import operations, numerous animal welfare violations have been detected in animals and transport vehicles sent to our country from both EU countries and South American countries.*
- *From time to time shipments containing following animals have been sent by the exporting country to our country*
  - *Not selected by our official veterinarians in the exporting country,*
  - *Without ear tag,*
  - *Not complying with veterinary health certificate requirements,*
  - *Detected not compliant during physical, document or identity checks*
- *In such cases, information is urgently provided via email to the authorized service of the exporting country, WOAH representatives, and certain non-governmental organizations.*
- *However, instead of taking necessary actions all our trading partners only came up with a solution that Türkiye should immediately take the animals so as not to violate animal welfare...*



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- Due to our sensitive approach to animal welfare, and specifically to prevent harm to animals, certain shipments of this type have been accepted into our country through alternative solutions, despite being unsuitable.
- Unfortunately, exporting countries have repeated the same mistakes, assuming that whatever they send to Türkiye will be accepted.
- When animals that do not meet import requirements are sent to our country, all EU country authorities provide the following responses;
  - It was a minor mistake.
  - The animals are actually healthy.
  - Emergency slaughter should not be performed; animals are valuable.
  - Animal welfare is very important.
  - From now on, attention will be paid to such errors.
  - An investigation will be conducted into the official personnel who approved the shipment.
- Altough
  - Animals have entered just 300 meters inside our country's official borders,
  - Still present in the customs area,
  - Still held under the control of veterinarians at the Veterinary Border Control Point Directorate
  - Still not unloaded from the transport vehicle in some cases

❖ We are informed that these shipments cannot be returned or sent back under any circumstances.

# Thank you

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