

Impact assessment of Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport

Key messages

The aim of the study was to assess the impact of Regulation (EC) 1/2005 on welfare needs of animals, the implementation of the navigation system, the trade flow of live animals and the socio-economic implications of this Regulation including regional aspects.

Regulation 1/2005 has had the following effects:

- Improving animal welfare in a limited but beneficial manner
- Requiring the installation of satellite navigation system. However the proper use by transport companies and the use for control by National Competent Authorities is still in development;
- Possibly reducing the income of transport companies. Companies complying with the regulation had higher administrative costs and higher cost for the mandatory investment in means of transport. Market price for transport of live animals stayed on the same level or decreased which leads to lower incomes for those transport companies complying the law.
- Until 2009, no impact on regional animal production in remote areas are detected. Also slaughterhouses still operate in remote areas.
- No impact on the trade flows of live animals; International trade of live animals especially of pigs and poultry steadily increased in the period 2005-2009;

Huge differences exist between MS in:

- Method and speed of implementation of Regulation 1/2005;
- The enforcement of Regulation 1/2005;
- The penalties for infringements. For some countries the penalties are not dissuasive according to FVO missions;
- Actions plans. Some countries have no action plans, some restrict the action plans to training and development of guides to good practices and others based the action plan on an analysis of the major deficiencies detected.

These differences between MS harm the level playing field for transport companies, as showed above, and can harm animal welfare if journeys are extended because of differences in enforcement and penalties between MS.

Given the present situation, the following recommendations can be made:

1. Harmonise the implementation, enforcement and the penalties within EU MS and improve the communication between MS (art (26) and (27)).
2. Do not change the existing Regulation because it will slow down the present developments. Only if the present Regulation leads to poor or unacceptable animal welfare exceptions should be made (i.e. travelling times as recommended by EFSA (2011)).
3. Support the development of good guides to practices especially if these are developed by chain participants.