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MEETING DOCUMENT

From: To:	Presidency Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Questions (Animal Welfare)
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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 - Chapter III of Annex I

In preparation of the Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Questions (Animal Welfare) of 17-18 February 2026, delegations will find in annex Chapter III of Annex I of the above Regulation as revised by the Presidency on the basis of delegations' comments. The text will be included in a revised compilation of Annexes of that Regulation, together with Presidency suggestions to Annex II and to Chapters II, IV and VI of its Annex I.

CHAPTER III

TRANSPORT PRACTICES

1. General provisions

1.1. Due regard shall be paid to the need**s** of ~~certain categories of animals, such as wild~~ animals **not accustomed to handling, and arrangements shall be made for them** to become accustomed to the mode of transport prior to the proposed journey.

1.1a. During transport and handling, containers shall always be kept upright and jolts or shaking shall be minimised. Containers shall be secured to ensure their stability and to prevent their displacement due to the movement of the means of transport.[1] **Containers shall be positioned in a way that air circulation inside the container is not impeded.**[2]

1.2. ~~Where loading or unloading operations last for more than four hours, except for poultry, facilities shall be available for keeping, feeding and watering the animals outside the means of transport without being tied.~~[3]

1.3 ~~Where the stay of animals at assembly centres and a handling facility at a port or airport and at an assembly centre lasts for more than [four hours], [except for poultry and farmed lagomorphs rabbits], the animals shall be fed and watered.~~[4]

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1 **Moved from point 4.2 of Chapter II of Annex I with the deletion of the word "severe".**

2 **Moved from point 5.4 of this Chapter.**

3 **This point is proposed to be deleted since it is covered by article 30(3) paragraph 3 in the case of transport by livestock vessel or aircraft.**

4 **Requirements for feeding and watering at handing facilities at ports and airports and at assembly centres are covered in Chapter V of Annex I.**

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1.~~6~~ 4.[5] **When containers loaded with animals are placed one on top of the other the necessary precautions shall be taken:**

(a) to ~~avoid~~ prevent, or in the case of poultry and~~,~~ farmed lagomorphs, ~~rabbits and fur animals~~[6][7]~~,~~ to limit urine and faeces falling on the animals placed underneath;

(b) to ensure stability of the containers;

(c) to ensure that ~~ventilation~~ air circulation is not impeded[8].

1.~~4~~ 5. Animals kept at ~~a~~ handling facilit~~y~~ies, at ~~a~~ port~~y~~s or airports and transferred to or from an aircraft or a vessel shall be protected from risks of injuries, excessive noise exposure, adverse weather conditions and extreme temperatures, taking account of their species and categor~~y~~ies.

1.~~5~~ 6. Vehicles transferring animals to or from ~~a handling facility at an airport or to or from~~ an aircraft shall ~~maintain~~ be operated ~~appropriate speed~~ in such a way as to prevent the tipping over of containers and unnecessary stress to the animals. The time spent by the animals on such vehicles shall be limited to the time necessary for the transfer. The time spent by the animals on the tarmac shall be kept to a minimum.

1.7. [8]Piglets of less than 10 kg, lambs or kids[9] of less than 20 kg, calves of less than six months and foals of less than four months of age shall be provided with bedding. The quality and quantity of the bedding shall be appropriate to the species, the number of animals being transported, the duration of the journey or journeys, and the weather, so that animals remain clean and dry during the entire journey or journeys.[10]

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5 **This point was originally moved from point 2.6. It is suggested to be placed before point 1.4. in order to regroup those points which concern containers.**

6 *Consequential to new definition of terrestrial animals in Article 3(19).*

7 **Fur animals are not covered by the definition of terrestrial animals and are therefore outside the scope of this Annex.**

8 **Point 1.6. is moved before point 1.4. The numbering has been adjusted.**

9 To ensure consistency with point 1(h) of Chapter I.

10 **Consequence of new definition of journey in Article 3(4) - there can be several journeys between place of departure and place of destination if an assembly centre is used.**

