

Question for written answer E-004663/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Economic challenges of compliance with EU animal welfare rules

The study supporting the impact assessment for the review of the EU legislation on animal welfare during transport (Milieu SRL, 2023) concluded that compliance with Regulation 1/2005 remains 'economically unattractive'. Despite this, the Commission has brought forward a proposal for a regulation which has high implementation costs.

The impact assessment for the new legislative proposal shows that limiting travel times and increasing available space will result in annual costs of EUR 642 million for the pig-rearing sector, EUR 35 million for laying hens, EUR 914 million for broilers and EUR 1 069 million for cattle. On top of this, the installation of feeder systems for calves would cost transporters EUR 3 million annually, and then come the additional costs of ensuring long-distance transport conditions based on weather forecasts, which will cost EUR 5 million for the transport of broilers, EUR 3 million for pigs, EUR 2 million for cattle and EUR 1 million for calves.

1. How does Commission expect to ensure greater compliance with stricter animal welfare requirements during transport if compliance with the current rules is already 'economically unattractive'?
2. Will it be possible to use the European Competitiveness Fund to help the sector comply with the provisions of future EU animal welfare legislation?

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