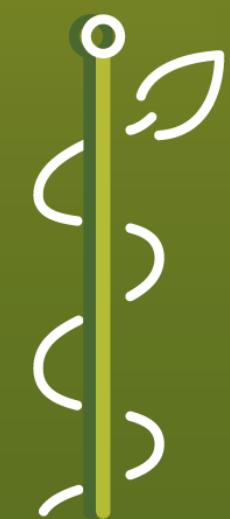




Federation
of Veterinarians
of Europe

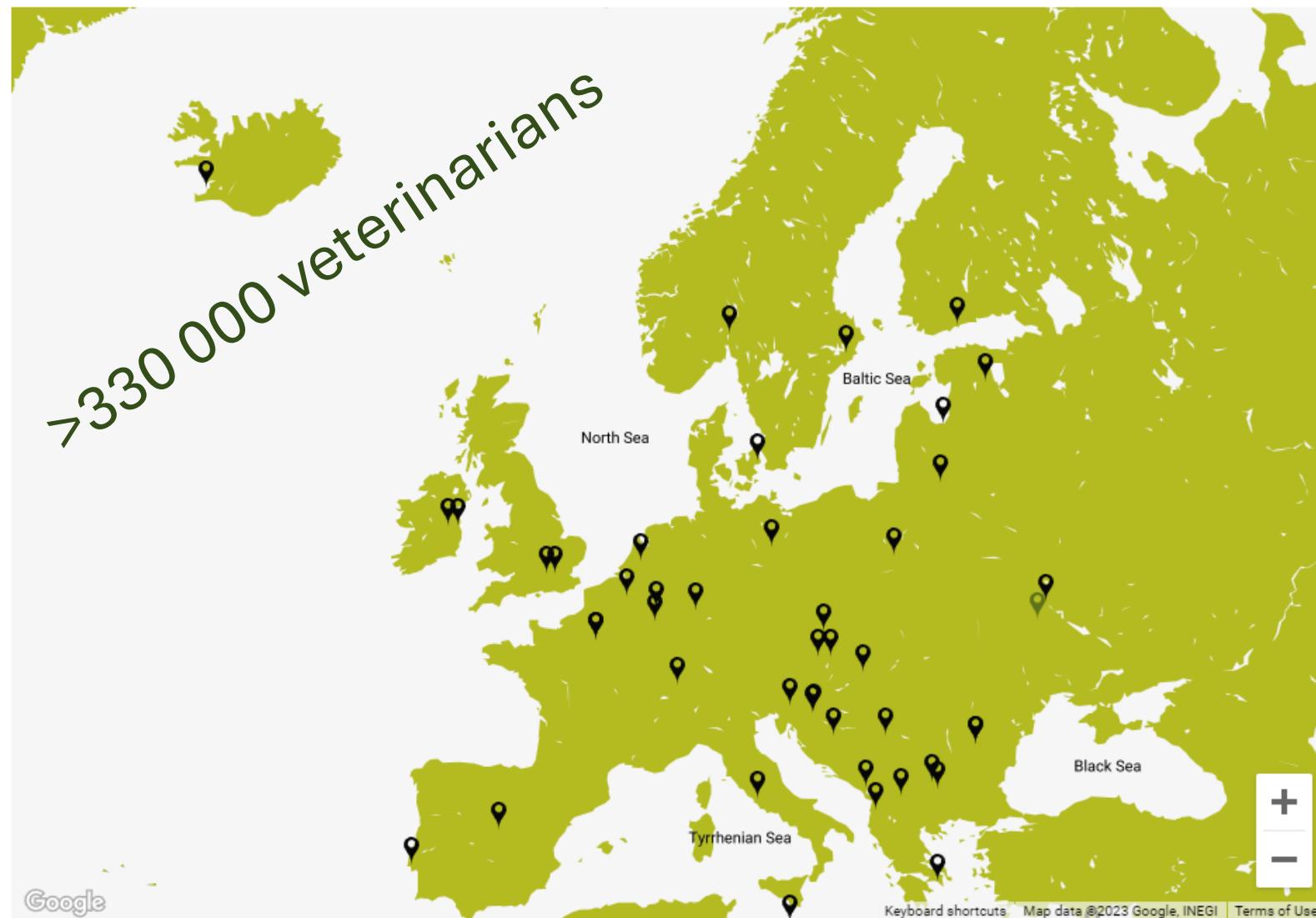
Guides to improve the transport of animals

Nancy De Briyne, FVE Executive Director





THE FEDERATION OF VETERINARIANS OF EUROPE



46 national associations

38 European countries

4 Sections

- UEVP (*Practitioners*)
- UEVH (*Hygienists – Public Health Officers*)
- EASVO (*Veterinary State Officers*)
- EVERI (*Education, Research, Industry*)

FVE's mission

The European veterinary profession, represented by FVE, is a **science-led healthcare profession** of over 330,000 veterinarians. We champion animal health and welfare, public health, safe food, and sustainable livelihoods.