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1.8. Goods which are being transported in the same means of transport as animals shall be positioned so that they do not interfere with the loading, transport and unloading of the animals, are not in direct contact with the animals and do not pose any risk to them.[11]

2. Loading and unloading

2.1. Facilities **and equipment** for loading and unloading ~~, including the flooring,~~ shall be designed, constructed, maintained and operated **so as** to:

(a) prevent injury and suffering and minimise excitement and distress during animal movements as well as to ensure the safety of the animals;

(b) ensure that surfaces ~~are not slippery~~ **prevent animals from slipping** and that lateral protections **of sufficient height according to the species and categories of animals being transported** are provided to prevent animals from escaping **and from injuring themselves**;

(c) ensure that they are **easy to** clean~~ed~~ and disinfect~~ed~~.

2.1a. Ramps and loading platforms shall be made of materials that can support the weight of the animals.

2.2. **If l**oading **and unloading** ramps **are used, they** shall not be steeper than an angle of:

(a) 20 degrees, (36,4 % to the horizontal) for **animals of the porcine, bovine and equine species** ~~pigs, calves and horses~~;

(b) 26 degrees ~~35~~ **34** minutes, (50 % to the horizontal) for **animals of the ovine and caprine species** ~~sheep, goats and cattle other than calves~~.

2.2a. In case of a height difference between the ramp and the vehicle or between the ramp and the floor, that height difference shall be appropriate to prevent injuries and allow uninterrupted movement of animals.

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[11] **Moved from point 2.4 of this Chapter since it is not relevant only to the loading and unloading of the animals.**

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2.2b. Ramps shall be equipped with ~~non-slippery~~ flooring **that prevents animals from slipping and with lateral protection of sufficient height, appropriate to the species and categories of animals being transported.** ~~foot battens and lateral protection~~.

2.3. Lifting platforms, ~~and~~ upper floors **and moveable floors** shall ~~have~~ **be equipped with** safety barriers to prevent animals **from** falling**, becoming trapped in any gaps** or escaping during loading and unloading operations.

~~2.4. Goods which are being transported in the same means of transport as animals shall be positioned so that they do not cause suffering to the animals.~~[12]

2.5. Appropriate lighting shall be provided during loading and unloading to prevent animals balking and to allow ~~handlers to detect~~ **the detection of** possible animal welfare problems such as lameness, injuries, animals slipping or falling or defective pieces of equipment **and the assessment of the animals' fitness for transport and of the indicators referred to in Article 26(1)**.

~~2.6.~~[13][…]

3. Handling

3.1. It shall be prohibited to:

(a) strike or kick the animals;

(b) apply pressure to any part of the body **of the animals** in such a way as to cause them unnecessary **pain or** suffering;

(c) suspend the animals ~~themselves~~ by mechanical means;

(d) lift**, pull** or drag the animals by legs (except for poultry **if handled in accordance with the provisions of point 3.7.)** ~~and farmed lagomorphs)~~, head, ears, horns, tail**,** ~~or~~ fleece**, wings or feathers**;

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12 **Moved to point 1.8.**

13 *Moved to point 1.**4.***

(e) use prods or other implements with **sharp or** pointed ends **capable of causing injury to the animals**;

(f) **force animals to move forward where their movement is obstructed or** obstruct~~ing any~~ animal**s that are** ~~which is~~ being driven or led ~~through any part where animals are handled~~**;** ~~.~~

(g) cause unnecessary pain or suffering to the animals in any other way.

3.2. The use of instruments which administer electric shocks **to an animal** shall be prohibited**,** ~~when animals move in group. It shall only be permitted~~ **except when the following conditions are met**:

(a) ~~on bovine animals or pigs~~ **the animal is an animal of the bovine species of more than 6 months of age, or an animal of the porcine species of** over 80 kg ~~live weight, and~~**;**

(b) ~~when an~~ **the** animal refuses to move **or get up** without any visible reasons**;**

(c) the animal has sufficient space to move forward; and

(d) such instrument is used only as a last resort.

