



Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture
– Berlin Office – 11055 Berlin

Member of the European Parliament
Mr Niels Fuglsang
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cc. by e-mail:
to all co-signatories

Julia Klöckner

Federal Minister

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REF 321-01003/0103

DATE 8/12/20 (m.p.)

Translation

Dear Mr Fuglsang (m.p.),

Thank you very much for your letter in which you and a further 44 Members of the European Parliament point out the serious problems encountered in long-distance live animal transports to other EU Member States and third countries and emphasize the urgent need for action.

Ensuring animal welfare during transportation is of great importance to the Federal Government. Irrespective of the EU Council Presidency, Germany is pressing strongly for an improvement of the transport conditions. My Ministry has picked up on the

subject at different levels and called for progress, e.g. vis-à-vis the European Commission, in the Council for Agriculture and Fisheries, within the EU Platform on Animal Welfare, in negotiations on third country certificates and also in workshops held at the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

Together with other Member States we repeatedly turned to the European Commission and demanded an amendment to the EU Regulation on the protection of animals during transport, most recently in a joint letter drafted by the Member States of Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden and Germany to the European Commission of May 2019. In particular, the initiative aimed to limit the transport duration and improve transport conditions.

The Council conclusions on the Farm to Fork Strategy of 19 October 2020, among other things, welcome the announcement in the strategy to review existing animal welfare law, including the fields of transport and slaughtering, on the basis of current scientific findings. The objective is to make animal welfare law more comprehensive, implement it in a better way and thus achieve a higher level of animal welfare. In this context, the European Commission was called upon to revise the animal welfare rules in force, in particular with respect to animal transports, as soon as possible.

I expressly welcome the fact that the European Commission and the Council recognise the revision of the legal foundations as necessary. This fills me with confidence that, together, we will find solutions, taking the needs of individual Member States into account. It must be our aim to ensure animal transports in the future that fulfil the European Union's animal welfare mandate. Germany will continue to get involved to this effect, both during the Council Presidency and thereafter as well.

The Members of the European Commission you wrote to will receive a copy of this letter.

With kind regards,

Yours (m.p.)

signed: Julia Klöckner