As One Health–One Welfare leaders, veterinarians protect animals, people, and the environment for a healthier tomorrow.



Animal transport = important FVE agenda point for decades



Lead the developed multi-stakeholder fitness for transport guides



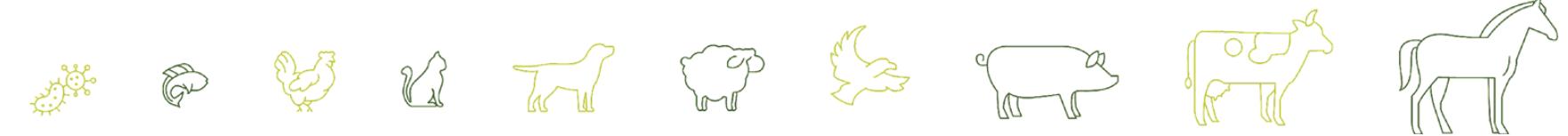
Core group of Animal Transport Guides Project diseases



Multiple FVE positions, background documents on animal transport



Research: EFSA transport opinions, Commission transport subgroup, etc



1. Multi-stakeholder fitness for animal transport guidelines

'No person shall transport animals or cause animals to be transported in a way likely to cause injury or undue suffering to them.'

Council Regulation EC 1/2005 Article 3

ANNEX I
TECHNICAL RULES
CHAPTER I
FITNESS FOR TRANSPORT

5.1.2005 | EN | Official Journal of the European Union L 3/19

ANNEX I
TECHNICAL RULES
(as referred to in Article 6(3), Article 8(1), Article 9(1) and (2)(a))

CHAPTER I
FITNESS FOR TRANSPORT

1. No animal shall be transported unless it is fit for the intended journey, and all animals shall be transported in conditions guaranteed not to cause them injury or unnecessary suffering.

2. Animals that are injured or that present physiological weaknesses or pathological processes shall not be considered fit for transport and in particular if:

- they are unable to move independently without pain or to walk unassisted;
- they present a severe open wound, or prolapse;
- they are pregnant females for whom 90 % or more of the expected gestation period has already passed, or females who have given birth in the previous week;
- they are new-born mammals in which the navel has not completely healed;
- they are pigs of less than three weeks, lambs of less than one week and calves of less than ten days of age, unless they are transported less than 100 km;

if: *they are drove and rate of loss more than eight week of age, unless they are accompanied by their mother*



Practical Guidelines to Assess Fitness for Transport of Pigs



For Pigs

Praktyczne wytyczne na potrzeby oceny zdolności dorosłego bydła do transportu



For Adult Cattle

Practical Guidelines to Assess Fitness for Transport of Equidae (Horses, Ponies, Donkeys and their Hybrids)



For Horses



How to read the signs?

For quick reference, we have used ,  and  and colour coding at the top and bottom of the page, to help you distinguish between the different parts of the guide.



Non transportable



Possibly transportable but further assessment is needed



Transportable



Warning - take note



Quotation of legislation

1) Inability to move

This means an animal is unable:

- To move without pain
- To walk unassisted
- To stand up (These animals are commonly called "downers") or
- To remain up or
- To walk or
- Likely to loose its balance during transport



See definitions on pages 7 & 8



Downer animal: animals lying down, unable to get up or to remain up



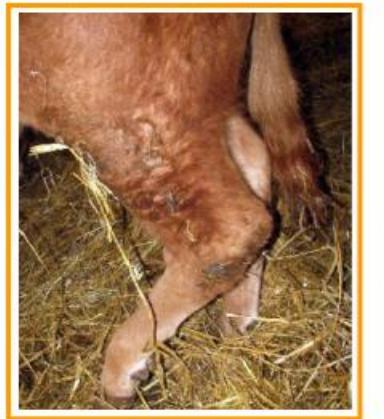
Animal likely to loose balance during transport



Inflammation: the left foreleg is swollen and rested. This animal is unable to move without pain.



