



Brussels, 27th January 2012

Mr. Bernard VAN GOETHEM
EU Commission
SANCO.DDG2.G
rue Belliard, 232
1049 Brussels

O/REF: JLM/zn/sb/**L-007-2012-EN**

RE: Animal welfare during transport to Turkey

Dear Mr. van Goethem,

Following the UECBV's letter dated 29th July 2011 (o/ref. JLM/zn/sb/L-090-2011-EN) concerning animal welfare during transport to Turkey, the UECBV would like to inform you about the worsening of the situation at the Turkish border.

According to the information received from some UECBV members, the Turkish authorities started in the last two weeks a new blood test procedure at the Turkish border without any explanation regarding the aim of such procedure. The new procedure foresees the unloading of 15 animals from each truck in order to be tested. Until the arrival of the blood test results, which takes several days, the trucks are not allowed to leave the border, which worsens the animal welfare situation.

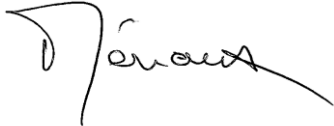
The UECBV was informed that trucks which arrived to the Turkish border last Saturday the 21st January 2012, did the blood test only on Wednesday the 25th January and the results will probably arrive only in the week commencing the 30th January and, consequently, the animals will be stuck on the truck for more than one week.

The situation is getting even worse with the Turkish limiting the entrance of livestock to Turkey only to the Kapikule border, which creates a bottleneck at this border post.

In addition, the transport operators are asked to pay for the new procedure, for the unloading of the animals, and for the blood test without getting any explanation or information regarding the foreseen release of the trucks.

The UECBV is very much concerned over the worsening of the animal welfare situation in the Kapikule border and, therefore, the UECBV would like to ask the Commission Services to intervene urgently and to take contact with the Turkish competent authorities in order to clarify the "new blood test procedures" at the Kapikule border in order to facilitate the entrance into Turkey and to safeguard the welfare of the animals transported without additional delays at the border.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Mériaux', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jean-Luc MÉRIAUX
UECBV Secretary General