Shocks shall not be ~~used~~ **administered** more than twice~~,~~ **to the same animal**. **Each shock** shall last no longer than one second and shall only be ~~applied~~ **administered** to the muscles of the hindquarters. **Animals shall be given sufficient time to move or get up before any second shock is administered.**

3.3. Assembly centres, ~~and~~ **control posts~~,~~ and handling facilities at ports and airports**[14] shall ~~provide~~ **have** equipment for tethering animals when necessary. Animals not used to being tied shall remain untied.

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14 *Consequential change of introduction of new provisions on these facilities in Chapter V (14743/24).*

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3.4. Animals shall not be tied by the horns, the antlers, the nose rings **and shall not have their** legs tied together.

Calves ~~and~~ **shall not be muzzled.**

D~~d~~ogs shall not be muzzled **unless the use of a muzzle is required for medical reasons, animal or human safety reasons, in which case the duration shall be limited to the minimum period necessary and the dog shall be supervised**.

Animals of the equine **species** […] older than eight months**, except unbroken animals of the equine species,** shall wear halters during transport. ~~except for unbroken animals of the equine species~~.

3.5 When animals need to be tied, the ropes, tethers or other means used shall be:

(a) strong enough not to break during normal transport conditions;

(b) such as to allow the animals, if necessary, to lie down and to eat and drink;

(c) designed in such a way as to eliminate any danger of strangulation or injury, and to allow animals to be quickly released;

(d) **in case of animals of the equine species,** long enough and ~~used in a way to~~ allow **the** ~~animals of the equine species~~ animals to lower their head below the height of their withers**, without getting their head or legs caught**.

~~3.6. […]~~

3.7. **When** ~~caught~~ **placed in containers manually, poultry, other than day-old chicks, shall be:**

i) caught and carried upright by holding their wings against their body; or

ii) […] caught […] and carried by two legs**, with a maximum of 3 birds per hand.** […] **Breast** slides in cages or **the** operator's leg **shall be used** as support for **the** bird's breast **when lifting or lowering the bird**. […] **The persons involved shall make arrangements to reduce the duration of handling poultry inverted.**

Poultry weighing more than [5] kg shall only be caught and carried in accordance with point i.

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3.8. When handled, weaned farmed lagomorphs shall be lifted by the skin of the neck. Their body shall be immediately supported with the other hand.

3.9. Sedatives and tranquilisers shall not be used on animals to be transported unless it is necessary to ensure the welfare of the animals and safety of ~~operators~~ humans and shall only be used under supervision of a veterinarian. Written documentation of the use of such substances shall accompany the animals and shall be made available to the competent authority upon request.

3.10. Lactating females ~~[of bovine, ovine and caprine species]~~ not accompanied by their offspring shall be milked shortly before loading and at intervals of not more than 12 hours. If milking is not possible, lactating females shall not be separated for more than 12 hours from their offspring.

4. Separation

4.1. The following **animals** shall be handled **separately** and transported **in different animal compartments** ~~separately:~~

(a) animals of different species;

(b) animals of significantly different sizes or ages;

(c) adult breeding boars**,** ~~or~~ stallions**, bulls and rams**;

(d) sexually mature males from females **in oestrus**;

(e) animals with horns from animals without horns;

(f) animals hostile to each other;

(g) tied animals from untied animals.

4.2. Points 4.1 (a), (b), (c)**, (d)** and (e)~~.~~ shall not apply where the animals have been raised in compatible groups, are accustomed to each other, where separation will cause distress or where females are accompanied by ~~dependent young~~ **their offspring**.