1) Difficulty with movement (Continued)



Animal resting a hind leg: this position of the leg can indicate a problem.
Further assessment is needed: will the animal be able to put weight on this leg and to move without pain?

2) Surgical wounds (Continued)

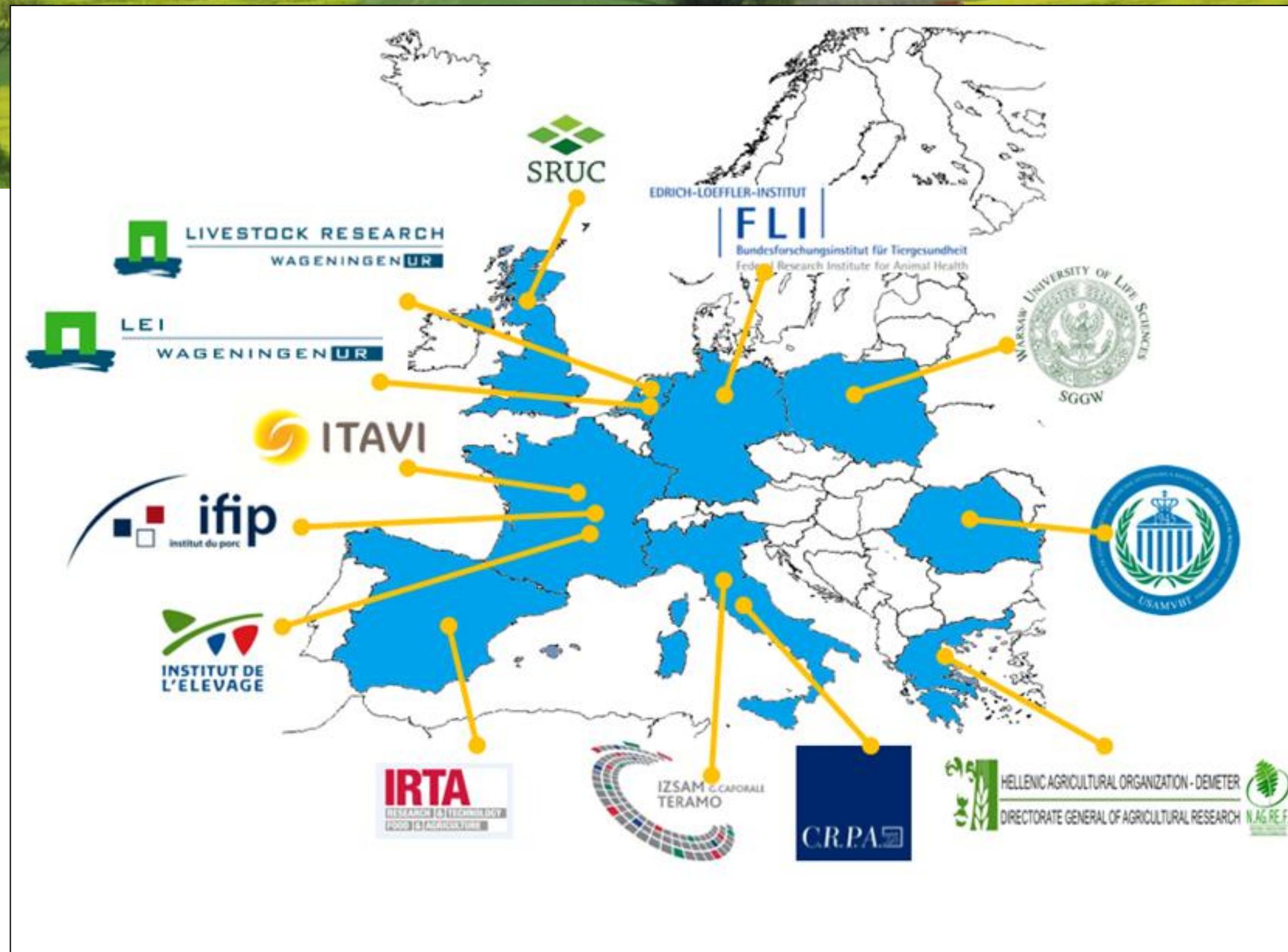
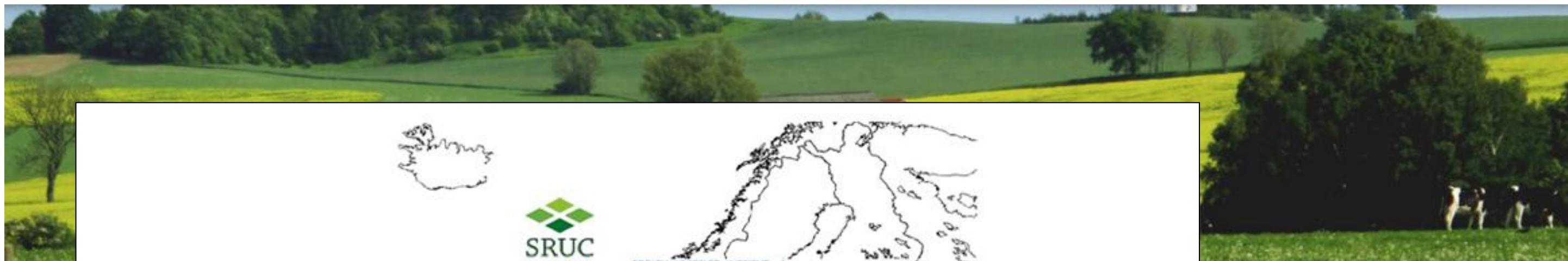


