Conference on the enforcement of animal welfare during transport

Bringing Best Practice to Light

PROGRAMME

Dublin 29 may 2013
The European Commission and the Irish Presidency with the support of U.E.C.B.V. present:

Conference on the enforcement of animal welfare during transport

Bringing Best Practice to Light

May 29th, 2013
Dublin Castle, Ireland
Opening Messages

There is a positive correlation between enhanced animal welfare practices and product safety and quality, environmental protection, the working conditions for animal handlers and the image of European food products both within and outside the European Union with resultant economic benefits. Armed with this knowledge, European citizens are increasingly demanding that their food is derived from animals that have been treated according to high welfare standards for the duration of their lives. Globalisation and international trade has meant that consumer focus on animal welfare is no longer confined to the farm or slaughter house. Welfare at time of transport and its related operations is increasingly to the forefront of the consumer’s agenda.

Six years after the application of the EU Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport, this conference will provide stakeholders from government, industry and NGOs with an important opportunity to reflect and discuss the practical considerations, approaches and perspectives in constructively implementing this Regulation. The meeting adopts a holistic approach by addressing the key issues to be considered prior to, during and after completion of the journey. Participants will learn about integrating animal welfare considerations with vehicle design and manufacture, the effect of driver training and behaviour on the welfare of animals and the carrying out of road side checks amongst others. An organised journey reflecting the operational reality of the animal transportation continuum is presented. The visual impact of this initiative will help focus the participant’s attention to points where best practice and enforcement measures may be best applied to improve the welfare of the animals being transported.

09:00 9:35

Welcome session
Moderator: Michael Sheahan, Dept of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland

Welcome messages
Simon Coveney T.D.
Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland

Tonio Borg
Commissionaire for Health and Consumer Policy

Introduction of the conference
Andrea Gavinelli
Unit G3 - Animal Welfare, Directorate Health and Consumers, European Commission

Session 1 — Prior to the Journey

Moderator: Des Maguire, Food and Veterinary Office
‘If you fail to prepare, you prepare to fail’

In this session stakeholder representatives from private and public enterprise will outline the factors to be considered before the journey takes place. Delegates will receive valuable insights into welfare friendly vehicle design and manufacture, operational aspects of sea going vessel inspections by a competent authority and the considerations that must be taken into account when planning a journey, selecting a transporter and deciding which animals to transport.

09:35 09:50

Adam Buitelaar
Buitelaar International Trading Ltd, Ireland
Preparing for the Journey

09:50 10:05

Arnaldo Ghilardi
Pezzaioli s.r.l, Italy
Means of transport - When technology meets Welfare

10:05 10:20

Michel Courat
Eurogroup for Animals, Belgium
Practical guidelines to assess fitness for transport for adult bovines: A stakeholders’ initiative

10:20 10:35

Leslie Moffat/Margreet Steendijk
Eyes on Animals, Netherlands
Cracks in the Crates

10:35 10:50

Xavier Manteca
School of Veterinary Science, Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona, Spain
Training as a major strategy to improve animal welfare during transport

10:50 11:00

Questions and Answers

11:00 11:15

Coffee
Session 2 — During the journey

Moderator: Michael Sheahan, Dept of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland
[“It is not the destination; it’s the journey that matters”]

Recognising that highly skilled personnel are critical to the welfare of the animals, this session on welfare during the journey focusses largely on the driver / animal interaction where their important role in handling animals are highlighted. This role is largely underpinned by certified training that promotes exemplary behaviour. The importance and implementation of official controls during roadside checks and the role of control posts in promoting welfare standards are also addressed. A case study on co-operation between two member states is presented.

11:15 11:30  
Jim Hegarty  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland  
Inspection of walk-on walk-off cattle vessels - an Irish experience.

11:30 11:45  
Giles Garcion  
European Livestock and Meat Trading Union (UECBV) / Fédération Française des Commerçants en Bestiaux (FFCB)  
The driver’s importance in handling animals

11:45 12:00  
Mitja Sedlbauer  
Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection, Slovenia  
Mobile unit of official veterinarians in Slovenia

12:00 12:15  
Stephanie Ronan  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland  
System of formal collaboration between French and Irish authorities to monitor control post usage by Irish transporters

12:15 12:30  
Lucie Sauvain  
Bardy Bresse Control Post, France  
The role and obligation of the control post in accordance with animal welfare legislation

12:30 13:00  
Questions and Answers

13:00 14:30  
Lunch  
Moderator: Dermot Murphy, Dept of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland

14:30 14:45  
Luca Dal Monte  
Distaccamento Polizia Stradale di Lagnago, Italy  
Practical experiences of the Italian Police in the control of animal welfare during transport

14:45 15:00  
Julia Havenstein  
Animals’ Angels, Germany  
Enforcement of animal protection rules at EU livestock markets

15:00 15:15  
Petya Petkova  
Bulgarian Food Safety Authority  
Checks at exit points during transit
Session 3 — Post Journey Quality Assessment

Moderator: Dermot Murphy, Dept of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland
['It is not over, ‘til it’s over']

It must be borne in mind that once the animals have reached their destination, the requirement for welfare assessments via own checks programmes and official controls still remain. Checks on the animals, documentation and outputs from navigation technologies can reveal much information to identify welfare deficiencies in the journey just completed. This session discusses own checks programmes conducted on arrival at the slaughterhouse as well as official controls that take place on journey completion.

