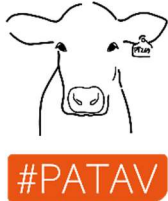




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Ms Stella Kyriakides  
European Commission  
Berlaymont  
Rue de la Loi 200  
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Please reply to: [i.ajuda@eurogroupforanimals.org](mailto:i.ajuda@eurogroupforanimals.org)

Dear Commissioner Kyriakides

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

As the conflict in Israel is escalating we have serious concerns about the large numbers of animals that continue to be exported there from the European Union.

Shipments of cattle and sheep arrive at Haifa port frequently from member states including Portugal, Romania, Ireland, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania and France. 107 shipments have arrived there so far this year, with one arriving from Rasa port Croatia on 13<sup>th</sup> October and Koper Port Slovenia on 18<sup>th</sup> October, carrying cattle from Ireland, Hungary and Lithuania.

We have been informed by contacts there that Haifa port is under continuous rocket fire, with 2 or 3 attacks every day, each one containing a barrage of rockets. They are intercepted but the loud booms are terrifying for the animals at the port. The attacks are also triggering air raid sirens, which must be alarming for any animals in the port.<sup>1</sup> The port workers and handlers are also nervous and treat the animals more harshly than usual to speed up the unloading and they have started using electric prods more frequently to get the unloading completed as quickly as possible. This is all adding to an already stressful situation for the animals and there is a risk a rocket may get through the barrier.

After unloading, the animals are transported to a quarantine centre where they remain for eight days. These are also under daily fire, to the extent that people who live in the area have evacuated. After quarantine the animals are moved to fattening farms that may also be at risk, there is nowhere safe for them.

There have been reports of instances of dairy farms in the region of Haifa being hit by missiles in recent weeks, killing large numbers of cows. If dairy farms can be hit, so can quarantine centres and fattening farms. It is clear that any exports to Israel will put the animals in extreme danger.<sup>2</sup>

Sources from Australia have revealed that a shipment of cattle to the same port has not been authorised due to concerns about the safety of the animals on arrival at the destination.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hezbollah-rains-rockets-on-haifa-as-deputy-leader-claims-capabilities-intact/>  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c8dj0nrdrv1no>  
<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/israel-reports-fresh-hezbollah-rocket-fire-on-haifa-after-deadly-strike/3361251#> -

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.thefencepost.com/news/dairy-cows-killed-as-hezbollah-missiles-rain-down-on-israeli-farms/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-07-25/israel-bound-cattle-stuck-in-limbo-at-fremantle/104137796>

In light of the increased conflict in Israel we urge you to suspend all shipments of live animals from the EU to Haifa port, as long as these hostilities continue. In our view it is completely unacceptable for EU cattle and sheep to be put at huge risk of being killed or injured during rocket attacks. We should not be sending them to a war zone.

We also need a suspension of all live export to Lebanon for the same reasons, there have been some exports there since the conflict expanded to that region and it is clearly not safe.

Article 13 TFEU requires the EU, when formulating and implementing its policies on agriculture and transport, to pay “full regard to the welfare requirements of animals”. Permitting continued transport of animals to a region where serious armed conflicts are underway would, we believe, be incompatible with Article 13.

In addition, Article 3 of Council Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport provides: “No person shall transport animals or cause animals to be transported in a way likely to cause injury or undue suffering to them”. Furthermore, in the Zuchtvieh case (C-424/13) the Court of Justice of the EU ruled that the provisions of Regulation 1/2005 continue to apply even when a consignment has left the EU; they apply all the way until the final destination in the non-EU country is reached. Transporting animals to this region while hostilities continue raises issues under Article 3

We do hope that you will agree that shipments to Israel should be suspended until hostilities in that region have come to an end. This is not a request for trade sanctions, it is a request for a suspension of live export there based on safety concerns for the animals.

We would be grateful for an urgent meeting with you or your Cabinet to discuss this issue.

Yours sincerely

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Ghislain Zuccolo  
Directeur Général  
WELFARM – Protection mondiale des animaux de ferme

PATAV - Plataforma Anti-Transporte de Animais Vivos