



To:
European Commission
DG Health and Food Safety
(SANTÉ)
Mrs Stella Kyriakides
Rue de la Loi / Weststraat 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

From:
Welfarm – Protection mondiale des animaux de ferme
176 Avenue André Malraux
BP 80242
57006 METZ Cedex 1
France

Dear Commissioner Kyriakides,

We are writing to inform you about a situation of extreme urgency. According to our information, a livestock carrier, Nader-A, was blocked in Algiers' port since its arrival on September 4th. On board there were 789 bulls of 700kg. These animals left the port of Sète since more than 18 days and are now going back to Sète.

Please note that Nader-A is a very old vessel (45 y.o.) flying a Togolese flag while Togo is on the blacklist of the Memorandum of Understanding of Paris. According to the current 2021 list, Togo is in 67th position out of 68. During its last inspection in Sète (03/03/2022), 16 deficiencies have been found on this vessel.

Unfortunately, we do not have precise information on the survival conditions of the animals on board, but it seems that at least 30 of them already died. These bulls have

needs (watering, feeding, space) which cannot be satisfied in this situation of unbearable promiscuity and waiting.

According to our sources, the Algerian authorities have refused to authorize the unloading of the animals on their soil due to sanitary problems (non-conformity of the documents). The bulls sent to Algeria were not accompanied by documents asserting that they were free from infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (*IBR*). This means that this transport never should have been approved by the French authorities at the port of Sète.

We are highly afraid that this situation results in similar consequences as for the Elbeik and Karim Allah's crises in 2021. In those cases, both boats were denied access to ports due to suspicion of blue tongue. The animals spent months of wandering around the Mediterranean Sea before being killed.

We therefore ask you to allow animals on vessels to re-enter the EU to secure them and provide the necessary care and procedures.

We would also like to take this sad opportunity to reiterate our position on the exports of animals to third countries. In the context of the revision of the regulation on transport, this situation is a clear sign that a ban on such exports is the only option available to protect the animals.

We are looking forward to your action and reply,

Yours sincerely,

Ghislain ZUCCOLO, Chief executive of Welfarm

Julia HAVENSTEIN, Director of Animals' Angels

Maria BOADA-SAÑA, Project Manager of Animal Welfare Foundation

Gabriel PAUN, EU Director of Animals International

Lesley MOFFAT, Director of Eyes on Animals