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**INFORMATION**

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| From:<br>To: | General Secretariat of the Council<br>Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Questions (Animal Welfare) |
| N° Cion doc.: | ST 16405 2023 ADD 1 + ST 16405 2023 INIT |
| Subject: | Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Questions (Animal Welfare) on 8-9 July 2025 - Presidency flash |

In view of the above meeting, delegations will find in Annex the Presidency flash.

Danish Presidency
Council of the European Union

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# Presidency Flash

## Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Questions (Animal Welfare and Husbandry)

## 8 – 9 July 2025, Brussels

| When | Where | Format |
|---|---|---|
| 8 and 9 July 2025 10.00 | LEX Building | 2 + 2 |

## Dear Colleagues,

The Danish Presidency is pleased to invite you to the first meeting under Danish Presidency in the Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Questions (Animal Welfare and Husbandry). The meeting will take place on 8 and 9 July 2025 in Brussels.

The aim of the meeting is to continue the examination of the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council *on the protection of animals during transport and related operations*. Specifically, we are planning to initiate fruitful discussions on training (Articles 37 and 38), space allowances (Chapter VIII of Annex I) and means of transport (Chapter III).

## Article 37 and 38

The discussions in the Working Party have already touched upon training. In connection with earlier discussions on Chapters II and V, it was proposed to regroup all requirements regarding training.

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Up until now, discussions in the Working Party have primarily focused on which actors in the transport chain that should receive training. However, the content of the training has not yet been on the agenda.

We invite Delegations to express their views on Article 37 and 38 of the Commission proposal. In particular, we welcome input on these questions:

1. Would it be beneficial to set up a two-level training system in line with the existing system?
    a. Basic training for all persons in contact with animals during transport (including catchers of poultry, staff at ground handling facilities, staff on livestock vessels etc.)
    b. Supplementary training for the actors who should hold a certificate of competence
2. What should be the content of training for which actors? This includes which competences, knowledge and skills should be required for e.g. a driver or staff at ground handling facilities.

On this basis, the Danish Presidency will draft a new Chapter on training to be presented at a later Working Party.

## Chapter VII of Annex I

The Commission will briefly present the technical aspects of the original proposal in terms of space allowances, including the allometric equation designed to calculate the required space according to the animal species. After this presentation, we invite you to share your views on the species-specific k-values.

## Chapter III

The Presidency will present a compromise proposal on Chapter III based on Delegations' written remarks submitted in May 2025 as well as the comments made during previous Working Party meetings. The compromise proposal will be accessible via Delegates Portal under document ST 10918/25.

The significant changes proposed in Chapter III are:

- Chapter III has been aligned with the wording in Chapter II. For this reason, new Articles 12a and 13a have been added.
- Chapter III includes both means of transport and containers. Means of transport and containers for large animals should be subject to a certificate of approval.
- Containers for poultry and lagomorphs should not be subject to an approval process in Member States due to administrative burdens. Instead, a number of requirements are proposed for these containers for animal welfare reasons. The requirements are added to Chapters II and VI of Annex I, including requirements on

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the feeding and watering systems for long transports of poultry, other than day-old chicks, and weaned farmed lagomorphs.
- Technical requirements for livestock vessels should be readopted in an implementing act.
- A Presidency draft text on air transport will be circulated at a later point. Air transport will therefore not be a point for discussion at this Working Party meeting.

We invite Delegations to share their views on the compromise text.

## Next steps

After the meeting, a consultation round on Chapter VII of Annex I will be launched on Delegates Portal. Delegations are invited to submit their written comments as soon as possible but no later than **5 September 2025**. A Presidency compromise proposal will be presented at a later meeting.

At the meeting in September, the Danish Presidency intends to present the new Chapter on training as well as a compromise proposal on Chapter IV based on the written comments submitted in May 2025.

## Any other businesses

Delegations that would like to raise any other businesses during the meeting are kindly requested to inform the General Secretariat of the Council (LIFE.3@consilium.europa.eu) as well as the Chairs of the Presidency team, [redacted] and [redacted] in advance of the meeting.

The helpful support by the General Secretariat of the Council is highly appreciated.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Brussels.

Kind regards,

**The Danish Presidency team on the animal welfare during transport proposal**

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# Nature National Parks

Since the last Ice Age, Denmark's landscape has shifted from a forest-rich terrain with wetlands and dynamic coastal nature to a heavily cultivated land with fewer forests and declining biodiversity. To recreate more nature and biodiversity, the Danish government is establishing 15 Nature National Parks. These parks will consist of large, contiguous natural areas that exclude forestry and agriculture, allowing the ecosystem to develop as much as possible on its own terms.

Within the Nature National Parks, The Danish Nature Agency will release large herbivores such as cattle, horses, moose, red deer, and European bison to help maintain natural ecosystems by ensuring sufficient grazing and browsing. This will furthermore improve biodiversity by supporting habitats for birds, insects, plants, and fungi.

**Open to the public**

The Nature National Parks will of course be fully open to the public, allowing visitors to experience a wide variety of wildlife and biodiversity.

On 21 June 2025, Fussingø actually became the first Nature National Park to open in Denmark. Therefore, if you are lucky enough to be near the Danish city of Randers during the summer, you might want to stop by the newly opened park.

The remaining 14 parks will be opened gradually over the coming years.



