



# Transport of Horses

## Enforcement of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005

### The view from the ground

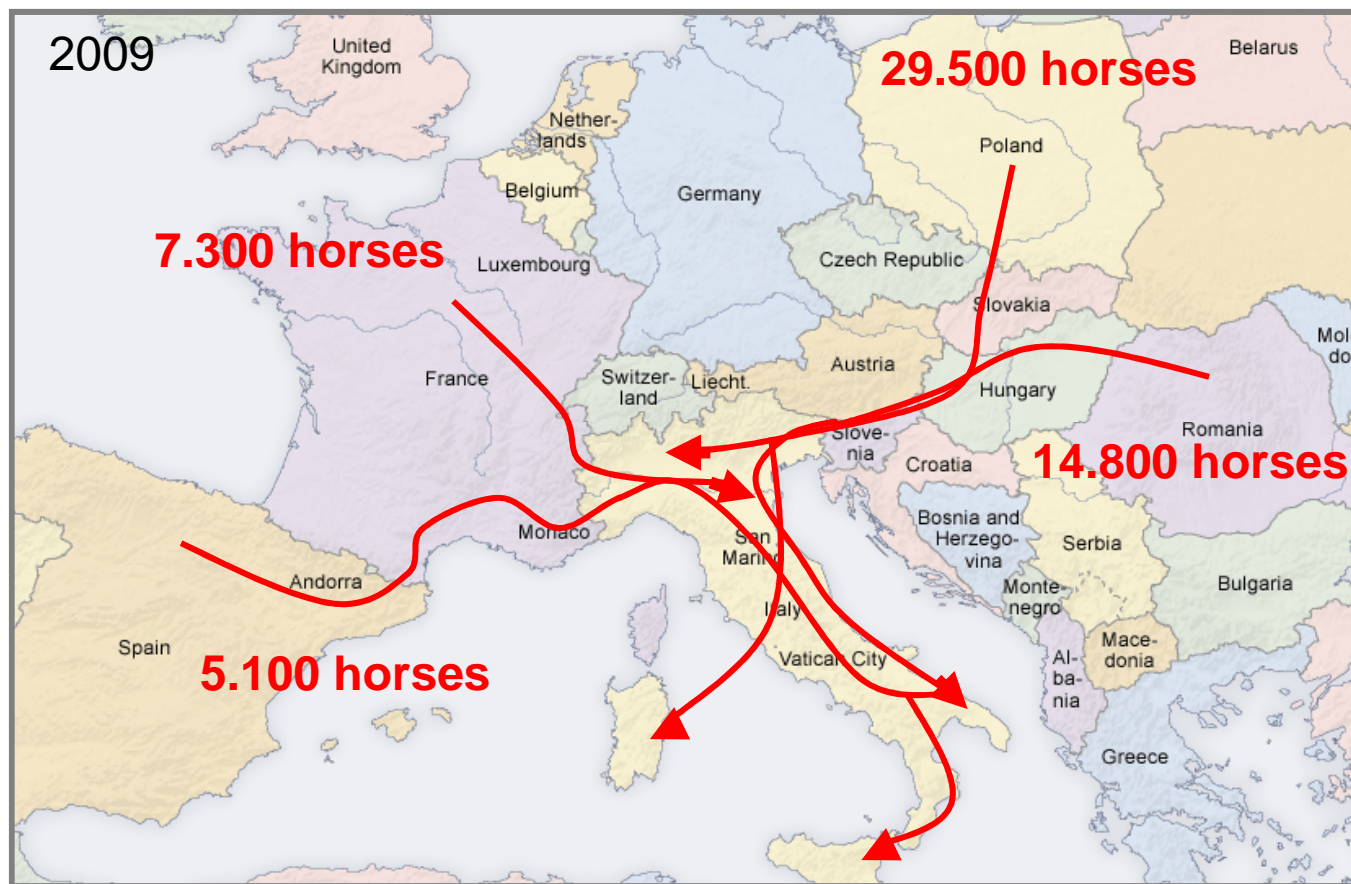
Christa Blanke, Director Animals' Angels