15:15 15:30
Jos Goebbels
European Livestock and Meat Trading Union (UECBV) / Dutch Meat Association (COV)
Own checks programme and official controls concluded upon arrival at the slaughterhouse

15:30 15:45
Joop de Leeuw
Nederlandse Voedsel en Waren Autoriteit
Journey log checks: focus on GPS / navigation data

15:45 16:00
Questions and Answers

16:00 16:20
Coffee

Session 4 — What does the future hold?

Moderator: Marc Billiet, International Road Transport Union
[“Where do we go from here?”]

Animal welfare is a dynamic discipline with a constantly changing landscape. Improvements in working methods, innovation and technology allow for better assessment of good transportation and associated practices. Animal and outcome based indicators are increasingly used to assess welfare, these in addition to quality schemes merit investigation within the transportation realm. Enforcement remains a challenge and mechanisms for improvement will be discussed. This session also looks at the future roles of the Commission and Parliament to further improve the welfare of animals.

16:20 16:35
Piet Thijsse
European Livestock and Meat Trading Union (UECBV) / Nederlandse Bond van Handelaren in Vee (NBHV)
Use of indicators to assess the improvement of the transport conditions for livestock

16:35 16:50
Christine Hafner
Animals’ Angels, Germany / 8 hours, United Kingdom

16:50 17:05
Michael Scannell
Food and Veterinary Office, DG-SANCO, European Commission
How to prepare now for what the future will bring?

17:05 17:20
Anne Jensen, MEP, Denmark
Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
How can The European Parliament contribute to best practices in animal transport?

17:20 17:35
Questions and Answers

17:35 17:45
Concluding Comments

Evening

19:00
Conference Dinner at Bewley’s Hotel, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.
Speaker biographies, photos and abstracts
Mr. Simon Coveney, T.D.

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland.

Simon Coveney was appointed as Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine on March 9th 2011. Simon was first elected to the Dáil (Irish Parliament) in 1998 as one of Fine Gael’s youngest members of parliament aged 26. He replaced his father Hugh Coveney TD following his untimely death.

He has held numerous positions within the party including Spokesperson for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, Transport and the Marine, Chairperson of Fine Gael’s policy team, and has produced Fine Gael’s policy on stimulus and economic recovery policy titled ‘New ERA’. He was also a member of the European Parliament in 2004 for Fine Gael and was a member of the EPP-ED group and author of the European Parliament’s Annual Report on Human Rights in the World 2004. A member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, in June 2005 he was appointed the Co-ordinator for Human Rights for the EPP-ED Group.

Simon holds a B.Sc. in Agriculture and Land Management from Royal Agriculture College, Gloucestershire. He was also educated at Clongowes Wood College, County Kildare; University College Cork, and Gurteen Agricultural College, County Tipperary.

Tonio Borg

Member of the European Commission

Tonio Borg was born in Floriana, Malta on 12th May 1957. He presently occupies the post of European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy in the second Barroso Commission.

Borg studied law at the University of Malta and graduated as a Doctor of Law in 1979. As a university student he was active in the Maltese Christian Democrat Student organisation and a member of the University Students’ Council. He was also a member of the youth section of the Nationalist Party (Christian Democratic Party) holding various posts including that of President and Secretary General.

He was called to the bar in 1980, practicing law for fifteen years, specialising in human rights cases. Between 1990 and 1995 he served as member of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture. Borg also held the post of lecturer in public law at the University of Malta. He was also a Director of Mid-Med Bank (nowadays HSBC Bank Malta) between 1987 and 1992.

Tonio Borg was first elected to the House of Representatives in the 1992 general election in the interest of the Nationalist Party. During this period as a backbencher he was also member of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (1992–95), board member of the Maltese Planning Authority (1992–95) and member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee between the European and Maltese parliaments (1992–95).

He was appointed Minister of Home Affairs and served in this capacity between April 1995 and October 1996 and again from 1998 to 2003. As Minister of Home Affairs during this period his portfolio included, amongst other things, local government, environment and urban planning and management of state properties. He was also responsible for immigration.