DO NOT TRANSPORT





2. Animal Transport Guides Project



IRU
Projects

**EUROGROUP
FOR
ANIMALS**

FVE

Financed by European
Commission



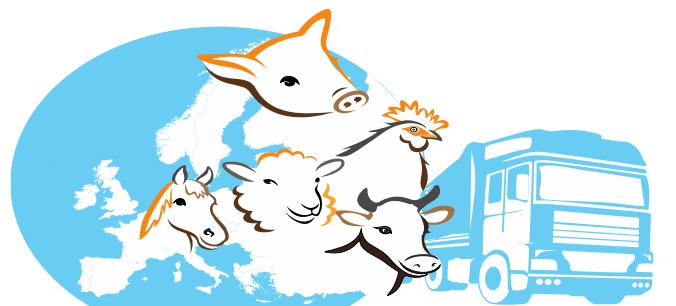
The aim



- To develop Guides to **Good and Better Practice** to support the clarification of parts of the Regulation e.g. 'sufficient' amount
- The species are: Cattle - Horses – Poultry – Pigs – Sheep



- To reach a large number of transport companies, drivers, competent authorities, farmers, NGO's and veterinarians



ANIMAL TRANSPORT GUIDES

The Guides





ANIMAL TRANSPORT



2. Journey planning and preparation

2.1 Introduction

Good preparation and planning for the transport of pigs is one of the most important aspects of the journey. It is the key to successful animal transport in terms of welfare, legislation, best practice and high standards of animal welfare and economic efficiency. **Good planning promotes smooth execution** of transport and is needed to ensure that the involvement of the different parties is properly synchronised. The overall animal transport process necessitates **well-structured integrated activities** according to defined sets of objectives, responsibilities and the anticipation of **unexpected events** and problems and the provision of measures to supplement well-defined Standard Operating Procedures are part of the planning process. In order to take account of immediate animal welfare concerns, planning should include animal health (biosecurity), human health and safety aspects and economic efficiency. The importance of planning and preparation is also acknowledged by the **EU Directive on the transport of animals** which states that **journey logs with a planning section are obligatory for long journeys**.

From an animal welfare point of view, the 'preparation and planning' phase is important for the following aspects:

- o Planning the journey,
- o Vehicle preparation,
- o Animal related preparation,
- o Administration.

These aspects are described in the paragraphs below.

2.2 Planning the journey

The journey shall be as **smooth and quick as possible** in order to minimise transport stress. It shall be planned carefully to assure pig welfare during the whole transportation. As part of the planning for each journey, **arrangements shall be made to manage any delay**, breakdown or other emergency that may impair welfare during all transport.

The journey shall be **planned and prepared carefully** after the agreement between the farmer or trader of the date and the place of departure and the destination. Journey plans involve written arrangements regarding start and end points, contingency plans, and details on consignment sheets or arrangements for rest stops, particularly for long-distance journeys.

In particular, they shall include:

- o **description of the route of travel** and estimation of its duration,
- o **analysis of weather forecast**,



Figure 3.6 Calm handling that makes use of the animals' natural 'flight zone' speeds up loading operations, improves animal welfare, and reduces the risk of injuries and bruises.

