

The EU Animal Welfare Platform:
promoting dialogue on animal
welfare issues relevant at EU level.

Sub-Group ANIMAL TRANSPORT



PROPOSALS FOR DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

The aim: Make the factsheets or other deliverables and information produced by the Subgroup on live animal transport of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare accessible and used by identified categories of end users in a targeted fashion that responds to their needs, thus facilitating actual change in the way animals are transported within the EU and for all journeys originated in the EU.

The principles on which the dissemination of information will be based are as follows:

- A broad dissemination of knowledge and information;
- Ensure the actual implementation of the content of the factsheets or other group deliverables;
- Transparency;
- Reliability of the trainers who will present the factsheets or other group deliverables;
- Open engagement with stakeholders;
- Targeted communication with different audiences.

The objectives of the dissemination of information are as follows:

- Make available to all interested stakeholders up-to-date information on what is expected of them in all phases of live animal transport in order to comply with existing legislation and enhance animal welfare through the concrete application of additional measures;
- Build a bridge between science and policy through materials provided by experts with various backgrounds, and stakeholders involved in all stages of livestock production;
- Set the tone and direction so that all dissemination activities within the Group, deliverables and materials are consistent to achieve the desired outcomes;
- Raise stakeholders' awareness with regards to the outputs of the subgroup on transport.

Key steps and actions to achieve the above objectives include:

- Establish a dialogue with potential users of the outputs produced by the Subgroup on Transport of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare in Competent Authorities (CA) of Member States in order to include the factsheets and other deliverables in driver training and refresher courses, and in training courses for veterinarians, police forces, and other authorities in charge of controlling live animal transport. Other potential users are: transport companies, farmers, engineers, slaughterhouse staff, official vets, animal scientists, NGOs.
Action: Circulate the approved deliverables alongside targeted training and capacity building activities.
Who: DG SANTE, DG AGRI, Member States, NGOs, Industry and relevant European Reference Centres for Animal Welfare (EURCAW).

- Understand the knowledge needs and behaviour dynamics of end users;
Action: As concluded from previous research within the 'Animal Transport Guides' project, end users are interested in training on 'Best Practices Guides', 'info-graphics' and 'check-lists' in order to improve their skills and competence in practice. A 'scenario-solution' approach is also expected to add value to knowledge-transfer activities. NGOs can also provide experience on this issue.
Who: Group Members

- Translations of the factsheets or other deliverables need to be made and ensured that they are all are correct and consistent;
Action: The Animal Welfare Platform together with the Commission need to look further into the possibility of translating the factsheets or other deliverables (including this information when developing an APP). The Subgroup should check – based on available language skills – that key information does not get altered because translators are unaware of technical terminology, or lexicon contained in the relevant legislation.
Who: Group Members (to develop an APP, an EU level project is needed which is independent and overseen by the Commission).

- Actively disseminate knowledge and information to an extensive range of contacts through existing networks, including with EU and national policy makers as well as via a Stakeholder Forum;

Action 1: Group Members should explore and officially engage existing contacts and networks: National Competent Authorities, BTSF organizers, EU networks (ATG, Animal Welfare Reference Center for Pigs, etc.), and others.

Who: Group Members

Action 2: Official letters to inform targeted contacts in Member States, EURCAW and BTSF providers about the Group's work, and ask for their engagement to disseminate the group's deliverables.

Who: DG SANTE

Tools to disseminate knowledge and information may be:

- The EU Animal Welfare Platform Tool (Online Library);
Action: done, ongoing updating
- A dedicated app;
Action: develop a dedicated app to make a broad range of info promptly available to all potential end-users (See the proposal of the working group on extreme temperatures)
- Informative articles;
Action: write short communications for relevant national journals
- Helpdesks;
Action: this could be a tool functioning under the EU Animal Welfare Platform
- Tool based on scenario-solution documents (under discussion);
- Conferences and Events;
Action: Sessions on animal transportation issues, e.g. under extreme temperatures, can be proposed to be included in upcoming conferences and workshops at national or European level and in BTSF courses. Group members should be asked to provide their proposals.
- Training courses for drivers, public veterinarians, and police forces;
Action: As mentioned before.

Resources

The Subgroup on Transport and its working groups were established as an initiative of the EU Commission. Their mandate, focus, members and priorities were decided exclusively by the Commission based on the input from Groups' Members. Therefore, it is for the Commission to decide which of the proposed actions are considered appropriate and that adequate funding is provided for their implementation.

The subgroup recommends that the development and branding of an APP at an EU level as part of an independent project overseen by the Commission would be beneficial to disseminate the outputs of the transport subgroup and more generally information on animal welfare during transport.