Justice was added to Borg’s portfolio in April 2003, following the Party’s second electoral success and in March 2004 Borg successfully contested the post of Deputy Leader of the Nationalist Party. Borg also became Deputy Prime Minister, while remaining Minister of Justice and Home Affairs and also served as Leader of the House of Representatives.

In March 2008, Tonio Borg was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister.

On 28 November 2012 Borg was confirmed as European Commissioner responsible for Health and Consumer Affairs.
Andrea Gavoinelli

Head of Unit: Animal Welfare, DG SANCO, European Commission, Brussels, BELGIUM.

Andrea is a veterinarian and he has been a policy official at the European Commission since 1999. He is currently in charge of the Animal Welfare Unit in the Health and Consumers Directorate General of the European Commission.

Since 2001, he is active member of the “Working Group on Animal Welfare” of the World Animal Health Organization (OIE) and he is member of specific working groups at international level with EU trading partners. Andrea is member of the editorial board of the «FAO Gateway to Farm Animal Welfare».

The main activities of the Unit that he is coordinating are directed towards the implementation of the standards foreseen in the EU legislation and to raise the understanding of animal welfare at international level and its integration in the area of sustainable farming.

Introduction

The link between animal welfare and food safety is without question but consumers in the European Union are no longer satisfied with choosing products based solely on quality and safety. Ethical issues that surround sustainable farming and food production are increasingly influencing consumer behaviour. Improved animal welfare practices have the potential to become a unique selling point for EU food affording it a strong competitive advantage. This advantage should not be underestimated in a globalised production chain. Enhanced welfare at the time of transport plays a key role in building and maintaining this advantage.

The objective of this conference is to contribute to the implementation and effective enforcement of Regulation (EC) 1/2005. The event will act as a valuable discussion forum and a unique networking and learning opportunity allowing the sharing of practical experiences among the primary stakeholders of the livestock trading industry. It will present contemporary perspectives including the use of novel approaches and modern technologies to promote better compliance.

A schematic representation of a journey is presented. This initiative will help to focus the participant’s attention to points along the journey, be it at the vehicle manufacturer, the stage of vessel inspection, at the roadside or on arrival at the slaughterhouse where best-practice and enforcement may be more efficiently applied to improve the welfare of the transported animals.

It is a pleasure to be welcomed to the historic surroundings of Dublin Castle made available to us thanks to the Irish Presidency. I wish you a very enjoyable and enlightening conference and I do hope you avail of this learning opportunity to network with fellow participants to facilitate the exchange of ideas and information on how best we can improve the welfare of animals being transported.

Adam Buitelaar

Buitelaar International Trading Ltd, Castledermot, Co. Kildare

Adam Buitelaar is Managing Director of Buitelaar International Trading, one of the largest livestock exporters in Ireland. The company has a strong position in several European countries, including the Netherlands, Great Britain, France, Spain, and Ireland, and it has been in business since 1922. Adam is the 5th generation of the Buitelaar family to be involved in the cattle export industry.

Buitelaar International Trading is also involved in other areas of farming, including calf milk powders, cattle feeds and supply chain management from the calf to the slaughter house, deboning and retail packing.

The company is headquartered in Castledermot, County Kildare.

Preparing for the journey

This presentation will discuss the process of identifying, collecting and transporting cattle for export. It will focus on picking out the best Irish cattle for export, confirming their health and ensuring the paperwork is in order before any cattle leave the farm. It will emphasise the importance of having a truck driver who is fully qualified to handle stock and can both deal with, and anticipate, problems. Trucks must also meet certain standards as cattle are transported to the holding centre, where they are vetted and prepared for actual export. Adam will spell out the numerous stages of the process as the cattle are shipped overseas, as well as introducing the different parties involved, all of whom work together to ensure that EU regulations are strictly adhered to. This ensures the cattle’s health and well-being.
Arnaldo Ghilardi  
**Pezzaioli, Montichiari, Italy**

Arnaldo Ghilardi is a mechanical engineer and technical manager for Pezzaioli s.r.l. in Montichiari, Italy, a leading manufacturer of trailers in Europe. He maintains institutional contacts with the European Commission, National Ministries, EFSA and JRC. He has participated in training courses on animal welfare during transport at international level and has presented his paper ‘Road vehicles for transport: Evolution of technology’ at several international conferences.

**Means of transport - When technology meets Welfare**

**High loading decks:** To meet the requirements of some veterinary administrations, a special low loader vehicle has been developed to give more space over the head of the animals. It permits to load bovines on two decks granting 1.8 m each and, pigs or sheep on three decks with more than 1.1 m. The vehicle is completed with all the recent equipment required by Reg. 1/2005/CE like drinking nipples and bowls, fans, insulating roof and so on.

