

NEWS RELEASE



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MEPs LAUNCH PETITION TO STOP LONG ANIMAL TRANSPORT TO SLAUGHTER

MEPs Neil Parish and Struan Stevenson launched on 11 November a Europe-wide signature collection to stop live animals being transported for more than eight hours to slaughter. Neil Parish is Chairman of the European Parliament's influential Agriculture Committee and Struan Stevenson is spokesperson for the Committee on Fisheries.

The petition aims at collecting 1 million signatures to be submitted to the European Agriculture Ministers, who will be discussing a revision of the EU Transport Regulation next year.

Every year millions of animals are transported huge distances across Europe only to be slaughtered at journey's end. Packed into overcrowded trucks, animals are often given no, or far too little, food, water or rest. As the journeys progress, the animals become increasingly exhausted and dehydrated. Some succumb to heat stress and can be seen desperately panting and gasping for air. In the worst cases, many die.

The 2004 Opinion of the Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare of the European Food Safety Authority stressed that animal transport should "be avoided wherever possible and journeys should be as short as possible". This recommendation is, however, not reflected in the current EU legislation.

MEP Neil Parish says:” This has been unresolved for far too long. Most animals can be slaughtered before transport and those that can't shouldn't be travelling for eight hours just to be killed. This campaign will highlight this issue and every signature we get will bring us one step closer to ending these dark, crowded and painful final journeys for thousands of animals.”

Peter Stevenson, Chief Policy Advisor of Compassion in World Farming, comments: “We believe that the long distance transport of animals to slaughter should be brought to an end. Animals should be slaughtered as near as possible to the farm of rearing; the meat can then be transported to wherever it is wanted.

“Compassion in World Farming is delighted to be joining forces with MEPs Neil Parish and Struan Stevenson in support of their petition calling for an EU-wide limit of 8 hours on journeys to slaughter”.

The campaign is called “8 hours” and is internet-based. Its website (www.8hours.eu) has been initiated by Dan Jørgensen, member of the European Parliament for the Danish Social Democrats. The campaign is run in different member states around the EU and in the UK it is run by MEPs Neil Parish and Struan Stevenson.

Ends

For interviews or more information contact Valentina Moressa, Media Officer, Compassion in World Farming: valentina@ciwf.org tel. 01483 521952 or out of office hours 07771 926005

Notes

- Neil Parish is Chairman of the European Parliament's Agriculture Committee as well as being Chair of the Parliament's Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals.
- Struan Stevenson is Vice President of the ruling EPP-ED Group and is currently the Spokesman on Fisheries and Deputy Spokesman on Agriculture for the Conservative Party.

- Dan Jørgensen is a member of the European Parliament's Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals.
- The campaign is online at <http://www.8hours.eu>
- Compassion in World Farming leads the European Coalition for Farm Animals which campaigns Europe-wide to end the long distance transport of animals.

Resources:

- Compassion in World Farming's report "Long distance animal transport in Europe 2008" is available at http://www.ciwf.org.uk/resources/publications/live_transport_live_export/default.asp