

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

Green Party
for the South East of England

Commissioner Vassillou
DG Health and Consumer Protection
The European Commission
200 Rue de la Loi
B1049 Brussels
Belgium

October 6th 2009

Dear Commissioner,

In April 2008 you advised that the Commission was preparing an impact assessment to examine the possibility of bringing forth new legislative proposals on travelling times and space restrictions for the transport of live animals for slaughter.

There is a need for the standards to be reviewed for all animals but on this particular occasion I wish to specifically alert you to problems related to the transport of horses for slaughter. Research from a number of animal welfare organisations suggests that standards on individual partitions, feeding, watering and resting during journeys, and lorry rest periods are not being met. As a result, horses are suffering from extreme exhaustion, dehydration and serious injuries. In the most extreme cases horses die in transit.

You have previously indicated the Commission's wish to revise Regulation 1/2005 before the end of the current mandate. Given that this has not occurred to date, please can you tell me what the new proposed timescale for revision is likely to be?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.