**Heated vehicles:** These vehicles are used in particular rigid-climate areas, like Scandinavia, Siberia and Northern Europe generally. The system avoids animals having to go into a frozen chamber, and helps to maintain a good temperature inside. Available in two versions, the simplest can provide inside just a few degrees more than outside, while the top version can guarantee an inside temperature of about 15-18 °C with -20 °C outside (especially used for small piglets). Special equipment can also warm the drinking water to avoid freezing and permit animals to get water when the outside temperature is below 0 °C.

**Collection, storage and transmission of trip data** The system, introduced by Reg. 1/2005/CE, has been continuously modified and improved up to now, and in the last top configuration with the cab touch screen, it permits the continuous control of the temperature inside the vehicle, switching on and off the fans when needed. It also allows the introduction of the loading data (TRADES number, type, quantity and condition of animals, loading areas and so on) together with driver information, start and finish data.

Michel Courat  
**Eurogroup for Animals**

Michel Courat is currently policy officer for farm animals at Eurogroup for Animals. He joined the European NGO early 2008 after having spent 9 years as an official veterinarian in the UK, working for the Meat Hygiene Service. As an OV, one of his main duties was to supervise and safeguard animal welfare in abattoirs and during transport. He had also to implement and enforce the European and British animal welfare and hygiene legislations. During all these years he had the opportunity to build friendly connections with farmers and food business operators, and to better understand their concerns.

Michel Courat has also been involved in auditing missions and in export and import issues: as the portal official veterinarian in Falmouth, he was in charge of the local border inspection post (BIP). He has been previously in charge of supervising the first exports of British beef just after the ban had been lifted in 1999. On the frontline during the FMD outbreaks of 2001 and 2007, he had to deal with emergency situations where he had to control all the transported animals at their arrival at the slaughterhouse.

Among his other experiences, he ran a small animal practice, and had a small hobby farm with poultry, goats, ponies and rabbits. He had also a brief experience in aquaculture, in the Ifremer institute in Brest.

As the Eurogroup policy officer for farm animals he has been actively participating to the preparation of the European declaration on the alternatives to surgical castration of pigs. He was also chairing the Working Group of stakeholders who prepared and published in January 2012 the “Practical guidelines to assess fitness for transport of adult bovines”. He is now chairing the new Working Group who is preparing similar practical guidelines for pigs, whose publication is foreseen for early 2014.

He is also a writer and has published six crime fictions books.
Practical guidelines to assess fitness for transport of adult bovines: A stakeholders’ initiative

All persons involved in transport of live animals know that a good preparation of the journey is essential to ensure that the animals will be transported on the best possible conditions. The organization of the journey (itinerary, control post, journey time, preparation of journey logs, etc.), the choice of the appropriate haulier and transport lorries (space allowance, deck height), a good preparation of the animals, avoiding mixing of batches, a careful loading, in appropriate conditions to minimize stress, are the key elements to have a “good” transport.

But even if a live transport is very well prepared, animals will be exposed to stress; suffering and even to the risk of death should they not be fit to be transported for the planned journey. This is the reason why the legislation, through the provisions of the Chapter I of Annex I of the (EC) Regulation 1/2005 is listing all the conditions that allow the persons involved in the loading of the animals to assess whether the animals are fit or not to be transported.

However, the conditions exposed in the legislation are not always clear for the reader, and often room for interpretation exist making possible conflicts at time of loading or, too often, as demonstrated in numerous animal welfare inspections, transport of unfit animals. To address this problem, a group of stakeholders including veterinarians, meat and livestock traders, livestock transporters and animal welfare NGOs has decided in 2009 to prepare “Practical guidelines to assess fitness for transport of adult bovines”. Even if it is not a legally binding document this guide intends, through numerous illustrations, clear explanations, and evaluation criteria to be a very user-friendly tools making the decision to load or not to load an animal easier for all actors of the bovine sector.

Lesley Moffat
Director / Inspector - Eyes on Animals

Originally from Montreal (Canada). In 2000 completed a Masters of Animal Science (poultry behaviour) from University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada under Dr. Ian Duncan. In 2001 moved to Europe to work as a full-time inspector in France for Animals’Angels. In late 2008 founded Eyes on Animals in The Netherlands. Eyes on Animals is an inspection-based non-profit organization that focuses on checking if animal-protection legislation is being respected and enforced. Eyes on Animals stimulates industry players to take steps themselves to improve animal-welfare and applaud those that do. Eyes on Animals also gives courses on EU animal-transport legislation to the highway police (so far in Belgium and Hungary) and gives «Welfare Workshops» to livestock truck drivers.

Margreet Steendijk
Senior Inspector - Eyes on Animals

From the Netherlands. For many years active in animal-welfare, ranging from the Dutch ‘Animal ambulance’ to rescuing street elephants, gibbons and bears in Asia. In 2009 decided to spend less time working in her clinic as a therapist so that she could do more structural volunteer work for Eyes on Animals. Margreet has been regularly active in the field for Eyes on Animals since 2010.

