



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 11 June 2012

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REV 1**

**AGRILEG 75
VETER 42**

REVISED REPORT

from : Presidency

to : Council

No. Cion prop.: 5398/1/12 - COM(2012) 6 final/2
16798/11 - COM(2011) 700 final

No. prev. doc.: 9213/12 AGRILEG 58 VETER 32

Subject : - Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee on the European Union Strategy for the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2012-2015

- Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the impact of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport

- Adoption of Council Conclusions on the Protection and Welfare of Animals

1. The Commission, on 19 January 2012, transmitted to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee a Communication on the European Union Strategy for the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2012-2015.

On 10 November 2011, the Commission had transmitted to the European Parliament and the Council a Report on the impact of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport¹.

¹ Delegations' comments on the Communication and on the Report are set out in doc. 6072/3/12 REV 3.

2. On 29 February - 1 March 2012, the Danish Presidency and the Commission organised in Brussels a Conference on the EU Animal Welfare Strategy : “*Empowering consumers and creating market opportunities for animal welfare*”. During this Conference, representatives of the Member States, of the European Institutions, international parties and a wide range of stakeholders discussed and commented the Communication.
3. On 6, 23 March and 20 April 2012, the Working Party of Veterinary Experts (Animal Welfare) thoroughly examined the draft Council conclusions on the Protection and Welfare of Animals submitted by the Danish Presidency. During these proceedings, the Working Party of Chief Veterinary Officers took note of the state of play of the examination.

On 24 April 2012, the Working Party of Agricultural Counsellors / Attachés assessed the outcome of proceedings of the Working Party of Veterinary Experts (Animal Welfare) and suggested amendments.

The Presidency submitted to the Working Party of Agricultural Counsellors/Attachés the final version of the Presidency compromise, as set out in the Addendum 1 to this report, and invited the delegations to confirm this outcome.

On 27 April 2012, the Working Party of Agricultural Counsellors / Attachés confirmed agreement¹ on the draft Council conclusions on the Protection and Welfare of Animals.

On 4 May 2012, the Presidency informed the Working Party of Chief Veterinary Officers about this outcome. The submission of the draft conclusions for adoption was postponed to the June meeting of the Agriculture/Fisheries Council in order to give ample time for lifting the remaining reservations.

¹ NL entered a reservation and ES a waiting reservation.

On 1 June 2012, the Permanent Representative Committee took note of the Swedish statement¹, supported by the Belgian, Danish and Austrian delegations, as well as of the reservations maintained, at this stage, by the Dutch and Spanish delegations on the draft Council conclusions.

4. In light of the foregoing, the Presidency asks the delegations maintaining reservations to reconsider their position in order that the Council could adopt the conclusions as set out in the Addendum 1 to this report. Should this not be possible, the Council will be invited instead to take note of this text in the form of Presidency conclusions, supported by the other delegations.

¹ As set out in Addendum 2 to this report.