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5. During transport

~~5.1. Space allowances in respect of the animals' species and the means of transport shall comply at least with the figures laid down in Chapter VII.~~[15]

5.2. **Animals of the** equine **species** ~~animals~~ shall not be transported in multi-deck vehicles except if animals are loaded on the lowest deck with no animals on **the** higher deck.

5.2a. Animals of the equine species other than unbroken horses and mares with their foals shall be transported in individual stalls.

5.3. Unbroken **animals of the** equine **species** ~~animals~~ shall not be transported in groups of more than 4 individuals.

5.3a. Points 3.4 and 3.5 shall apply during transport.

5.4. Sufficient **air circulation** ~~ventilation~~ shall be provided to ensure **air quality and quantity appropriate to the species and categories of animals being transported** ~~that the needs of the animals are fully met~~ taking into account in particular the number ~~and type~~ of the animals ~~to be transported~~ and the expected weather conditions during the journey. ~~Containers shall be positioned in a way that does not impede their ventilation.~~[16]

~~5.5. Animals shall be offered water, feed and the opportunity to rest as appropriate to their species and age, at suitable intervals and in particular as referred to in Chapter V.~~[17]

5.6. In the case of transport of weaned domestic animals of the equine species or dogs and cats, the vehicle shall carry a sufficient quantity of feed to ensure compliance with the provisions referred to in points 1.1.(a) and 3.1. of Chapter V.[18]

5.7. The water and feed provided to the animals shall be of good quality and presented to the animals in a way that minimizes contamination. Due regard shall be paid to the need of animals to become accustomed to the mode of feeding and watering.

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15 Covered by Article 31a

16 Moved to point 1.1a.

17 This point is proposed to be deleted since it is covered by chapter V of Annex I.

18 Weaned domestic animals of the equine species and dogs and cats are the only species requiring feeding during short journeys, therefore they are added in this Chapter III. Other species are covered by point 3.1 of Chapter VI of Annex I.

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6. Minimum ~~vertical~~ ceiling height[19]

~~6.1. For cattle and unweaned calves, the minimum vertical height during transport shall correspond to the following formula:~~

~~*H = W x 1.17 + 20*~~

~~whereby H = minimum height and W = wither height of the tallest animal in the compartment.~~

6.1. The minimum ceiling height of compartments in case of animals of the bovine species shall be:

(a) for short journeys, at least [20] cm above the withers of the tallest animal;

(b) for long journeys, determined in accordance with the following formula:

H = W (cm) x 1.17 + [10] cm

where H = minimum ceiling height in cm, and W = wither height of the tallest animal in the compartment in cm.

6.1a The minimum ceiling height of compartments in case of any journey of animals of the porcine species shall be at least [15] cm above the highest point of the tallest animal in a standing position.

6.2. ~~For sheep the space above the highest point of the tallest animal~~ **The minimum ceiling height of compartments in case of any journey of animals of the ovine and caprine species** shall be at least 15 cm **above the highest point of the tallest animal in a standing position** in vehicles with mechanical ventilation and 30 cm in naturally ventilated vehicles.

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19 It is suggested to move point 6 of Chapter III to Chapter VII of Annex I.

6.3. ~~For animals of the equine species the minimum internal height of a compartment~~ **The minimum ceiling height of compartments in case of any journey of animals of the equine species** shall be at least 75 cm ~~from~~ **above** the withers of the tallest animal.

6.4. ~~For **poultry,** domestic birds the height of the~~ **The minimum ceiling height of** containers **in case of any journey of poultry** shall be such that the comb or head does not touch the ceiling when **the** birds **are in a sitting position** ~~sit~~ with their head and neck in a natural posture ~~or when they change position~~.

6.5. ~~For **farmed lagomorphs** rabbits **for** slaughter the height of the container~~ **The minimum ceiling height of containers in case of any journey of farmed lagomorphs** shall be sufficient to ensure that ~~**farmed lagomorphs**~~ **the animals can be in a crouched position without their ears touching the ceiling** ~~sit with their ears extended~~.

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