Another thing to be aware of is that pigs have wide-angle vision and the ability to see behind them. However, they have a blind spot located right behind them. If a person positions himself in that spot, the animals can get nervous as they approach. **Handlers should always try to avoid that 'blind spot'** when approaching them. See Figure 3.7.

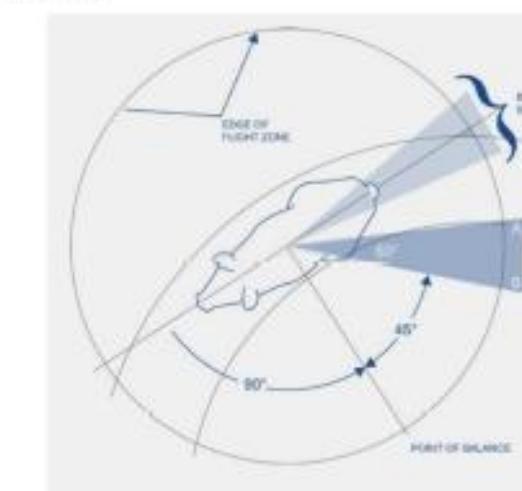


Figure 3.7. Field of vision and flight zone of pigs

107. The time and stress involved in sorting and loading should be kept to a minimum, and a resting period should be applied in between the

The Guides

times, availability of facilities, language spoken, service available for driver (sanitation, leisure facilities, etc.) and health service. A phone list of local medical practitioners, hospitals, police, fire department, veterinarians must be available.

216. Water supply to animals should be potable and not become contaminated. Any water storage tanks must be covered and capable of being disinfected if necessary. **Water supply systems should be capable of being flushed with a sanitizer if required.**

217. Storage of feed and bedding must be kept secure and not capable of becoming contaminated. **Tractors and other mechanical equipment used for feeding and bedding should be cleansed and disinfected after each use.**

6.5 Emergency

In case of emergencies occurring while animals are at the control post, the contingency plan of the control post and that of the transporter are activated.

Good practices during emergencies at control posts

218. If there are not enough pens according to the number of pens in the truck, **no more than two pens of the truck are mixed**. Behaviour is observed and injured or stressed animals are isolated.

219. If an animal shows **signs of colic** (e.g. profuse sweating, continuous rolling, turning head towards the belly, persistent movement and getting up and down violently, lying down frequently), which is one of the most common problems, **veterinary assistance** is sought immediately. It is avoided as much as possible to stress the animal.

220. If **several trucks arrive together** at a control post with animals of different sanitary status:

- o The **competent authorities** are contacted for official recommendations, also when one or more trucks create a biosecurity hazard.
- o Animals of **different sanitary status** are **isolated** in different areas of the site.

221. If a local **sanitary crisis** occurs when animals are expected at the control post:

- o The **competent authorities** are contacted for official recommendations, also when one or more trucks create a biosecurity hazard.
- o The **driver and the owner** of the transported animals are informed before the arrival. Mobile disinfection systems (wheel splash-boards) are used when the truck enters the control post.

Better practices during emergencies at control posts

222. If **animals need to remain** in the control post after the truck has departed, for instance because they are injured or otherwise unfit to be transported, they are kept in a **separate area**. The local competent authorities are informed of these animals. No pens are disinfected whilst animals are still inside them. Care is taken not to cause avoidable stress.





Good vs Better



Good practices = legislation

99. Birds should not be caught and carried by the neck and should not hit any object whilst they are carried.

Better practices = beyond legislation

118. End-of-lay hens should be **caught individually by both legs** to avoid injury or suffering and the breast can be supported by the other hand.



ANIMAL TRANSPORT GUIDES

17 Fact sheets

The image displays six fact sheets from the 'ANIMAL TRANSPORT GUIDES' project, each providing guidelines for the transport of a specific animal species. The sheets are arranged in a collage format.

- Transport of lactating cows:** Focuses on the care of lactating cows during transport, including special handling requirements and signs of distress.
- Sheep and lambs: fitness:** Provides guidance on preparing sheep for transport, including catching, fitness checks, and catching staff guidelines.
- Preparing the catching of end-of-lay hens:** Offers advice on catching hens, including fitness checks and catching staff guidelines.
- Monitoring and evaluation of transported pigs:** Details the monitoring and evaluation of pigs during transport, including catching staff guidelines and a checklist for truck equipment.
- Feeding and watering of horses:** Focuses on the feeding and watering of horses before and during transport, including guidelines for stops and arrival.
- Feeding and watering around transport:** Provides general guidelines for feeding and watering animals during transport, stops, and arrival, including a 'Keep in mind' section and a checklist for visual inspection.

