

**Question for written answer E-000051/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Cristina Guarda (Verts/ALE)

Subject: *Spiridon II* and animal welfare

According to independent associations and observers, the livestock transport ship *Spiridon II* undertook a journey of more than two months that had serious problems, including numerous deaths, inadequate on-board conditions and poor sanitary management. In addition, the authorities had difficulty tracing its route after it deactivated its automatic identification system (AIS). The ship was also reported to have transited or anchored in Member States' waters without any activation of the mandatory controls, before docking in Libya and Lebanon. This raises questions about the effectiveness of EU measures to protect animal welfare and the suitability of the vessels used.

In view of the above:

1. Can the Commission provide details of the information gathered by the competent authorities on the *Spiridon II*'s journey (sanitary conditions, deaths, unloading and waste management), the extent to which Member States along the route fulfilled their obligations and the steps that will be taken if shortcomings are identified?
2. What is its assessment of the frequency of incidents during the transport of live animals by sea, and does it believe that such events reveal structural problems, in particular with regard to the suitability of vessels and actual journey times?
3. Will it relaunch, as a matter of urgency, the revision of the EU regulation on the transport of live animals in order to limit long-distance maritime transport, ensure that all hours between loading and unloading are counted, tighten up the technical requirements for ships, and ensure that they can always be traced, including by keeping their AIS switched on at all times?

Submitted: 8.1.2026