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E-002138/2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(15.9.2025)

1. The issue of the use of electric prods during loading and unloading of animals during transport is being discussed in the ongoing inter-institutional negotiations on the legislative proposal on the protection of animals during transport¹. The Commission sent a letter to the Member States urging them to stress their concerns at the Council rather than focusing on national measures.

2. Article 1(3) of Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005² allows for ‘any stricter national measures aimed at improving the welfare of animals during transport taking place entirely within the territory of a Member State’. Article 52 of the Commission legislative proposal on animals during transport maintains this principle by allowing Member States to adopt stricter national measures for transport that takes place entirely within the territory of a Member State, provided those measures do not interfere with the proper functioning of the internal market. The proposed ban does not apply to the loading of animals for transport from the Netherlands to another Member State.

3. The Commission takes note of the contributions made by several stakeholders regarding this notification.

¹ Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of animals during transport and related operations, amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1255/97 and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, COM/2023/770 final.

² 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. 1–44.