



PROPOSAL FOR AN APPLICATION ON LIVE ANIMAL TRANSPORT

The aim: Develop a software programme for mobile devices (app) that could support the enforcement of present and future legislation on live animal transport, by making all relevant information available and accessible at all times by the competent authorities and relevant stakeholders. It pursues the harmonisation of the experiences and promotes the establishment of further fruitful interactions in EU and Non-EU Countries to protect animals during long-distance transportations. It would also contribute to spread information, knowledge, skills, and good and better practices on animal welfare during transport at EU and Non-EU level, in the framework of the Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. Furthermore, it has the scope of stimulating virtuous dialogue and cooperation among the interested parties and driving them towards standardised approaches to ensure the enforcement of the EU legislation and respond properly to the most frequent and known problems.

Content: conceptually organised in sections (if needed restricted to relevant stakeholders), the content of the "EU live animal transport app" should provide user-friendly information and tools to ensure that consignments of live animals originated in the European Union comply with the requirements of the EU legislation in force. In relation to pre-identified needs, an *ad-hoc* editorial board chaired by the EU Commission, and composed by different stakeholders' representatives will define the general skeleton of the app, and the detailed contents of its sections. The EU Commission will establish appropriate measures to avoid any allegations of bias in the management of the app, once implemented. The subgroup recommends that a range of stakeholders from a range of Member States are consulted when developing and branding such an APP, i.e. an independent project overseen by the Commission. This would benefit its appeal and enable the wider dissemination of information on animal welfare during transport.

Content and functions can be easily changed or updated as and when required, thus constantly offering up-to date knowledge to users, potentially including valuable information such as weather forecasts and contacts details for resting areas and Control Posts. It could be developed so that actual data from the journey could be included as feedback on the transport conditions, e.g. journey times and data on temperatures.

In order to ensure its broadest possible distribution, the app should be available to all, and free of charge.

A valuable source of inspiration, for the app design and implementation, is the 'Fit for Transport' app already in use in New Zealand, which is managed by the Ministry for Primary Industries. It was presented in the plenary meeting of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare of November 2018.

Target audiences: Transporters, police forces, competent authorities, veterinarians, authorities in charge of controlling live animal transport, transport companies, farmers, engineers, slaughterhouse staff, NGOs, animal scientists.

Procedure: If this initial proposal will be approved, a detailed concept note should be prepared to describe the priorities for the app, and estimate the design, production and management costs to let the EU Commission and potential donors evaluate the added value, feasibility and sustainability of this initiative. The OIE could be consulted in relation to the inclusion of data for that part of export journeys taking place in non EU countries.