

Brussels, 29. 04. 2008  
D(2008) 631

Dear Dr. Lucas,

Thank you for your letter of 5 March 2008 addressed to my predecessor Markos Kyprianou concerning the protection of horses during transport.

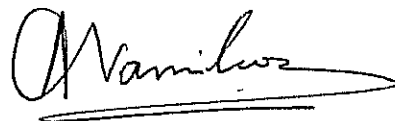
The Commission is aware of the reports made by animal welfare organisations, and in particular of the report you enclose on the transport of horses for slaughter issued by the International League for the Protection of Horses, which claim a lack of enforcement of the current EU rules and point out several breaches of the EU legislation on animal transport.

The Commission shares these organisations' views concerning the need for better application of the animal transport legislation. However, day-to-day enforcement of the Regulation falls under the responsibilities of the Member States.

The Commission inspection service of DG Health and Consumer Protection (FVO - Food and Veterinary Office) regularly carries out missions of inspection within the Member States to verify whether the competent authorities have put in place the appropriate measures to apply EU legislation. The FVO reports are available on the following website: [http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ir\\_search\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ir_search_en.cfm).

The Commission is preparing an impact assessment in order to examine the possibility of bringing forward by the end of this mandate a proposal on travelling times and space allowances which takes into account available scientific knowledge.

Yours sincerely,



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