Question for written answer P-000920/2019 to the Commission Rule 130 Maria Noichl (S&D)

Subject: Animal transport certificates

Under the EU Animal Transport Regulation, should animal transport certificates be refused if the local veterinarians responsible for verifying the welfare of the animals in third countries do not check whether the schedule of feeding and resting stops given in the journey log has been adhered to and, as a result, the accuracy of the journey log cannot be guaranteed? Should animal transport certificates be refused in any event if there are also sufficient grounds to believe that, in a given third country, the animals would be treated cruelly, in breach of Union legislation on animal protection in livestock farming?

In the instances outlined above, if, as things stand, the local veterinarians responsible were still to issue animal transport certificates, would it constitute a criminal offence?