

Now that the Eid-el-Kabir 2001 is over, the Commission will assess the improvements actually made on the basis of a report requested from the French authorities.

Should adequate progress not be maintained, the Commission will consider opening an Article 226 (ex Article 169) of the EC Treaty infringement procedure.

(¹) OJ L 340, 31.12.1993.

(2001/C 350 E/119)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1289/01

by Struan Stevenson (PPE-DE) to the Commission

(3 May 2001)

Subject: Transport of live animals – live animal transport ban

In 1992, the Commission's Scientific Veterinary Committee (SVC) stressed that live transport 'should be avoided whenever possible'. Despite this, huge numbers of animals are transported across Europe on extremely long journeys during which they often suffer greatly. Much of this suffering could be avoided if animals were slaughtered as near as possible to the farm of rearing and meat transported instead. Would the Commission propose an end to the live transport of animals over long distances in favour of a more regionalised meat trade? If not, what reasonable justifications can you give for not doing so?

(2001/C 350 E/120)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1291/01

by Struan Stevenson (PPE-DE) to the Commission

(3 May 2001)

Subject: Transport of live animals – lack of enforcement

A briefing by Compassion in World Farming in the European Parliament demonstrated the complete failure of the EU Transport Directive to protect animals during long journeys. Reports published by the European Commission have revealed breaches of the Directive in Italy, France, Greece, Belgium and Ireland.

What will the Commission do to enforce existing laws regarding:

- the brutal handling of animals en route?
- the transportation of injured and sick animals?
- a mandatory twenty-four hour rest period as required by the Directive?
- overcrowding and inadequate ventilation?
- the use of low standard vehicles?

**Joint answer
to Written Questions E-1289/01 and E-1291/01
given by Mr Byrne on behalf of the Commission**

(26 June 2001)

The necessity to limit the long distance transport of animals to absolutely essential journeys and to keep any suffering to a minimum are especially important objectives for the Commission.

The Commission has opened infringement proceedings against Belgium, Greece and Spain in relation to their failure to implement Community legislation in this field. The opening of infringement proceedings against other Member States in relation to animal transport is also under consideration.