

THE END OF LONG-DISTANCE LIVE TRANSPORT



Dear Maltese elector,

One day, not too far in the future, the European institutions will decide to listen to the loud call of their citizens and put an end to the long-distance live transport of animals sent for slaughter.

That day has not yet arrived, and one of the people most responsible for the present deadly inertia is Maltese Commissioner for Health and Consumers, John Dalli.

Millions of live animals are still transported over long distances across Europe, often for several days, only to be slaughtered on arrival. Economic reasons lie behind this absurd activity: the financial interests of a few, versus the demand of European citizens to bring this source of immense suffering to an end.

Despite a petition signed by 1,103,248 citizens and a Written Declaration signed by the majority of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) asking to establish a maximum 8-hour limit for the journeys of animals sent for slaughter in the EU, Mr Dalli refuses to change the present European Regulation 1/2005, claiming that the enforcement of the existing rules is enough.

Some of those rules have been in place for over 20 years and have never been enforced. Some are clearly impossible to enforce. And millions of animals continue to suffer as a result.

Mr Dalli, when he received the 1,103,248 signatures on 7 June, promised MEPs and representatives of animal welfare NGOs – in front of cameras – “a legislative proposal” to review the rules on live animal transport, including transport times. In his words, 8 hours for some animals are too many. We agree.

Nevertheless, after less than a week the Commissioner denied that he had ever said he would review the present legislation. Mr Dalli went back to the old line that now is not the time to propose changes to the legislation and that he is not planning to propose any such changes.

Email appeals sent by tens of thousands of citizens asking him to respect his commitment of 7 June have received no adequate reply so far. Who is Mr Dalli supposed to answer to, as an EU Commissioner?

We are paying for this advert because Mr Dalli is the European Commissioner responsible for animal welfare, and yet he is stubbornly refusing to prioritise a huge amount of animal suffering – something most Maltese electors oppose – over the financial interests of a few.

John Dalli is disregarding the suffering of millions of animals and the voice of European citizens. We ask you to remember what is happening when you vote in future elections.



CONFERENCE IN MALTA:

ANIMAL SUFFERING IN LONG-DISTANCE TRANSPORT: ASK JOHN DALLI

28 September 2012

Mediterranean Conference Centre
Triq l-Isptar, Valletta

INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION FORM: www.8hours.eu/malta

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