

**Question for written answer E-003083/2024**

**to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Prevention of cruelty during animal transport at borders to non-EU states

The Bulgarian-Turkish border is a major crossing point for live animal transport, where non-governmental organisations have repeatedly observed incidents of neglect and cruelty<sup>1</sup>. In some cases, trucks were stopped for days or weeks and the animals did not receive urgently needed medical care, were not fed, were left inside the dirty trucks and were not allowed to roam freely. Some animals have died from the torture, including calves and pregnant cows, while the rest have ended up being emergency killed.

1. Does the Commission have an explanation as to how such unbelievable maltreatment could have occurred, whether it was the result of a legislative and/or administrative shortcoming, and what actions will the Commission take against the Member States involved?
2. What additional measures to the current and proposed regulation<sup>2</sup> on the protection of animals during transport and related operations does the Commission envisage to specifically prevent these forms of systematic non-competence at the borders of the EU (in so-called no man's land), such as an immediate ban on the export of animals via Türkiye?

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<sup>1</sup> For example: <https://www.animal-welfare-foundation.org/en/blog/kapikule>.

<sup>2</sup> Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of animals during transport and related operations, amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1255/97 and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, (COM(2023)0770), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52023PC0770>.