Cracks in the Crates

Due to a lower economic value than larger livestock animals, chickens often receive much less care during loading and transport despite having equal standing in the EU legislation. A tolerance level of 2% mortality during transport is accepted within the poultry transport industry and even among official veterinarian inspectors. Such a high mortality level in the pig or cattle transport sector would be considered a scandal. Additionally, this figure does not cover all the birds arriving with crushed wings and heads, trapped feet, lying on their backs without being able to turn upright and broken bones. The level of avoidable chicken suffering during transport is shockingly high. There is an urgent need to improve their transport conditions and see to it that they finally receive the full protection set out for them in the EC 1/2005 legislation. Eyes on Animals has inspected dozens of chicken transports and with this experience would like to propose solutions that could help alleviate some of the suffering- namely better designed transport containers that adequately fulfil the EU criteria and provide access during transport.
Xavier Manteca

School of Veterinary Science, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona 08193 Barcelona, Spain

Xavier Manteca Vilanova received his BVSc degree from the Autonomous University of Barcelona and an MSc in Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare from the University of Edinburgh. He also has a PhD from the Autonomous University of Barcelona. Currently, he is professor at the School of Veterinary Science in Barcelona, where he teaches animal behaviour and animal welfare.

**Training as a major strategy to improve animal welfare during transport**

During transport animals are exposed simultaneously to a variety of stressors in a relatively short period of time. Such stressors include fasting and water deprivation, mixing of unacquainted individuals, handling by humans, exposure to a novel environment, noise and vibration, forced physical exercise and extremes of temperature and humidity. All these factors contribute to activate the stress response and to reduce animal welfare, and may also cause economic losses. Training of personnel involved in transport of animals is likely to be one of the most cost-effective strategies to improve animal welfare during transport. Such training should be addressed to at least three groups of personnel: those involved in loading and unloading, vehicle drivers and official inspectors. Loading and unloading are the most stressful parts of transport and adequate handling of animals is therefore of paramount importance. Also, identification of animals which are not fit for transport should be included in any training program. Besides loading and unloading, other welfare problems which can be addressed by appropriate training are excessive stocking density and poor driving. Official inspectors should receive training not only on legal issues, but also on how to identify poor welfare in animals that are being transported. Indicators of poor welfare can be animal-based or resource-based. Animal-based indicators provide information on the actual welfare of the animals but their use may require more training than that of resource-based indicators. Therefore, knowledge about animal-based indicators during transport should be a priority in training programmes for official inspectors.

Jim Hegarty

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland

Jim Hegarty qualified as a veterinary surgeon from University College Dublin in 1981. Following 13 years in large animal practice in Co. Wexford and Co. Cork he joined DAFF in December 1994. He works in Cork attached to the Cork Regional District Veterinary Office where he holds the post of Portal Veterinary Supervisor for Cork Port and Airport. He completed an MSc in European Regulatory Affairs at the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland in 2006.

**Inspection of Walk-on Walk-off Cattle Vessels - An Irish Experience**

This presentation details the veterinary inspection process involved in the approval of Walk-on Walk-off Cattle vessels for the transport of cattle from Ireland by sea. The regulations provide for the welfare of cattle during sea transport detailing the necessary requirements for adequate feed, water, space, ventilation, drainage, care of sick animals while also providing for safety at sea.

All such vessels must be in full compliance with:

- Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 in addition to the following national measures:

Gilles Garcion

UECBV / FFCB

Gilles Garcion is the Managing Director of SSCB Garcion Guichard with key responsibilities for company finances, administration, human resources and the company’s fleet of vehicles. SSCB was established in 2001 following the amalgamation of SSCB Garcion and SA Guichard. Its main activities relate to animal rearing and live animal transportation. Gilles received his professional certificate of competence in national and international transport in 2004. In 2008 he received his certificate of competence to transport live animals.

**The driver’s importance in handling animals.**
Mitja Šedlbauer, DVM MSc

Animal Health and Animal Welfare Division
Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection

Born in 1972. Graduated 1998 at the Veterinary Faculty in Ljubljana. Completed post graduate Animal Welfare Program at University of British Columbia in 2005. Worked in several veterinarian fields such as microbiology and environmental health. Since 2007 works for Veterinary Administration of the Republic of Slovenia, focusing exclusively on animal welfare and animal protection.

Mobile unit of Official Veterinarians in Slovenia

Established in 2004 with the purpose of performing official control of road transport of live animals on Slovenian road, mobile unit of official veterinarians has been very successful in improving the conditions in which animals are being transported on roads in Slovenia. Being a transit country Slovenia hosts a large number of shipments of live animals originating in the NE or SE parts of the Union and on their way to destinations in Italy or overseas destinations, such as Lebanon. Most common infringements found during official controls include faults on watering systems, transports with exceeded time limitations, and overcrowding of animals.

