

## TRANSPORT OF BREEDING CATTLE from The Netherlands to Greece Sept 06: 15 cattle died

Transport company: van de Wetering  
Transport from Vinkenbuurt/NL to Xanthi/ GR  
Journey length: 2.950 km (+ 12 hours ferry Brindisi to Igoumenitsa)

### I. INFORMATION RECEIVED

#### 1. Information taken from the Health Certificate:

Number of health certificate: 0000381 3  
Number of animals: 35  
Health Certificate: Breeding cattle  
Transporter: van de Wetering, Burg Postweg 116,  
5306 Brakel  
  
Exporter/ Sender: BV V/H Firma Dekker, Authorisation nb:  
NL  
  
Importer/ Buyer: Illias Kotopoulos & Co OHG, Abato,  
Xanthi  
  
Place of origin: Vestall Olderman, 7739 Vinkenbuurt  
Place of departure: 7739 PL Vinkenbuurt  
Date and time of departure: **01.09.2006, 8:30 h**  
  
Destination: Illias Kotopoulos & Co OHG, Abato,  
Xanthi  
  
Estimated time of journey: not legible  
  
Veterinary service which issued  
the documents: VWA Groningen  
Name of veterinarian: I.H. Harms

#### 2. Additional information taken from the Route plan:

Place of departure: Vinkenbuurt/NL  
Date and time of departure: **01.09.2006, 8:30 h**  
  
Estimated time of journey: not legible  
  
Itinerary: Lyon, 01.09. – 1 hour food / water  
**Montichiari, 02.09./03.09. – 24 hour rest**  
Brindisi, 04.09., 12 hours ferry  
Igoumenitsa, Thessaloniki  
  
Actual staging point: CE 01/PS Montichiari  
Date and time of arrival and  
departure at Staging point: **Date and time of arrival not indicated, next to the  
stamp of the staging point is a stamp indicating the  
03.Sept., 23:00 h (probably departure time)**  
  
Veterinary service at Staging  
point: A.S.L. di Brescia, Dr. Angelo Piceni

### 3. Further information:

The animals arrived on the **5th of September** at the point of destination in Xanthi:

- 2 animals died during transport, one of them while giving birth,
- 3 animals died within 12 hours after arrival,
- 10 more animals died during the next days.

List of the 15 animals, who died during or shortly after transportation:

<b>Eartag nb.</b>	<b>Time of death</b>	<b>Date of insemination</b>
NL 379344998	Died during transport	No information
<b>NL 377091179</b>	Died during transport	<b>12.11.05</b>
NL 387913535	Died within 12 hours after arrival	10.01.06
NL 381638322	Died within 12 hours after arrival	16.01.06
NL 379345009	Died within 12 hours after arrival	No information
NL 388709865	Seriously injured during transport, died on the 09.09.	18.01.06
NL 385838995	Died within the following days	14.01.06
NL 379344974	Died within the following days	No information
<b>NL 398908597</b>	Died within the following days	<b>15.12.05</b>
<b>NL 391073487</b>	Died within the following days	<b>22.12.05</b>
NL 364507175	Died within the following days	No information
<b>NL 415767255</b>	Died within the following days	<b>24.11.05</b>
<b>NL 383960210</b>	Died within the following days	<b>22.11.05</b>
NL 364507199	Died within the following days	No information
NL 388246115	Died within the following days	12.01.06

The cause of death of all these animals is not well and truly evident for us and needs to be investigated further. Surely the highly advanced state of gestation of some of the animals must be considered as one of the reasons. According to the dates of insemination, 5 of the cattle had already passed 90 % of their gestation period and were unfit to travel.

Moreover the animals must have been for an indefinite time without any water. At arrival in Xanthi the water system was out of order and the water tank was empty. From the information we received, it is unclear if the animals were without water, because the driver did not fill up water during the journey, or because the water system failed to work.

Assuming the water system was malfunctioning from the beginning, the animals only received water at the staging point and were left without after departure in Montichiari on the 03.09., which means for about 2 days during high summer temperatures. **But then, didn't the veterinarian at the place of departure in Vinkenbuurt, or the Italian veterinarian in Montichiari check on the transport vehicle before the animals were loaded?**

## II. CONCLUSIONS

### 1. Responsibility of the official veterinarian at the place of departure in The Netherlands

The veterinary service Groningen should not have authorized this transport, since at least 5 cattle were not fit for transportation. They had already passed 90 % of their gestation period and the veterinarian should have reckoned, they might give birth during transport.

**.This constitutes a violation of Art.3, paragraph 1., literature (a) and (b) as well as a violation of Art. 5, section A, paragraph 1, lit. b in connection with the Annex, Chapter I, section A. General provisions, paragraph 1. of Council directive 91/628/EEC as amended by Council directive 95/29 EC**

**The veterinary check is also not in compliance with the requirements of Annex 1, Chapter 1, paragraph 2, lit. c.)of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 from 22.December 2004.**

## **2. Responsibility of the official veterinarian at the staging point in Montichiari/ Italy**

We don't have any information about the state of condition of the animals at the time of arrival and departure at the staging point in Monitchiari. Nevertheless, it has to be questioned, if all the animals where still healthy and fit to continue the journey at that time.

Before animals leave the staging point, a veterinarian of the competent authority has to check the animals fitness to continue the journey **according to Art. 5, section A, paragraph 3 of Council directive 91/628/EEC as amended by Council directive 95/29 EC and Art.6, paragraph 1 of Council Regulation (EC) 1255/97..**

## **3. Responsibility of the transporter**

The transporter caused undue suffering to the animals because he

- loaded and transported animals unfit for transportation,
- did not take any measures to prevent animals from suffering.

**This represents a violation of Art. 5, section A, paragraph 1, lit. b of Council Directive 91/628 EEC as amended by Council Directive 95/29 EC.**

The transport conditions seemed to be not in compliance with the relevant legislation and the welfare of the animals during transport was ignored by the transporter. The driver must have noticed at some point, that the animals were ill and injured and should have tried to get first-aid treatment, instead of continuing the journey.

**This constitutes a violation of Chapter I, section D, paragraph 25. of the Annex of Council directive 91/628/EEC as amended by Council directive 95/29 EC**

The Route plan was not duly drawn up regarding actual travelling and resting intervals.

According to the Route plan, the indicated departure time at Montichiari was 03.09.06, at 23:00 h and the length of the stop was 24 hours. Either the animals stayed more than 24 hours at the staging point, or it has to be scrutinized why it took the transporter more than 38 h for a distance of 1.500 km (from Vinkenbuurt via Lyon to Montichiari acc.to ADAC Routenplaner) and it must be concluded that the allowed journey time of 29 hours was already exceeded before arrival at the staging point..

**This represents a violation of Art. 5, section A, paragraph 2, lit. d, (ii) first indent of Council Directive 91/628 EEC as amended by Council Directive 95/29 EC.**

Sign. Iris Baumgärtner

### ANNEX:

- Health Certificate
- Route plan
- Eartag list