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Michał Wiezik MEP

Jadwiga Wiśniewska MEP

Secretariat:

Eurogroup for Animals

6, rue des Patriotes
B- 1000 Brussels

T: +32-2 740 08 20

F: +32- 2 740 08 29

www.animalwelfareintergroup.eu

info@eurogroupforanimals.org

Established in 1983

Stella Kyriakides

European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety

Rue de la Loi 200

1049 Brussels (BE)

Brussels, 14 June 2021

Dear Commissioner Kyriakides,

We are writing to you to bring your attention to the new evidence reported in the [Accountability Report: The Karim Allah and Elbeik's crises - Animal welfare during sea transport](#), with regards to the animal transport operations which took place between December 2020 and March 2021, and which involved the two livestock vessels Karim Allah (IMO n° 6519144) and Elbeik (IMO n° 6718427).

This report analyses the pieces of law and guidelines applicable to these two cases, outlining the liability of all the parties involved: the livestock vessels' carriers, the exporters, the Spanish, Croatian, Romanian as well as the importing countries' (i.e., Turkey and Libya) authorities.

As you know, these crises resulted in the death and unnecessary suffering of about 2,600 bovines that were onboard the two livestock vessels for three months. The Inspectors Attached to the Animal Health Inspection Service of the Agriculture and Fishing Area of the Region of Murcia confirmed that the welfare of the animals on board both cargos, that were still alive at the time of their return to Cartagena (ES), was seriously compromised by the lengths and conditions of the journeys.

We ask for you to do your utmost in ensuring that the Commission utilises its powers of oversight to ensure that the responsible parties will be duly prosecuted.

I am sure you agree that the Karim Allah and Elbeik cases continue to demonstrate the simple fact that the current law is not working in this area. We trust the Union will take stock of such unfortunate events by making sure that the revised Transport Regulation will effectively protect the animals during transport and put an end to detrimental practices.

We reaffirm our conviction that the upcoming legislative revision must finally end live exports from the Union, in line with the wishes of millions of European citizens, and **we urge the Commission to prepare a strategy to export meat/carcasses and genetic material instead.**

We thank you for your consideration of this matter and we remain at your disposal should you wish to discuss this further.

Yours Sincerely,

The Animal Transport Working Group

MEP Niels Fuglsang (S&D, DK), Chair
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