

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

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To the kind Attention of
Mrs. Stella Kyriakides
EU Commissioner
Health and Food Safety
cab-kyriakides-contact@ec.europa.eu

Milan, 02 March 2021

Dear Honourable Commissioner Mrs. Stella Kyriakides,

**Subject: Cattle aboard vessels Karim Allah docked in Cartagena (Spain) and ElBeik docked in Famagusta (Cyprus).
EU COMMISSION INVESTIGATION AND CALL TO END LIVE TRANSPORT**

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.

We ask the **European Commission** to **investigate the conditions in which cattle have been transported** for over two months aboard vessels Karim Allah and ElBeik and verify any contravention to the Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of live animals during transport.

Vessels with nearly 2,000 bovines left Spain in December and have spent two months in Mediterranean Sea, refused at their arrival in Libya due to suspected bluetongue disease. From that moment, both vessels were spotted at different ports and rejected by several countries over fears that cattle could have had bovine bluetongue virus. The animals have struggled for several weeks in very poor hygienic and sanitary conditions worsening day by day their health state. The vessel Karim Allah finally docked on Thursday 26 February in Cartagena (Spain). Spanish government veterinaries have declared the conditions of the 864 survived cattle unfit for further transport to third countries outside the EU, not even allowed to be unloaded in the EU due to the consequences of the very long journey. The sentence has been euthanize all bovines. The veterinary report did not mention if cattle have bluetongue disease but it just noted a range of skin, eye and leg diseases including alopecia, flaking, scabs and joint inflammation compatible with septic arthritis.

We call the European Commission to **urgently end live transport** in the EU as **incompatible with the Article 13 of Title II of the Lisbon Treaty** that came into force in 2009 amending the 'Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union' (TFEU) and has introduced the recognition of animals as sentient beings.

Animals endure extreme suffering during the long journeys and the inadequate transport conditions often result in serious injuries and cruel deaths of animals. Animals suffer from heat or cold, thirst and hunger, stress and fear, disease and infections. Finally, last but not least, in many destination countries animal welfare standards are not even applied at a basic level.

We trust that you will give this matter your urgent attention and consider investigating on the issue and end live exports.

Yours Sincerely,

Valentina Bagnato
Head International Relations Office
OIPA

