

International Organization for Animal Protection



Organisation Internationale pour la Protection des Animaux
Internationale Organisation für Tierschutz
Organizzazione Internazionale per la Protezione degli Animali - Onlus



NGO associated with the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC)
the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and accredited at UN Environment Assembly (UNEA)
Registration in the Register of Representatives of Interest of the European Commission
Headquarters: Via Sant'Ambrogio 12, I-20816 Ceriano Laghetto MB (Italy) - Fiscal Code: 97310380155
Tel +39 02 6427882 - Fax +39 1782206601
www.oipa.org/international

To the kind Attention of
D. Luis Planas Puchades
Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y
Alimentación

Milan, 17 March 2021

Dear Honourable Minister D. Luis Planas Puchades,

Subject: Investigation on health conditions of cattle aboard vessel Elbeik and request to save the survived animals

OIPA International Organization for Animal Protection is an NGO associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications (DGC), the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), accredited at the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the UN Environment Program (UNEP), and embraces more than 200 animal rights associations all over the world.

As Spanish Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food we kindly ask you to directly intervene in order to save the life of the survived bovines aboard Elbeik vessel. Vessel that, tomorrow Tuesday 18th of March, has been ordered to dock at the port of Cartagena.

It is strictly necessary **to send on board veterinarians able to check and verify the health conditions** of those animals that have been travelling for over three months enduring extreme suffering during the long journey. They urgently need **veterinary care** and be finally taken off the vessel. In addition, being the vessel on Spanish waters and therefore in European Union, we ask also to investigate any contravention to the Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of live animals during transport and verify if the transport conditions were adequate or not.

It is ethical and humanly unacceptable that animals considered sentient beings, as recognized by Art. 13 Title II of the 2009 Lisbon Treaty, were detained in an environment not compatible with their nature for such a long time and in precarious health and hygiene conditions for so many weeks. Conditions that certainly worsen their psycho-physical health, day after day, causing diseases of the skin, eyes and limbs as well as high stress. Problems mainly related to the lack of food, water, proper ventilation, possibility of movement and presence of sick or even dead conspecifics.

We ask you not to repeat a second Karim-Allah but this time be a virtuous example and give the opportunity to all the survived bovines to live finding an alternative and ethical solution.

We trust that you will give this matter your urgent attention and consider our proposal.

Yours Sincerely,

Valentina Bagnato
Head International Relations Office
OIPA