Stephanie Ronan

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland

Stephanie qualified from University College Dublin in June 1993 with a Degree in Veterinary Medicine. After spending 8 years in a mixed veterinary practice in County Wicklow, Ireland, Stephanie joined the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine working in head office initially in the policy area of BSE and Animal By-products before transferring to Animal Welfare and Transport Division in 2008, working mainly on welfare of animals on farm and during transport.

«System of formal collaboration between French and Irish authorities to monitor control post usage by Irish transporters».

The presentation will outline the formal system collaboration that has been in place between the Irish and French authorities since February 2011. The system was set up to monitor compliance with journey time and rest period requirements by Irish transporters. The presentation will be structured on the following broad headings:

- Background to the non-compliance issue and purpose of the collaborative effort
- How the system works in practice
- Results of the monitoring process
- Enforcement action taken
- The future.

Lucie Sauvain

Bardy Bresse Control Post, France

Lucie Sauvain was born in Dijon Bourgogne France. She graduated with a degree in technology in trade from the University of Economy and Trade in Dijon-Auxerre. Since 2006, Lucie has been working at Bardy Bresse initially as the company secretary for a period of two years prior to becoming operations manager, a position that she has held for the past 5 years. Her main duties include evolving business policies in terms of first class equipment, driver training and animal welfare amongst others.

The role and obligation of the control post in accordance with animal welfare legislation

The history and profile of the BRESSE BARDY company will initially be presented. The presentation will further outline

- The critical role played by cooperation between the authorities and control post in order to improve quality of animal welfare during long journeys.
- The key part played by the TRACES system in control post operations.
- The importance of the journey log and the responsibility of the control post in this regard.
- The interaction between economics and animal welfare and its effect on trade.
Julia Havenstein  
*Animals’ Angels e.V.*

Since 2003 employed with the association Animals’ Angels, which focuses on the protection of animals during transport, in particular long distance transports. In charge of the investigations conducted in Spain and Portugal with a special focus on animal markets but also carrying out investigations in other countries and having been visiting animal markets in Bulgaria, France, Romania and Morocco. Currently studying the Master program in “Animal Law and Society” at Barcelona University, Spain.

“Enforcement of animal protection rules at EU livestock markets”

Livestock markets are ambiguous with regard to animal welfare. On the one hand, the stay at a market means additional hardship for animals which could be avoided by other trading models. On the other hand, markets offer the competent veterinary authorities the possibility of easily checking animals originating from different holdings, monitoring animal handling and checking transport practices and means of transport. Where competent authorities and market operators use this opportunity markets can serve as “education centers” and as such have a positive impact on animal welfare. Animals’ Angels have observed such a positive impact in Spain where market operators and competent authorities undertook major efforts to improve animal welfare conditions at markets. However, the standards at animal markets and the enforcement of animal protection rules differ very much within the EU. Unfortunately, only in a few places do authorities and operators take animal welfare seriously. Animals’ Angels have visited markets in the EU where animal welfare rules seem inexistent and others where the legislation has been disregarded for years and the lawbreakers remain unchallenged.

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Luca Dal Monte  
*Distaccamento Polizia Stradale di Legnago, Italy.*

Luca Dal Monte was born November 10, 1968 in Cologna Veneta (VR) and lives in Legnago. In 1988 he enlisted in the State Police and attended the Agent Student at the School of Trieste. On completion of the course he transferred to the 2nd Mobile Unit of Padua, where he stayed for two years. In 1990 he attended a 2nd course at the Training School Agents of Peschiera del Garda. After the course he was stationed in Milan. In 1992 he transferred to the Crime Prevention Unit of Milan. In the same year he moved to the Traffic Police of Verona South Subsection. In 1993, he was transferred to the Traffic Police Detachment of Legnago (VR), where he is currently serving. In 1994 he participated in 61 Specialization Course in the services of the Traffic Police. As part of the Traffic Police he specialises and performs extensive studies in the field, particularly in the area of animal welfare during transport and related operations and has found numerous violations of European law.

**Practical experiences of the Italian Police in the control of animal welfare during transport**

We present some case studies on the intervention of the Italian Traffic Police on the control of animal welfare during transport, any violations found and the measures taken via the application of Regulation (EC) n. 1/2005. Some references will be made on the difficulties encountered in the application of the legislation.
**Jos Goebbels**

**UECBV / COV**

Education: Veterinarian
- Specialist veterinary Public Health of the Royal Dutch veterinary Association

Current position:
- President of the Dutch meat Association
- Vice Chairman of the Meat industry section of UECVB

Former position:
- Director of the Dutch Food and Product safety Authority
- General Manager of the MAF Verification Agency in New Zealand
- Deputy CVO in the Ministry of Health
- Member of several EU and Codex Committees

**Own-check programmes and official controls conducted upon arrival at the slaughterhouse**

The quality of the meat depends on a high number of factors: biological factors, zoo-technical factors, animal health factors, and technical factors. Among the latter, animal welfare: the conditions of transport, arrival at the slaughterhouse, and slaughtering.

