


## Transport of horses: what is taken into account ? The way forward

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## Animal welfare perception

*Transport is the **most visible area** to citizens in relation to animal protection and is a major **source of potential stress** and suffering for all animals.*

*Legislation is today more focussed on slaughter horses since at the moment their transport conditions are the most critical.*

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## Community legislation today in force

- Council Directive 91/628/EC amended by Council Directive 95/29/EC on the protection of animals during transport
  - Council Regulation (EC) 1255/97 concerning Community criteria for staging points and amending the route plan referred to in the Annex to Directive 91/628/EEC
  - Council Regulation (EC) 411/98 on additional animal protection standards applicable to road vehicles used for the carriage of livestock on journeys exceeding eight hours


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## Community legislation: the most recent achievement

- Council Regulation EC N1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation EC n°1255/97.

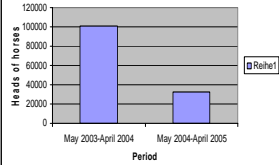
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## Import of slaughter horses into the EU (heads)


| Import            | France | Belgium | Italy  | Total import |
|-------------------|--------|---------|--------|--------------|
| May '03-April '04 | 4167   | 833     | 95742  | 100742       |
| May '04-April '05 | 835    | 1167    | 30665  | 32667        |
| May '03-April '05 | 5002   | 2000    | 126407 | 133409       |

Import of slaughter horses from Third Country to EU



Source: Eurostat

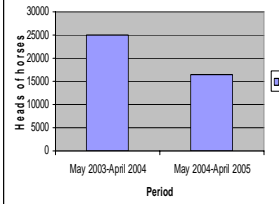
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## Import of slaughter horses from Rumania (heads)

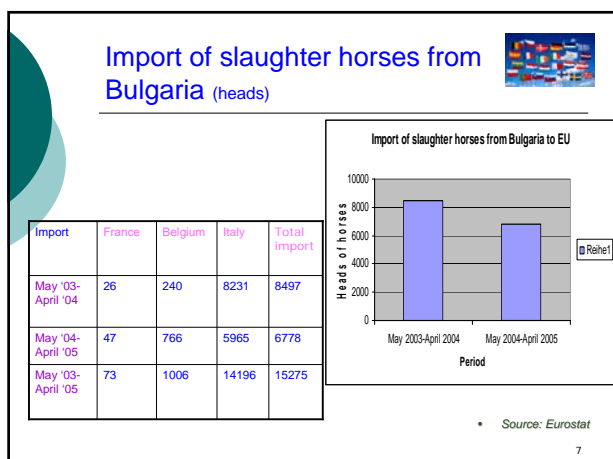
| Import            | France | Belgium | Italy | Total import |
|-------------------|--------|---------|-------|--------------|
| May '03-April '04 | 464    | 0       | 24635 | 25099        |
| May '04-April '05 | 215    | 43      | 16176 | 16434        |
| May '03-April '05 | 679    | 43      | 40811 | 41533        |

Import of slaughter horses from Rumania to EU



Source: Eurostat

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### Some comments on the data

- ✦ *The trade of slaughter horses has still an economic importance*
- ✦ *There is however a decrease of EU import after the accession of the 10 Member States*

### Why is transporting of horses a welfare issue?

*The horses are more sensible than other farm animals*

- Easier stressed
- Predisposition to colic
- Predisposition to dehydration
- Predisposition to fractures
- Usually an age difference within the group transported
- Usually transport of older weak horses for slaughter.

### Directive 91/628/EEC as amended in 1995 – main provisions on transport of horses

- ✦ *Horses shall wear halters during transport, except unbroken foals and horses in individual boxes.*
- ✦ *Horses shall not be transported in vehicles with more than one deck;*

*Horses transported in groups shall be tied except for foals and unbroken horses.*

### Directive 91/628/EEC as amended in 1995 – main provisions on transport of horses

- ✦ *Horses, except registered equidae, may be transported for 24 hours.*
- ✦ *During the journey they must be given liquid and if necessary fed every 8 hours.*

### Main problems during transport

- ✦ *Overloading of the vehicle*
- ✦ *Groups do not fit; age and size difference*
- ✦ *Horses are too weak*
- ✦ *The journey is too long*
- ✦ *The resting periods between two journeys is too short*
- ✦ *No access to water*
- ✦ *No feeding*
- ✦ *Bad ventilation in the vehicle*
- ✦ *Temperature in the vehicle is too high*

## Council Regulation N°1/2005



*New legislation towards better animal protection in an enlarged European Union.*



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## Council Regulation N° 1/2005



- Applies from **January 2007**
- Radical overhaul of the existing EU rules on animal transport
- More effective enforcement of the new rules:
  - **"Who is responsible for what"**
- Easier implementation and better standards

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## Council Regulation N° 1/2005



- ✚ *Taking care of the whole transport chain*
- ✚ *Improved enforcement*

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## Improved enforcement



- Specific authorisation for transporters operating long journeys and satellite navigation system
- Withdrawal of authorisation and approval
- New and more detailed route plan (journey log)



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## Higher requirements for horses



- *The regulation applies for all horses*
- *Foals of less than 4 months should have appropriate bedding material*
- *During the journey the horses should have free access to water.*
- *Horses older than 8 months shall wear a halter except for unbroken horses.*

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## Improvements for horses



- *Horses shall be transported in individual stalls, except mares with their foals*
- *Horses can only be transported on the lowest deck*
- *The space between the roof of the compartment and the withers should be at least 75 cm*



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## Improvements for horses

- *Unbroken horses shall not be transported in groups of more than 4 individuals*
- *Unbroken horses or horses < 4 months shall not be transported over 8 hours*
- *The loading ramp should not be steeper than an angle of 20 degrees.*

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## Critical points

- *Horses transported in groups must have their hoofs unshod*
- *Horses drink 36 litres of water per day, also during the winter.*
- *More attention for the formation of a group to be transported*



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## Areas to explore

- *Investigate further the possibility to transport carcasses instead of live animals*
- *Increase Commission knowledge of the transport on sport/hobby horses*



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## Some considerations

- *More awareness of the conditions for transporting horses*
- *New Regulation should approve the transport conditions of slaughter horses*
- *More knowledge of the conditions for transport of sport/ hobbyhorses is necessary*

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Thank you for your attention



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