Each fact sheet includes a QR code for full guides and more information: www.animaltransportguides.eu.



Driver factsheet

Maximum: journey time and temperature



1. Is your vehicle ready? Check roadworthiness, ventilation, cleanliness, partitions, locks, flooring surface (bedding), lighting, (un)loading equipment and vehicle markings



2. Do you have the documents?
 • Certificate of compliance
 • Vehicle approval
 • Contingency plan
 • Animal identification
Keep in mind the following tips:



1. Park your vehicle close to the (un)loading area shielding it, where possible, from extreme weather conditions



2. Biosecurity on mind the 'clean' and check (un)loading cleanliness



5. Handle the animals in a calm way, do not rush. Ensure immediate and adequate treatment for injured animals

Inspect the vehicle
If in doubt, check



Species	Max. journey time
Cattle	<u>Adult:</u> 14 hours + 1 rest + 14 hours <u>Unweaned calves:</u> 9 hours + 1 rest + 9 hours
Pigs	<u>Adult:</u> 24 hours <u>Piglets:</u> 9 hours + 1 rest + 9 hours
Poultry	<i>No maximum journey duration</i>
Horses	<u>Adults:</u> 24 hours <u>Foals (< 6 months, with mare):</u> 9 hours + 1 rest + 9 hours
Sheep	<u>Adults:</u> 14 hours + 1 rest + 14 hours <u>Unweaned lambs:</u> 9 hours + 1 rest + 9 hours

After these maximum journey times, animals must be unloaded, fed and watered and be rested for at least 24 hours; except poultry

- Control temperature inside and adjust ventilation!
- Make sure the animals are well fed and watered
- In case of vent flaps / side covers, open them
- All livestock (or journeys) not more than 30 degrees
- Avoid loading wet animals
- Control temperature inside and adjust ventilation!
- Make sure the animals are well fed and watered
- In case of vent flaps / side covers, use them without impeding air circulation

Livestock Weather Safety Index

Relative humidity (%)

Dry Bulb Temp (°C)	50	60	70	80	90	100
25,6	22,2	23,3	23,9	23,9	25	25,6
26,7	23,3	23,9	25	25,6	26,1	26,7
27,8	23,9	24,4	25,6	26,1	27,2	27,8
28,9	25	25,6	26,7	27,2	28,3	28,9
30	25,6	26,7	27,2	28,3	28,9	30
31,1	26,7	27,2	27,8	29,4	30,6	31,1
32,2	27,2	28,3	28,3	30,6	31,1	32,2
33,3	28,3	28,9	30	31,1	32,2	
34,4	28,9	30	31,1	32,2		
35,6	30	31,1	32,2			
36,7	30,6	31,7				
37,8	31,1	32,8				

Good!

