

31.10.2002 D/002351

Brussels,

Dear Dr. Lucas,


Thank you for your letter of 16 September 2002 concerning the transport of companion animals.

The scope of the EU legislation for the protection of animals during transport includes the commercial transport of companion animals. In particular minimum feeding and watering intervals have been fixed for dogs and cats. However, it is true that the current rules do not make distinction for young puppies and kittens.

As you know, the EU legislation on the protection of animals during transport is currently under review. The forthcoming proposal of the Commission will be based on the opinion of the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare (SCAHAW), adopted in March 2002. This opinion concerns horses, pigs, sheep and cattle. However, the Scientific Committee is now working on the protection of animals during transport for other species.

The Commission is aware that the transport of dogs and cats for commercial purposes is an animal welfare concern and I have drawn the attention of the SCAHAW to this particular aspect. I confirm that additional rules appropriate to the situation will be considered when scientific data will be available.

Yours sincerely,

  
David BYRNE

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