

## **Mandate of sub-group established under the EU Platform on Animal Welfare to support EU activities on "animal transport"**

As provided in Article 8 (1) of Commission Decision of 24 January 2017 establishing the Commission Expert Group 'Platform on Animal Welfare'<sup>1</sup> and in its Rules of Procedure<sup>2</sup>, the Chair of the Platform may set up sub-groups for the purpose of examining specific questions on the basis of terms of reference defined by the Commission.

The Commission and the members of the EU Platform on Animal welfare (the 'Platform') agreed to establish a sub-group dedicated to improve the enforcement of EU legislation on animal transport<sup>3</sup> (the 'transport sub-group').

### **1. SCOPE**

The aim of the Platform on Animal Welfare is to assist and advise the Commission on issues relating to EU animal welfare legislation and to facilitate the exchange of information, experience and good practices in the area of animal welfare legislation.

The transport sub-group shall promote the exchange of information, experience and good practices and facilitate cooperation in this area, with the purpose of supporting the Platform's work and contributing to the achievement of its objectives.

The transport sub-group shall take into account any ongoing activities in the area of protection of animals during transport in order to avoid duplication of tasks, promoting and complementing the existing Commission's activities such as:

- The regular meetings of the National Contact Points<sup>4</sup> (NCPs) of the competent authorities of the Member States aimed at improving communication and co-ordination of the daily activities of these contact points;
- The three-year Project on Animal Transport Guides<sup>5</sup> to raise awareness and achieve greater harmonization of the implementation of existing rules;

### **2. OBJECTIVES**

The overall objective of the transport sub-group is to assist the Platform in areas within the scope of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport, by delivering information, recommendations and proposals for practices which help bring about better animal welfare during animal transport.

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Decision of 24 January 2017 establishing the Commission Expert Group 'Platform on Animal Welfare' C/2017/0280 OJ C 31, 31.1.2017, p. 61

<sup>2</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=3504>

<sup>3</sup> 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, OJ L 3, 5.1.2005, p. 1

<sup>4</sup> Article 24 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport.

<sup>5</sup> <http://animaltransportguides.eu>

The priority areas for the subgroup are:

1. Technical innovations which could improve the welfare of animals during transport (e.g. equipment and vehicles, planning and IT tools, on board monitoring systems, etc.);
2. Policy indicators which could be set up and followed up at national and EU level, in order to measure trends in the implementation of the legislation and consider future actions, as relevant;
3. Knowledge transfer to trip organisers, transporters, drivers and attendants and identification of better practices not only through training courses but other ways of raising awareness of legal requirements.
4. Tools and means to improve implementation and enforcement.

### **3. STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP**

The sub-group shall be composed of a maximum of 20 members of the Platform with a balanced representation of each member type.

The composition of the sub-group would therefore have a maximum of:

- Member States, EEA members and international organisations: 8 seats
- Business and professional organisations: 4 seats
- Organisations from civil society: 4 seats
- Independent experts: 4 seats

### **4. CRITERIA TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SUBGROUP:**

In order to be selected Members should provide evidence of their work on animal welfare during transport and more specifically regarding:

- technical aspects related to the equipment and vehicles, planning and IT, or on board monitoring systems;
- development of policy indicators to measure trends in the implementation of the legislation;
- knowledge transfer to drivers and attendants including training courses, formulating information easily understandable for livestock transporters, campaigns for promoting compliance. Experience with social psychology to effect behavioural change would be beneficial as well as in disseminating information to reach a clear target group.
- Investigation and analysis of the livestock transport sector which may include, experience with self-regulation, evaluation of inspections and enforcement practices and approaches to deal with problems identified;
- economic aspects of livestock transport.

For Member States opting to a position in the sub-group, consideration will also be given to the significance of the trade of live animals on long journeys in their territory.

Consideration will also be given to proven expertise and targeted activities on animal transport on long journeys in EU Member States and non-EU countries, covering several animal species and different means and type of transport.

Finally experience of working in groups with different actors/groups to reach consensus will be considered.

## **5. OVERALL TIMELINE AND WORKING PROCEDURES**

Applications to become a member of the sub-group should be sent to the Commission no later than 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 to the following e-mail address:

**SANTE-ANIMAL-WELFARE-PLATFORM@ec.europa.eu**

The transport sub-group will operate in compliance with the Commission's horizontal rules on expert groups<sup>6</sup> and the Commission Decision establishing this Platform.

The sub-group will be chaired by the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) representatives. Meetings of the sub-group will be held, in principle, at the Commission's premises in Grange, Co. Meath (Ireland) twice a year.

The transport sub-group will support the Platform's work in this area for the duration of its mandate (i.e. until the end of 2019) and will report to the Platform.

The working language for the sub-group will be English.

DG SANTE will provide secretarial services. Minutes will be drafted by the secretariat under the responsibility of the chair.

DG SANTE will publish all relevant documents of the sub-group, including the agenda, the minutes and the participants' submission, either on the Register of expert group or via link from the Register to a dedicated website, where this information can be found.

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<sup>6</sup> C(2016) 3301, article 14(1)