

Letter dated:
1 September 2011

From:
Danish Permanent Representation to the European Union
B-1040 Brussels

To:
European Commission
Directorate-General for Health and Consumers
B-1049 Brussels

BY HAND

Ref.: 400.L.4-8.BRU

Subject: Report on sample inspections of means of transport and animals during transport in Denmark in 2010

With reference to Article 27(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97, we enclose the annual report on inspections of means of transport and animals during transport in Denmark in 2010.

The Danish Ministry of Justice also refers to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration's (DVFA) annual report 'Animal Welfare in Denmark', in which the DVFA has, *inter alia*, estimated the number of written warnings, injunctions and notifications issued in connection with sample inspections of means of transport and general checks, including *ante mortem* inspections on slaughterhouses and checks relating to the export of animals from Denmark. The report is available at: http://www.fodevarestyrelsen.dk/Publikationer/Alle_publickationer/2011/0.01.htm. The DVFA has informed us that the English edition of the report will be available by the end of 2011.

Article 27(2) stipulates that the annual report must be accompanied by an analysis of the major deficiencies detected and an action plan to address them.

As mentioned in the Ministry's annual report on sample inspections in 2008 and 2009, on 22 August 2008 a political arrangement was entered into in Denmark, under which DKK 90.5 million was allocated to the veterinary field for the period 2008-2012. The following initiatives to improve the welfare of transported animals have been launched as part of the implementation of the political arrangement for 2008-2012:

Better checks on animal transport;

Establishment of a web portal for booking checks at assembly points;

More roadside checks;

Better quality of assembly centre checks;

Intensification of examination of sows for shoulder lesions prior to departure.

As regards *better checks on animal transport*, we can inform you that, with a view to harmonising the handling of cases in connection with checks on logbooks, the DVFA centralised the checks on logbooks for long journeys abroad at one export control centre. The DVFA also *established a web portal for booking checks at assembly points*, which will facilitate the work of both the DVFA and exporters.

As regards *more roadside checks*, the assistance of the Danish Veterinary Task Force (*Veterinærrejseholdet*) in the police's roadside checks was reinforced and targeted as part of the implementation of the political agreement. The Veterinary Task Force thus completed approximately nine extra days of roadside checks together with the police. The Veterinary Task Force and the police also targeted the checks on specific issues or types of transport expected to be problematic in terms of animal welfare. To some extent, roadside checks are also to be carried out at times when they have hitherto rarely been conducted, including at night, at weekends or on public holidays.

In this connection we would point out that the Veterinary Task Force's resources have also been increased with a view to making their risk-based checks more effective and targeted. This has been financed by reducing loading checks on animal transport from 250 to 100 annual checks. This targeted approach to roadside checks is expected to boost the preventative effect of all inspections.

As regards the *better quality of assembly centre checks* and *intensification of examination of sows for shoulder lesions prior to departure*, we would point out that, up to now, it has not been possible to register sows with serious shoulder lesions, for want of a practicable scale which the authorities could use to assess the lesions observed. A scale of this kind has now been developed, and its further implementation is currently being considered by the relevant authorities.

For the record, it is pointed out that, until the Ministry of Justice receives more detailed information from the Commission on the requirements as to the analysis and action plan prescribed in Article 27(2) of the Regulation, it will continue to report in accordance with the

current format, as previously proposed by the Commission, and describe the current initiatives/changes in the field of animal transport in Denmark.

Yours faithfully

(signed)

Jonas Bering Liisberg
Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative