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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Animal welfare during transport in high temperatures during the summer months
- Information from the Commission

Delegations will find in Annex an information note from the Commission services on the above mentioned subject to be raised under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 15 July 2019.

Animal welfare during transport in high temperatures during the summer months

Every summer, many animals are transported over long distances in temperatures above 30°C, causing unnecessary suffering to the animals. This is the case especially with exports of live animals to Turkey, as procedures on the Turkish side of the Bulgarian-Turkish border (Käpikule) are slow and there are no facilities to shelter the animals. Last year, Commissioner Andriukaitis wrote to all Ministers drawing their attention to this issue. Although there were improvements in the planning for such exports, transport of animals still took place in temperatures beyond the maximum allowed by the Regulation on the protection of animals during transport.

The European Parliament last year highlighted major animal welfare problems also at Mediterranean ports. These incidents, confirmed by audit missions carried out by the Commission, indicate that the source of the problem is inadequate planning. Too many animals arrive for loading onto a livestock vessel in high temperatures, and facilities at certain ports are still inadequate for such large numbers of animals e.g. 5000 cattle loaded on one ship.

The Commission will continue to monitor the implementation of animal welfare rules, and work together with the Member States and stakeholders to avoid any unnecessary animal suffering this summer. In this respect, the Commission would like to urge again all Ministers to renew efforts at all levels aimed at ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Regulation on the protection of animals during transport, and to encourage the stakeholders (notably transport organisers and transporters) to comply with the conditions for transport and to ensure adequate planning for animals' journeys. In particular, this means that no long distance transports should take place if temperatures are forecast to exceed 30°C.