



# An update on EU activities on transport of animals

*Whole Journey Scenario Workshop*

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# Background

- First EU legislation on protection of animals during transport was Directive 77/489.
- Welfare of transported animals started to be more regulated in the early 90s.
- In 1999 the protocol of the EU “Amsterdam Treaty” defined animals as sentient beings.

# Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport

**Scope:** live vertebrate animals transported in connection with an economic activity.

## General technical rules

- No weak or sick animals
- Means of transport
- Loading, unloading and handling

## Specific rules

- Journey times and resting periods
- Space allowances
- Additional rules for long journeys
- Livestock vessels and sea containers

# Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on official controls

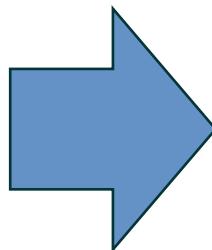
OCR repeals the Articles on checks and inspections of Regulation 1/2005

Art. 21 sets requirements related to animal welfare:

- Official controls by the Competent Authorities at all relevant stages;
- Actions and notifications in case of non-compliance;
- Allows for development and adoption of tertiary legislation:
  - Performance of official controls, administrative assistance, verification of AW at borders etc.
  - Use of indicators and measurables on AW, unified frequency of official controls etc.

# Tertiary legislation on livestock vessels

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/842 on official controls of livestock vessels
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/372 on the recording, contingency plans, approval of livestock vessels and on exit points



- Mutual teams of inspectors;
- Port State control rules;
- Visual evidence of inspections.
- Electronic database;
- Recording certificates of approval and inspections;
- Contingency plans;
- Vet on board during 1st journey;
- Control post near the exit point.

# Council Regulation 1255/97 on staging point

- Requirements for feeding, watering, accommodating and resting animals for at least 24 h.
- Annex with specific criteria:
  - A. Health and hygiene measures (i.e. complete cleaning for at least 24 h after maximum 6 days)
  - B. Construction and facilities
  - C. Operations

# Commission proposal for new Regulation

## Background:

- Current legislation remains unchanged for 20 years;
- Scientific and technological progress has evolved;
- EU citizens' expectations are high;
- Need for modernisation and simplification;
- Commission new proposal adopted on 7 December 2023.

## Key new requirements:

- Reduced journey times;
- Increased space allowances;
- Wider digitalisation and real-time traceability;
- Stricter rules on export;
- Equivalent rules at import;
- Other (i.e. sanctions etc.)

For more details: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_23\\_6251](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_6251)

# Next steps of EU lawmaking process

Commission

Co-legislators

EU legislation

Proposed legislation

European Parliament, Council

Examine the proposal  
Propose amendments  
Agree on the final legislation

# EFSA scientific opinions on welfare during transport



**For free moving animals and animals transported in containers**



## EFSA key conclusions :

- **Shorter journeys;**
- **Lower upper temperatures;**
- **More space for animals.**

- <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/infographics/animal-welfare-during-transport-free-moving-animals>
- <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/infographics/animal-welfare-during-transport-animals-containers>

# Commission audits on transport in 2026

- In the meantime the enforcement of the existing legislation remains a priority.
- Plan of the audits on transport by livestock vessels:
  - Ireland: February
  - Slovenia: February
  - Croatia: March
  - Spain: November (tbc)

# External studies in progress

- Study on **animal welfare indicators**, delivery by September 2026
- Study on **digitalization during animal transport**, delivery by January 2026
- Study on **digital solutions for traceability of dogs and cats**, June 2026



Thank you  
for your attention!