Brussels, November 2010

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## Long distance transports:

Main country of destination of horse transports: Italy



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Source: Ministry of Health, Italy, 2009



## Examples of routes documented by Animals' Angels:

- Romania (Arad) – Italy (Bari) : 1.762 km – **32,5 hours**
- France (Irissarry) – Italy (Taurisano): 2.226 km – **31 hours**
- Spain (Huesca) – Italy (Noicattaro): 2.070 km – ca. **34 hours**

### Checks by OFFICIAL inspection authorities in Italy in 2009:

→ 44% of horses checked during transport (on the road) were in violation of Reg. 1/2005.

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## Long distance transports – observed violations: **Exceeded journey times**



Animals' Angels has documented that in many cases journey logs are approved despite unrealistically short estimated journey times and despite the failure to program the required unloading for rest during transport.

Consequently in practice journey times are often exceeded.

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## Long distance transports – observed violations: Horses not placed in individual stalls



**2010**

3 years after the coming into force of Reg. 1/2005 there are still long distance transports of horses without individual stalls.

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## Long distance transports – observed violations: Transport of „unbroken horses“



Despite the ban, many „unbroken horses“ are regularly transported for far more than 8 hours.

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## Long distance transports – observed violations: **Exceeded loading density for young horses on transports exceeding 48 hours**

In practice it is ignored that if young horses (6-24 months) are transported for more than 48 hours, the space must be doubled, i.e. the compartment of each horse must have a minimum width of 1,2 m.

N.B.

The time the horses are unloaded at a control post for rest during transport must be included when calculating if 48 hours are exceeded, i.e. each transport, which requires a rest of 24 hours at a control post is automatically longer than 48 hours!

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## Long distance transports – observed violations: Young horses not able to lie down on transports exceeding 8 hours



In practice young horses generally are never granted sufficient space to lie down during long distance transport.

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## Long distance transports – observed violations: Insufficient water systems Horses not watered during transport



*Horse trying to drink from the broken water hose hanging down from the ceiling of the truck.*

For various reasons horses are rarely watered every 8 hours during transport as legally required:

- watering devices are insufficient in number in relation to the transported horses
- broken water systems
- some drivers simply do not water the horses as it is extra work
- difficulties to refill the water tanks during transport
- frozen water system in winter
- horses not accustomed to watering devices

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## Long distance transports - Results: Suffering, exhaustion and injuries



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## Short distance transports – observed violations: **Inadequate trucks**



No roof



No loading ramp



Insufficient ceiling height



Loading ramp too steep

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Short distance transports – observed violations:

## Inadequate vehicles



Foal tied on carriage

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## Markets/Fairs: Rough handling, injured and unfit horses



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## Certain violations CAN be avoided or significantly improved by a better enforcement of Reg. 1/2005:

- approval only of journey logs with a realistic estimated journey time
- adequate loading densities
- individual stalls on long distance transports
- approval only of adequate trucks
- verification if maximum journey times and rest periods have been complied with
- etc.





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In order to achieve this aim it is necessary that

- **Veterinarians** at places of departure authorize only transports, which comply with the legislation.
- **Veterinarians** at places of destination carry out adequate checks and report detected violations back.
- Transporters, organizers and keepers of the animals are severely punished for violations against the legislation.

**Remember:**

**Where Regulation 1/2005 leaves space for interpretation – it should be interpreted in favour of the horses!!!**



## Certain problems **CANNOT** be resolved by better enforcement of Reg. 1/2005:

Suffering due to exhaustion during long journeys because of

- deprivation of water
- fatigue to keep balance in a moving vehicle
- prolonged exposure to high temperatures
- falls and injuries resulting from exhaustion

**All these problems deteriorate with increasing transport time.**

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**Which is the best and only SOLUTION...**

**???**

**Ban of long-distance transports!!**

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## In Memoriam of...

Valentin

Dolores

Sandro

Anja

Magdalena

....

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Thank you for your attention and for your efforts in favour of the horses !



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