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European Commission DG SANCO

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Report of Austria on Inspections according to Article 27 of Regulation (EC) 1/2005 carried out in Austria in 2011.

Dear colleagues,

Please find attached the Austrian report on inspections according to Article 27 of Regulation (EC) 1/2005 carried out in Austria in 2011.

In accordance with Article 27 (2) we would like to present an analysis of the major deficiencies detected and inform you about the planned actions to address them:

- The report form provided is not applicable to the Austrian system. In contrast to the table provided, statistics on animal transports in Austria are based on the number of transporters checked, not on the number of animals transported. Therefore a different table is used.
- With regard to controls on the road the following problems occurred or, have increased respectively during the last report period: Due to austerity measures all local veterinary authorities reported that time consuming random checks on the road by official veterinarians are barely feasible. Co-operation with the police is essential, ensuring that a veterinarian is available, if during police controls a suspicion arises that animals are harmed in any way. From a medium time perspective controls should focus on checks at the place of departure and at the place of destination. Thus being intensified in all Memberstates would assure a very high percentage of controls while causing only feasible administrative burden and not resulting in delays of transports due to road side checks.

Actions planned: Local authorities have been instructed to take measures to raise the total number of road controls, random checks on the road will be continued in 2012 but will mainly be carried out by the police.

- As in the previous reports the statistics indicate that the percentage of infringements found during controls on the road is higher than those at places of origin or destination. Road checks are carried out mainly on transit routes, therefore the majority of transports checked on the road are longer distance / intra-Community movements / transports where infringements are found more frequently.

(The significant increase compared to the 2010 report resulted from the implementation of a new report scheme of the police. According to the reports of the local authorities the overall quality of transports remains stable, but it seems that not all fully compliant transports have been reflected within the statistics thus increasing the percentage of infringements detected.)

Actions planned: National provisions concerning the risk based controls on the road appear effective and will be maintained, as a relatively high percentage of non-compliant transports could be detected. Cooperation with the police will be intensified to raise the reliability of data.

- Nonconformity of the planned transport duration with the actual duration is reported quite frequently.

Actions planned: Official veterinarians have been reminded of the need to verify plausibility when dispatching transports at the places of origin, during road controls as well as at the place of destination. In case of implausible calculation corrective actions have to be taken. Where appropriate, logbooks of previous transports shall be taken into account. An advanced training course for official veterinarians covering this issue will take place in November 2012.

- As in previous years the total number of live animal transports in Austria seems to decrease. Local veterinary authorities assume that Austria might be avoided by international transporters using alternative routes. Data concerning transiting transporters are difficult to obtain and unreliable as there is no technical obligation in the TRACES System that ensures proper recording of transited countries.

- The vast majority of transport checks in Austria are carried out at slaughterhouses. Notwithstanding the effectiveness and necessity of those checks differences among slaughterhouses concerning the intensity of these checks and reports thereof have been identified.

Actions planned: In order to harmonize control procedures in slaughterhouses and reports thereof a national working group will be set up as soon as the

binding template for future reports according to Article 27 of Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 is finalized.

- Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 still contains several imprecise rules that periodically cause lack of legal formality. Especially the missing specifications concerning the transport of calves, the definition of adequate drinking devices, minimum internal heights and authorisations of transports cause problems executing this regulation. Austria would like to express its deep concern that those lacks of common definitions as well as other important issues have not been corrected within the framework of the report on the impact of Commission Regulation No. 1/2005 (EC)

As expressed in the working groups in Brussels Austria welcomes the ongoing discussions about a harmonization of the templates concerning reports according to Article 27 of Regulation (EC) 1/2005. However it is to be feared that by demanding all details as planned in the current drafts the quality of Memberstates' reports will decrease and that comparability of reports will even be downgraded.

Knowing that several technical adaptations would be necessary, Austria considers a best possible integration of the TRACES system inevitable for future documentation and reporting of live animal transports within the EU. The European Commission is encouraged to pursue this strategy and intensify the collaboration between the TRACES and animal welfare sectors within DG SANCO.

Austria wants to offer its full collaboration to elaborate a feasible and effective report template that can be used as an essential tool to assist the common interest on improving animal welfare during transport.

Best regards
For the Minister:
Dr. med.vet. Ulrich Herzog

Enclosure: 1

signed electronically

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