

Live Exports

Germany: Federal Council decides to continue with cruel live transports

Animal Welfare Foundation and Tierschutzbund Zürich criticise the decision.

June 25th, 2021 – It could have been a historic day for animal welfare. Germany had the chance to set new standards and to become a pioneer in the EU. A committee proposal was submitted to the Federal Council (Bundesrat) for voting. According to the proposal, a ban on the transport of live animals to 17 countries would have become the law. It included countries such as Egypt, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Iran, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tajikistan, or Turkey. These destination countries have attracted attention in the past when reports from animal welfare organisations and the media have informed about incredible cruelty towards European animals. In addition, wars and riots prevail in several destination countries. These countries cannot guarantee the EU animal welfare requirements.

Animal Welfare Foundation (AWF) and Tierschutzbund Zürich (TSB Zürich) criticise the decision made by the Federal Council as a historical mistake. "The EU live transport regulation calls for the protection of animals up to their destination. The decision of the Federal Council is oblivious to these facts," explain the two organisations.

"A German ban on live transports to 17 third countries would be a sign of the consistent implementation of Germany's animal welfare objective. The fact that no majority was found in the Federal Council today is shameful and means that we will continue with torturous live transports and the cruel slaughtering of animals," said Iris Baumgärtner, live transport project manager at Animal Welfare Foundation.

AWF and TSB Zurich criticise that the veterinary offices have been abandoned by politics. Just like before, they will have to make decisions on transport permits without having sufficient information about destination routes and the place of destination itself. "One simply does not receive enough data from the destination countries – even though this is a requirement ". If a veterinary office decides against the transport of animals, the authority must continue to expect to be sentenced by a German administrative court to eventually permit the transport. "The dispute as we have known it for a very long time goes on," criticise AWF and TSB Zürich.

"The Federal Council decision is an insult to the Basic Law of Germany and a ruling by the European Court of Justice, which has established the protection of animals up to their destination as an essential part of the current EU live transport regulation", said Iris Baumgärtner.

AWF and TSB Zürich are demanding that the Federal Government will now take decisive action for animal welfare on live exports.

Further Information:

Iris Baumgärtner, AWF, Mail: i.baumgaertner@awf-tsb.org. T. 0049 151 404 487 50

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