Alert

Danger

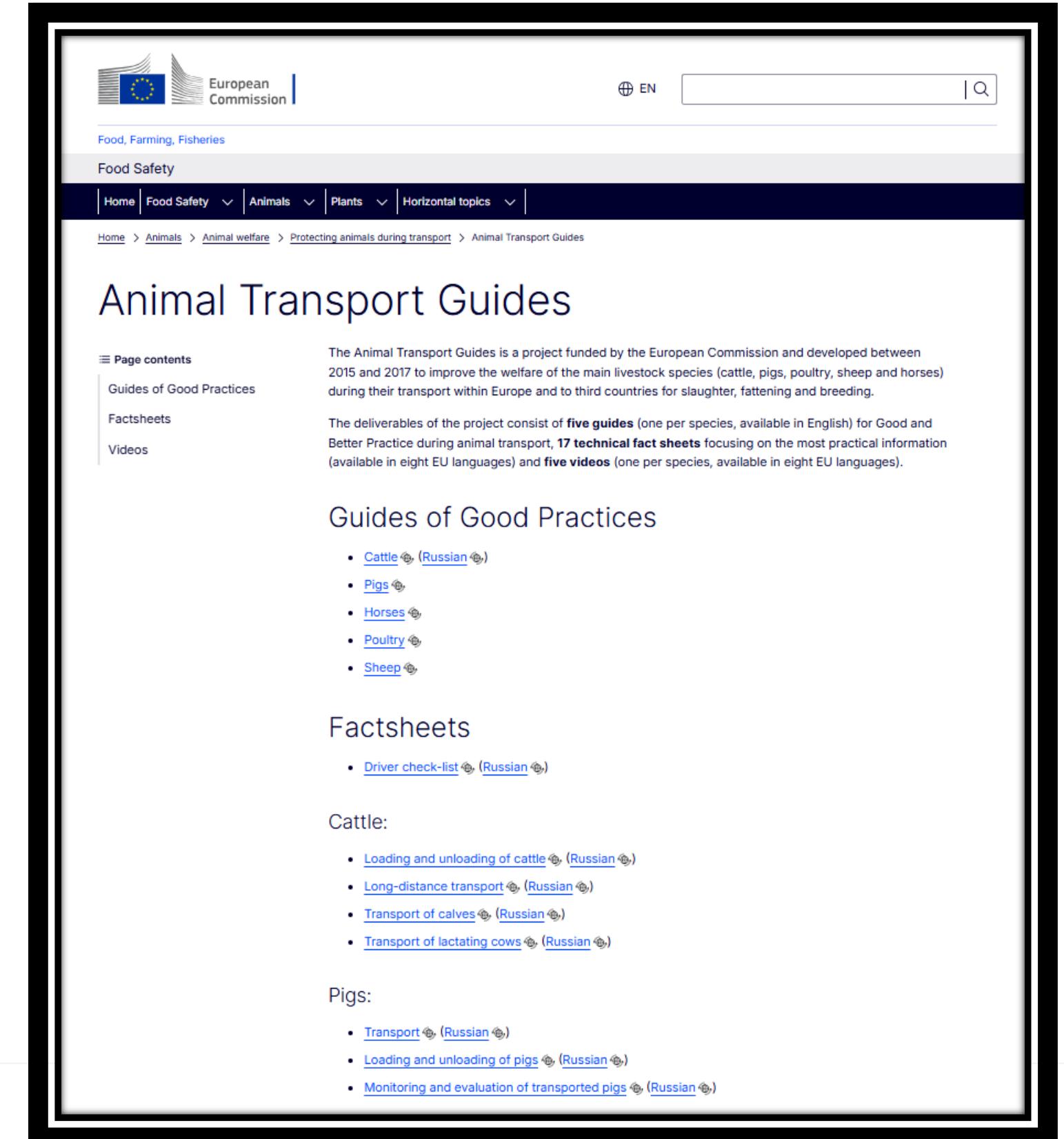
Emergency



**The 5 guides and the 17 factsheets
are available on the European
Commission website:**

[https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/
animal-welfare/animal-welfare-
during-transport/animal-
transport-guides_en](https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-welfare/animal-welfare-during-transport/animal-transport-guides_en)

(extra languages are available upon request)



The screenshot shows the European Commission's website for Animal Transport Guides. The page title is "Animal Transport Guides". The main content area describes the project as funded by the European Commission between 2015 and 2017 to improve welfare for cattle, pigs, poultry, sheep, and horses during transport. It lists deliverables: 5 guides for Good Practices (Cattle, Pigs, Horses, Poultry, Sheep), 17 technical fact sheets, and 5 videos. The "Guides of Good Practices" section is expanded, showing links for each species. The "Factsheets" section shows a single link for a driver check-list. Below, sections for "Cattle", "Pigs", and "Sheep" list specific transport-related guides in multiple languages (English, Russian, etc.).

Animal Transport Guides

The Animal Transport Guides is a project funded by the European Commission and developed between 2015 and 2017 to improve the welfare of the main livestock species (cattle, pigs, poultry, sheep and horses) during their transport within Europe and to third countries for slaughter, fattening and breeding.

The deliverables of the project consist of **five guides** (one per species, available in English) for Good and Better Practice during animal transport, **17 technical fact sheets** focusing on the most practical information (available in eight EU languages) and **five videos** (one per species, available in eight EU languages).

