



FVE briefing on Implementation and Enforcement of Regulation 1/2005 “The Veterinarian’s Role “

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The FVE welcomes and supports the commitment of Commissioner John Dalli to focus on the rigorous implementation and enforcement of the current EU regulation on the transport of live animals (Regulation (EC) N 1/2005), and also welcomes his acknowledgement of the importance of the role of FVE as a source of knowledge and expertise in the development and future support of policies and legislation.

The FVE is fully committed to the highest standards of animal health and welfare in all sectors and under all circumstances.

The veterinary profession, by virtue of their high level of professional training and expertise and their trusted reliable relationship with owners and their animals, is ideally placed to show leadership, to educate and influence people and to speak with a strong independent voice. The role of veterinarians in inspection and certification of animals for fitness to travel is essential in ensuring animals’ fitness and health prior to the start of a journey and in safeguarding the animals’ fitness, health and welfare during transportation.

The transportation of animals is integral to livestock farming in the EU and although every transport causes a degree of stress, the vast majority of movements take place without significant or unacceptable distress being caused to the animals. Nevertheless, a significant number of journeys continue to take place in which animal welfare standards are unacceptably low.

Furthermore, the level of implementation and enforcement of welfare legislation is currently inconsistent between member states.

FVE’s aspiration has always been that animals should be reared as close as possible to the premises on which they are born and slaughtered as close as possible to the point of production.

FVE also believes that a more rigorous, uniform implementation and enforcement of the Transport Regulation is prerequisite to achieve and maintain acceptable standards for animal health and welfare during transport.

The intention is that enforcement should be practical, proportional and risk based, focusing on education and advice where appropriate

The FVE identifies the following principles as priorities in this regard:

Member States must:

- Ensure that **all competent authorities assume responsibility as the driving force** in achieving a full implementation and enforcement of Reg. 1/2005 within their State
- **Designate adequate funds, staff and resources** to implement and enforce Regulation 1/2005.

President

Walter Winding

Vice-Presidents

Christophe Buhot
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Rainer Schneichel
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- **Establish an effective framework and control system¹, including a mutually agreed system of penalties** to enable, facilitate and support authorised officers in achieving implementation and enforcement.
- Ensure that the penalties **for infringements as required by Regulation 1/2005 are effective, proportionate and dissuasive**. The Commission should guard that Member States use the power provided by the Regulation to establish effective and uniform penalty systems to discourage, prevent and remedy non-compliance and to impose penalties which are sufficiently high as to be dissuasive.
- **Support the role and duty of both the official and the private veterinarian as professional protectors of animal health and welfare**, and provide necessary back-up of legal empowerment, operational framework and systems and appropriate training in operational procedures.

All Parties involved in any way with the transportation of animals must:

- **Assume joint responsibility** for safeguarding animal health and welfare as they relate to transportation. A clear description of expectations, roles and responsibilities for each and all relevant parties is essential for the implementation of an effective legislative and operational framework.
- Establish and maintain efficient and practical channels of communication and collaboration, both between and within Member States. This is mandatory and essential not only in the setting up of effective systems of implementation and enforcement, but also in the practical day-to-day operation of the system. For example, in the case of transport of casualty animals to slaughter, a clear unequivocal understanding and cooperation between certifying veterinarians in the field and official vets at the slaughterhouse is essential to avoid adding to the animals' distress and suffering.
- **Ensure Information exchange between CCP's** – Critical Control Points (e.g. point of origin, control posts, final destination) – especially in case of non-compliance – is a key factor in effective implementation of welfare and disease control regulations.
- **European Guides of best practice greatly assist with ensuring uniform standards and enforcement**. FVE encourages the European Commission to assemble and make available an online library of such guides². This would promote uniformity as well as the quality of operational procedures across all member states.
- **Make efforts to increase the level of education and training**. Poor animal welfare and disease control related to transport issues are often associated with a lack of knowledge, awareness and training. All member states must provide active and ongoing education and training of all parties, including veterinarians, involved in handling animals during their transport.

¹ Effective Framework and control system would include:

- Effective authorisation systems for transporters
- Effective systems for inspection and approval of premises and transport vehicles
- Making and maintaining of databases of authorized transporters, approved vehicles, assembly centres and control posts and certified drivers

² Guides of best practice would be specifically useful guides such as regarding the fitness for transport, training schedules², the checking of journey logs, inspection and licensing of vehicles (including checklists), the loading (including checking the loading density and vehicle readiness) and unloading of animals, the identification and certification of animals, steps to follow in case of non-compliance and records to keep