



Council of the European Union  
General Secretariat

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**LIMITE**

**VETER**

**AGRI**

**AGRILEG**

**CODEC**

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## CONSULTATION

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From:	Presidency
To:	Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Questions (Animal Welfare)
N° prev. doc.:	14768/25
N° Cion doc.:	16405/23 + ADD 1-6
Subject:	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 - Consultation on Annex II (Transport of aquatic animals)

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Delegations will find in Annex in a table format the Annex II of the above legislative proposal as presented in document ST 14768/25 (Consolidated Annexes).

They are invited to submit their written comments by **no later than 12 December 2025**.

This consultation will be launched shortly on the Delegates Portal.

By informing the delegations now, the Presidency hopes this will give them enough time to prepare written comments quite shortly after the Working Party meeting.

**Guidelines to be followed**

Please kindly provide your contributions in the table below.

**Drafting suggestions:** you may use 'track changes'\* or formatting (for example bold-underline for additions and ~~strike-through~~ for deletions, where necessary, in a different colour). \*Track changes can only be connected once the cursor is placed in editable areas (Drafting or Comments columns).

To make it feasible to consolidate all contributions, the structure of the table must not be changed, so **no rows can be added or deleted**.

New provisions may only be added in any of the '**existing cells**'.

**Name of document:** please add the **two initials** of your delegation's country followed by a space (to the MS Word document name), followed by any optional text, for example, for Austria: **AT comments on ... .docx**

Thank you for your cooperation!

Pcy Text	Drafting suggestions	Comments
<b>General Comments</b>		
<u><b>ANNEX II</b></u>		
<b>SPECIFIC CONDITIONS FOR THE TRANSPORT OF AQUATIC ANIMALS</b>		
<b>As referred to in Articles 2, 18, 33, 44 and 47</b>		
1. <b>Design and maintenance of <del>means of transport</del> <u>road vehicles and containters</u></b>		

Pcy Text	Drafting suggestions	Comments
<p>1.1 <del>Means of transport</del> <b>Road vehicles</b> and containers used for transport of aquatic animals shall be appropriate to the species, size, weight and number of animals to be transported.</p>		
<p>1.2 <del>Means of transport</del> <b>Road vehicles</b> and containers shall be maintained in good mechanical and structural condition to prevent damages of the vehicle that may directly or indirectly affect the welfare of transported aquatic animals.</p>		
<p>1.3 <del>Means of transport</del> <b>Road vehicles</b> and containers shall ensure adequate circulation of water and equipment for oxygenation as required to meet variations in the conditions during the journey and the needs of the animals being transported, including the closing of valves in well boats for biosecurity reasons.</p>		
<p>1.4 The aquatic animals shall be accessible to inspection during the journey in order to ensure that their welfare can be assessed.</p>		
<p>1.5 <del>Means of transport</del> <b>Road vehicles</b> and containers shall allow for inspection and</p>		

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monitoring of the relevant parameters and take corrective measures when necessary.		
<b>2. Handling</b>		
2.1 Aquatic animals shall not be lifted by their gills.		
2.2 The handling equipment shall be designed, constructed, and maintained to minimise physical injuries.		
<b>3. Water</b>		
3.1 Operators shall ensure water quality that is appropriate for the species being transported and method of transportation.		
3.2 Operators shall ensure the monitoring and maintenance of the following water parameters within the limits according to the species-specific needs during the whole journey:		
(a) Oxygen;		

Pcy Text	Drafting suggestions	Comments
(b) Carbon dioxide;		
(c) Ammonia level;		
(d) Temperature.		
<b>4. Fitness for transport</b>		
4.1. The ability of the aquatic animals to cope with the stress of transport shall be assessed based on health status, previous handling, and recent transport history.		
4.2. The main reasons for considering aquatic animals as not fit for transport are:		
(a) displaying clinical signs of disease;		
(b) significant physical injuries or abnormal behaviour;		
(c) recent exposure to stressors that adversely affect behaviour or physiological state (for example extreme temperatures, chemical agents);		

Pcy Text	Drafting suggestions	Comments
(d) insufficient or excessive length of fasting.		
<b>5. Loading practices</b>		
5.1. Operators shall take the necessary measures to avoid any injury and unnecessary stress to aquatic animals during loading.		
5.2. At loading, the following shall be assessed:		
(a) crowding procedure prior to loading;		
(b) inappropriately constructed or operated equipment;		
(c) significant changes in the water quality such as different temperature or other water parameters.		
5.3. Operators shall ensure the density of aquatic animals in a vehicle and/or container is maintained within the appropriate limits taking into account the species specific needs and the scientific data available.		

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<p>5.4. Loading shall be carried out by operators with knowledge and experience of the behaviour and other characteristics of the aquatic animals with the aim to ensure their welfare.</p>		
<p><b>6. During transport</b></p>		
<p>6.1. Periodic inspections <del>should</del> <b>shall</b> take place during the transport to verify that acceptable welfare is being maintained.</p>		
<p>6.2. Drivers or attendants shall monitor the water quality and make the necessary adjustments to ensure the parameters enumerated in point 3.2 are maintained within the appropriate limits taking into account the species-specific needs.</p>		
<p>6.3. Drivers shall travel in a manner that minimises uncontrolled movements of the aquatic animals that may lead to stress and cause injury.</p>		
<p>6.4. In the event of health emergency during transport, the driver or an attendant shall initiate the contingency plan.</p>		

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<p>6.5. If the killing of aquatic animals is necessary during the transport, <del>the driver or</del> the attendant shall be trained and capable to perform the killing with prior stunning so that animals remain unconscious until death.</p>		
<p><b>7. Unloading practices</b></p>		
<p>7.1. The principles of good handling during loading apply equally during unloading.</p>		
<p>7.2. Operators shall unload the aquatic animals as soon as possible after arrival at the destination, allowing sufficient time to avoid causing any harm to the animals.</p>		
<p>7.3. Operators shall consider enough time for acclimatisation of some species depending on their needs and before being unloaded into water of a significantly different quality (such as temperature, salinity, pH).</p>		
<p>7.4. Operators shall remove moribund or seriously injured aquatic animals and kill them using an appropriate method suitable for the species and size of the animal and preventing unnecessary suffering.</p>		

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<b>8. Post transport practices</b>		
8.1. The operator in charge of receiving the aquatic animals shall closely observe them during the post-transport period and keep appropriate records.		
8.2. Aquatic animals showing abnormal clinical signs shall either be isolated and examined by a veterinarian, who may recommend treatment, or killed using a method suitable for the species and size of the animal and preventing unnecessary suffering.		
8.3. Operators shall evaluate significant problems associated with transport and take mitigation measures to prevent recurrence.		