



YOUR LETTER OF

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European Commission
Health and Consumer Protection Directorate -
General
Mr. T. Coggi
1049 Brussel

SUBJECT Protection of animals during transport - report for 2009

Dear Director-General,

Please find enclosed the annual report on the protection of animals during transport (regulation 1/2005) for the year 2009.

Inspections during transport by road: 105 vehicles have been inspected during missions of the FASFC in cooperation with the police. 11 of these vehicles were found to be in non-compliance. The number of animals present in these vehicles is not noted during these missions. The police also carries out random road inspections but I don't possess any figures concerning these inspections.

Inspections at the place of destination: These are the inspections that are carried out at the slaughterhouses. Transport checks at slaughter house are executed by private veterinarians that have a contract with the FASFC. At least 5 % of all incoming trucks (with a minimum of 1 truck a day) are inspected. Because of the large amount of checklists these are not put in the electronic system individually, but each fortnight the veterinarians send a summary to the FASFC which is put in instead.

Inspections at markets: There are no markets for pigs, domestic birds or rabbits that take place in Belgium.

Markets employ a veterinarian who is tasked with verifying that the legislation is complied with. These veterinarians also report to the FASFC. These infringements concern notably animals that were not fit for transport.

Inspections at the place of departure: All animals destined for export for which a certificate is mandatory, are inspected at their place of departure. If any infringements are detected the animals are not allowed to leave. There is no record keeping of the cases for which a certificate was refused.

Inspections at staging points: In 2009 there was only one functioning staging point in Belgium which was used only four times. No infringements concerning animal welfare were noted.

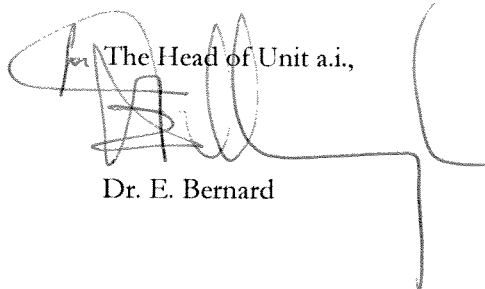
Inspections at transfer points: There are no transfer points in Belgium



Actions for the future:

- A training session for the police is planned, in cooperation with the animal welfare organisation Eyes on Animals.
- The FASFC has established a pilot committee that will enlist all the training needs of the FASFC personnel and will plan and follow-up on all the trainings. This pilot committee will look at the possibility for a training on animal welfare during transport for the FASFC inspectors.
- Points of attention for next year:
 - Journey logs: verification if the planning of the journey is realistic.
 - Sufficient headroom: an instruction will be provided to the inspectors on when the headroom provided is sufficient.

Yours sincerely,


The Head of Unit a.i.,
Dr. E. Bernard