

Dear Commissioner Borg,

As you know, many farm animals are exported each year from the EU to non-EU countries. I am opposed to this trade because of the serious animal welfare problems often encountered both during the long journeys and then at slaughter in the destination countries.

Recent investigations by animal welfare groups into slaughter conditions in the Middle East found extremely poor slaughter practices resulting in great animal suffering. Much of what was documented was against the recommendations of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

In light of the poor welfare involved in such long journeys and the extreme suffering often experienced by EU animals during slaughter in the destination countries, I urge you to work to end the export of live animals to non-EU countries.

Nevertheless, while this trade continues, the EU should help the importing countries improve their slaughter standards. Destination countries need practical assistance in improving their slaughter practices.

The EU must act to stop this suffering by:

- Inviting slaughterhouse managers and veterinarians from countries we export to to participate in a study visit to the EU to see how slaughter can be carried out to better standards of welfare
- Working with importing country authorities to help improve welfare conditions in a small number of abattoirs. These abattoirs could then act as a model for neighbouring abattoirs to encourage further improvement.

The EU should be prepared to help these countries not just because of its trade but because they are either EU candidate countries or are covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy.

Yours sincerely,

Il tuo nome