For this reason, animal welfare cannot be seen as “stand-alone” rule, but must be a part of a holistic approach, which combined legal provisions, taking into consideration also:

- Animal Health,  
- Hygiene,
- Public Health,  
- Environment protection,
- Food Safety,  
- Labour condition and equity.

As regards animal welfare, the transport and slaughtering conditions may provoke injuries, ecchymoses and, depending on the species, the reduction in the glycogen reserves with a sub-sequential increase in DFD meat cases, variation in pH of the muscular...
tissue, with an impact on the colour of the meat. Therefore, the meat industry develops check programmes aiming at:

- complying with the legal provisions [Regulations (EC) No 1/2005, No 1099/2009 and No 853/2004],
- improving the quality of meat.

In some cases, the own-check programmes are developed in the framework of an insurance quality scheme, such as CERTUS in Belgium or IKB in the Netherlands.

The checks focus on:

- the stocking density,    •  the number of stressed animals,
- the unloading,           •  the docking of tails in pigs....

Inputs are recorded and reported to the haulier or/and the farmer.

In addition, a slaughterhouse considers the organization, education and supervision of personnel involved in the handling of animals prior to the slaughter as a priority and as a special field of action from which it is definitely possible to get, albeit indirectly, an improvement in the welfare of animals transported.

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**Joop F.M. de Leeuw**

*divisie Veterinair & Import*

*Nederlands Voedsel en Waren Autoriteit (NVWA)*

I have a laboratory background and I finished two higher educations (human cytology/histology and zoology). With this luggage I went to different third country development projects in North Yemen (1981-83), Rwanda (1984-87) and South Yemen (1989-1990). After that I studied some philosophy of science...just for fun. Working for the NVWA started in 1991 as chief-laboratory (bacteriological & antibiotic checks; checks on hormones and clenbuterol on calves; checks on radioactivity in meat etc.). In 1995 this NVWA-lab merged with some others as a result of re-organisation and I was placed at the head office in The Hague on the department of «live animals & live animal products». Function: writing (export) instructions for the veterinarians in the field based on European and national legislation. In 2000 I returned to a regional office (on my own request) as a so called «regional livestock specialist»: advising vets about export certification live animals, auditing semen & embryo collection centres/teams and contacting branch organisations for transport and export-related (mainly to third countries) issues. Some more merging followed but they did not have much effect on my actual work. At this moment I co-ordinate/manage the Bureau for livestock transport (since 1/1/2012). This is de place where we receive all returned journey-logs as well as other notifications concerning animal welfare and disease prevention related matters (veterinary declaration concerning transport of injured animals to slaughterhouses).

One of the subjects regarding the journey logs is inspecting transports which passed 21 hours riding because here we see some infringements between ride-and-resting times of drivers as opposed to the travel schemes of animals.

**Journey-log checks: focus on GPS/navigation-data**

Recently (1 February 2013) we started a project in which we request transporters to send us GPS-data for trips they made and which passed the 21 hours of travelling. A pilot in 2011 showed that in 45% of the returned GPS-data shortcomings could be found: from (minor) administrative errors to serious infringements like unnecessary delays or not resting at a control post.

We decided to make these checks an on-going concern meaning an at random check of 20% of the PGS-data of these transports and I’ll give an idea about the results since February. With these data we check specifically on resting periods, control posts, milking facilities, waiting time in ports (for vessels) and near borders (of the EU).

Enforcement contains of (written) warnings, administrative fines and order for penalty payments. I’ll show some numbers like export certifications and transports in 2012 (per animal category) as well as taken measures and I’ll tell something about the reliability of GPS/navigation-data.
Piet Thijsse

UECBV / NBHV

Mr. Piet Thijsse is born in The Hague on 6th of August 1950 and he graduated in Business Administration at the University of Rotterdam and Delft. For 21 years, from 1977, he was trader and exporter of livestock. From 1994 he is Member of the Dutch product board for livestock and meat (PVV). From 1998, he is Chairman of Dutch cattle trader organisation (NBHV) and from 1999 he is the Vice president of UECBV. Married with two daughters, his passions are horses and history.

“Use of indicators to assess the improvement of the transport conditions for the livestock”

Optimal livestock handling procedures and quality of the equipment are extremely important for both the livestock and meat producers, not only for obvious ethical reasons but also because it has been scientifically demonstrated that it can also mean the difference between economical profits and losses.

Therefore, UECBV in close cooperation with Eurogroup for Animals (EGfA), will explore the possibility to put in place independent transport audits using animal welfare indicators.

