Question for written answer E-002984/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Violations of the Animal Transport Regulation

In spring 2025, the non-governmental organisations *Soko Tierschutz* and The Marker documented systematic violations of the EU Animal Transport Regulation[1]. One specific case is the transport of more than 34 000 calves, which were just a few weeks old, from Austria and Germany to Spain. Here, they were fattened in some cases in serious violation of their rights, and were later slaughtered without stunning in North Africa and the Middle East. It is particularly barbaric that the calves' documented travel time was over 22 hours without sufficient rest breaks or care, which is a clear violation of the applicable EU regulations. Criminal charges have been filed with the Augsburg Public Prosecutor's Office.

1. Does the Commission recognise a violation of the EU Animal Transport Regulation in the documented case, and what concrete steps is the Commission taking, in cooperation with the Member States concerned, (Germany, Austria and Spain) to clarify the case?

2. Does the Commission have information on comparable cases of systematic infringements in other Member States?

3. What measures does the Commission propose to prevent such structural abuse in the future – in particular with regard to controls, transparency and sanctioning mechanisms?

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[1] Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97 (OJ L 3, 5.1.2005, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2005/1/oj).