

E-1416/06EN

Answer given by Mr Kyprianou
on behalf of the Commission
(23.5.2006)

The implementation of the newly adopted Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations¹ will have substantial direct effects on improving the transport conditions of animals. However, the Commission continues to work on developing implementing rules necessary to achieve proper enforcement of the new Regulation.

In particular, the Commission plans to adopt a proposal to establish a range of maximum and minimum temperatures for long journeys and standards for satellite navigation systems for road vehicles. The satellite navigation system will facilitate the enforcement of travelling time limits.

The Commission can confirm that, based on the valuable data that will be gathered following implementation of the new transport Regulation from 2007, it intends to revisit during its present term the issue of travelling time limits and space allowances, and, if appropriate, draw up a proposal to the Council and to the Parliament. The Commission explicitly retained this right when giving its consent to the compromise. As far as the text of the Regulation is concerned, it provides more generally for the Commission to report back to the Council on the issues of travelling time and loading densities within four years after the date of implementation.

In addition, it should be noted that new rules have been adopted for road transport driver's hours². These rules will also apply to those drivers transporting animals, except if it is to and from local markets or to and from local slaughterhouses. These rules will be enforced through the vehicle's analogue tachograph, or if the vehicle is registered after 1 May 2006, through the digital tachograph. The objective of the new rules is to simplify, clarify and update the previous rules and thereby make them more easily enforced.

¹ OJ L 3, 5.1.2005

² Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 of the Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2006 on the harmonisation of certain social legislation relating to road transport, OJ L 102, of 11.4.2006