



Dr. Jaana HUSU-KALLIO, European Commission

“The New Proposals for EU Animal Transport Legislation”

The European Community has over recent years progressively adopted a body of legislation on the protection of animals, with transport being an important consideration in this regard. In response to public concerns and in the light of ongoing scientific advances the European Commission has formulated a proposal for new legislation, in consultation with stakeholders such as industry and NGO's. A public internet consultation provided support for the Commission's initiative and reinforced the importance of this issue.

The new proposal in the form of a Regulation will repeal existing legislation and facilitate harmonisation across the Community. The responsibilities of all those involved in the animal transport chain (including farmers, operators of markets and slaughterhouses, and transporters) are clearly described. Training of staff is of the utmost importance to facilitate enforcement and safeguard animal welfare. Specific types of transporter authorisations are foreseen with additional conditions applicable to those operating long-distance journeys (over 9 hours). Tools such as journey logs, tachographs and harmonised certificates will also facilitate checks. Travelling time limits are proposed which mirror rules governing the travel and rest rules applicable to drivers, thus assisting enforcement. Greater animal space allowances are outlined, improved vehicle standards for long distance journeys and specific provisions for the transport of horses. Detailed standards are also described for livestock vessels transporting animals. The Commission's proposal was formulated with a view to step by step improvements in the current situation, taking account of existing experience and facilitating future enforcement of the rules governing animal transport. Improved animal welfare is the overriding concern, and professional and properly trained staff are an essential component of the overall animal transport chain. Consumers demand no less from the animal transport industry.

Dr. Jaana Husu-Kallio received her Licentiate in Veterinary Medicine at the University of Medicine in Helsinki Finland in 1984, a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine in 1990, a Docent of Food Microbiology in 1993 and her Specialised Veterinary Diploma in 2002 with Post Graduate qualification in infectious animal diseases. Dr. Husu-Kallio began working with the European Commission in 2002 as the Deputy Director General with specific responsibility for Directorates D, E, and F. She provides assistance to the Director General in all activities of the Directorate General and is specifically responsible for food safety, animal health and welfare as well as plant health, management and co-ordination, strategic planning and pursuing and following up the annual work programme. Prior to working with the EC, she was with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Department of Food and Health (animal health, animal welfare, public health, and phytosanitary tasks), first as the Senior Veterinary Officer, then the Deputy Director General and, from 1998 to 2002, she held the position of Directory General. Previously, she was a veterinarian and later, department head, for the National Veterinary Institute in their Department of Bacteriology and Serology. She has held multiple memberships and chairmanships at national level in different working groups (1988-2002 from laboratory diagnostics on animal infectious diseases to national public health programmes) and has served as the Vice-President of the OIE Regional Committee for Europe (2000-2002), Vice-President of the International Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine bank (2001-2002), and chairman of the scientific working group on listeria, International Dairy Federation (1989-1990).

Dr. Jaana HUSU-KALLIO
European Commission
Deputy Director-General
Health & Consumer Protection
Rue Beillard 232
Brussels, B-1040 Belgium
Tel: + 32 2 299.68.87
Fax: + 32 2 295.47.11
jaana.husu-kallio@cec.eu.int