Since 1991, the American Meat Institute (AMI) Foundation has encouraged its members to subscribe to voluntary animal welfare guidelines and to embrace auditing programmes and, in the same year, published “Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines for Meat Packers”, authored by Dr. Temple Grandin.

The concept of animal welfare indicators appears also inter alia in the EU research programme “Welfare Quality”, in the “Guide for the care and use of agricultural animals in research and teaching”, published by the Swiss Federation of Animal Science Societies (FASS) as well as in the “Scientific opinion concerning the welfare of animals during transport”, published by EFSA in 2011.

The assessment of animal welfare can be done at different stages but mainly:

• During loading;
• During transport;
• At the livestock markets or assembly centres;
• At the control posts;
• At the slaughterhouse.

The following items should be considered:

1. The preparation of the animals;
2. The animals’ fitness and behaviour;
3. The maintenance of vehicles;
4. The truck driving practices and the road conditions;
5. The design of the trucks;
6. The loading and unloading of animals.

What are the motivations of the initiative?

• Permanent discussion exists between traders and AW NGOs about effective improvement of animal welfare conditions during transport.
• There is little knowledge about short-distance transport (e.g. from farm to farm/ farm to market).
• No tangible evidence of those improvements exists, due to a lack of data or tools available to assess objectively the situation.

What is the aim of the initiative?

The aim is to demonstrate that the animal transport conditions have effectively improved, thanks to the EU legislation, to the implementation of good practices and to the general willingness of the business operators.

To achieve this objective, UECBV is planning to put in place monitoring procedures in cooperation with EGfA which would allow us know the proportion between acceptable transport (respecting AW rules) and not-acceptable ones.

Developing such animal-based indicators in transport in Europe would be a major factor of progress, as it would give a clear idea of what can be improved, bearing in mind one of Temple Grandin’s favourite mottos: “You can manage what you can measure.”
Christine Hafner

Animals’ Angels e.V. / 8 hours

Since 2002 employed with the association Animals’ Angels, which focuses on the protection of animals during transport, particularly long-distance transport. In charge of the investigations conducted in Italy, being the country with most animal transports in Europe. Carrying out investigations also on other routes, such as transports from EU to Turkey. Since 2005 conducting training courses for police forces in Italy on the legislation on the protection of animals during transport.

Practical approach to improve enforcement of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 - Potentials and Limits

Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 aims at guaranteeing a certain level of animal protection during transport. It is acknowledged that the Regulation’s enforcement has been insufficient so far, but it can be improved by increasing the quantity and the quality of checks. Such checks can only be efficient if the inspection authorities are provided with the necessary tools, i.e. they must have received adequate training, be in a position to impose effective penalties, have the possibility to unload the animals during the transport, in case this is necessary and there must be a sufficient and thus increased number of available inspection personnel. Therefore it is necessary that the Member States allocate considerably more funds to increase checks on animal transports.

However, enforcement has also its limits. On the one hand, some Member States seem reluctant to attribute the necessary financial resources in order to guarantee the aforementioned conditions. On the other hand, the Regulation contains numerous vague provisions, and others which are not enforceable in practice; as well, some necessary provisions are lacking, as for example minimum space requirements for rabbits and small lambs. This represents an enormous and often unmanageable obstacle to the inspection authorities.

Michael Scannell

Food and Veterinary Office, Directorate General Health and Consumers, Grange, Ireland.

Michael Scannell is Director of the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) in the Directorate General for Health and Consumers of the European Commission. The FVO is responsible for promoting proper enforcement and compliance with EU requirements on food safety, animal health and welfare and plant health. Prior to taking up this appointment in 2010 he worked in the European Commission in Brussels successively in the Directorates General for Development, Economic and Financial Affairs, the private offices of Commissioners Flynn and Byrne and since 2002 in the Directorate General for Health and Consumers.

How to prepare now for what the future will bring

Anne Jensen

Member of the European Parliament

Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

Mrs. Jensen is Member of the European Parliament representing the Liberal and Democratic group (ALDE). Since being elected in 1999, she has been heavily engaged in, i.a., the regulation of the transport sector. For example she initiated the project on renovation and promotion of high quality control posts in the European Union.

Before entering into politics Mrs. Jensen was a high-profiled businesswoman. She holds a M.S. in Economics and is a former Chief Economist at the Danish Bank Privatbanken - the current Nordea, former Director of the Danish Employers’ Confederation and former Chief Editor at the Danish newspaper Berlingske Tidende.

How can The European Parliament contribute to best practices in animal transport?

Serious instances in animal transport have been drawn to our attention in the past. Both drivers, animals and other stakeholders are affected by various ways of handling animals, and the legislation is often interpreted differently across member states. The European Parliament should be in front when it comes to enforce best practices and standards in animal transportation.
Bringing Best Practice to Light