Guides of Good Practices

- [Cattle](#) (Russian)
- [Pigs](#)
- [Horses](#)
- [Poultry](#)
- [Sheep](#)

Factsheets

- [Driver check-list](#) (Russian)

Cattle:

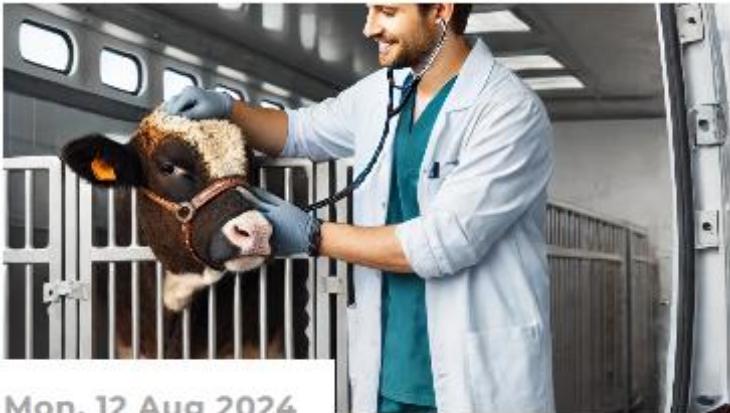
- [Loading and unloading of cattle](#) (Russian)
- [Long-distance transport](#) (Russian)
- [Transport of calves](#) (Russian)
- [Transport of lactating cows](#) (Russian)

Pigs:

- [Transport](#) (Russian)
- [Loading and unloading of pigs](#) (Russian)
- [Monitoring and evaluation of transported pigs](#) (Russian)



3. FVE Positions & Resources on Transporting Animal: check out <https://fve.org/?s=transport>



Mon, 12 Aug 2024

FVE's Positions on Animal Transport: Overview and Recent Developments

Over the past years, FVE has been actively engaged in shaping and improving the regulations surrounding the transport of...

[READ MORE](#)



FVE and EASVO Call for Risk-Based Supervision of Animal Loading During Transport

The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) and the European Association of State Veterinary Officers (EASVO) have...

[READ MORE](#)



Thu, 31 Oct 2024

FVE calls to prevent suffering of animals during long distance transports

31 October 2024 The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) emphasises the urgent need to respect the welfare...

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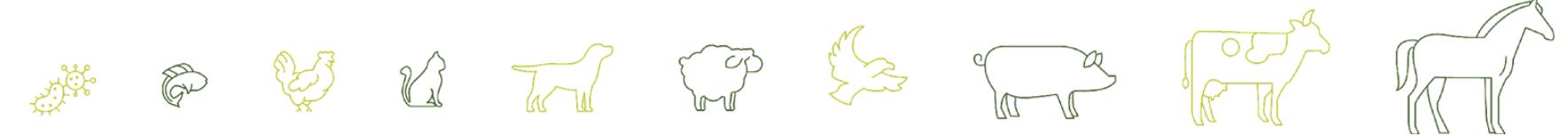


Wed, 26 Nov 2025

FVE's Priority Amendments for the proposal on the protection of animals during transport

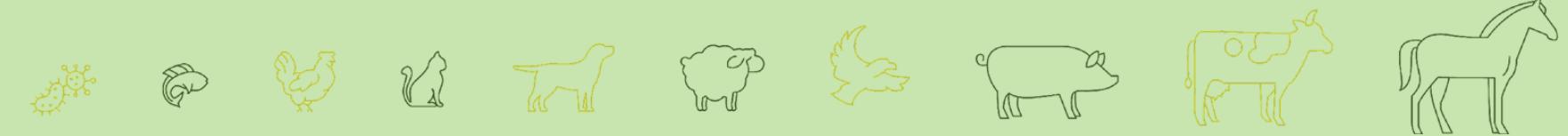
Over the past years, FVE has been actively engaged in shaping and improving the regulations surrounding the transport of...

[READ MORE](#)



Measuring is essential for improvement: need to define indicators

- Animal-based indicators are the **gold standard**, but they can be **challenging to collect**
- Welfare indicators should be among others:
 - **Reliable**
 - **Feasible**
 - **Standardised**
 - **Sensitive**
- **Examples of potential welfare indicators for transport**
 - Proportion of animals transported **within vs. outside** their thermal comfort zone
 - Mortality, injury, or morbidity rates during transport and on arrival
 - Ratio of **controls in CoO, CoD, CoT** (animal welfare, administrative, vehicle-related)
 - Proportion of animals transported for slaughter on **short vs. long journeys**
 - Proportion of consignments with **verified compliance at destination**
 - Ratio of sufficient two-way communication for all exports and non-compliances
 - Ratio of journeys that followed journey plan (e.g. outside journey times, weather forecast, other)



Take home Messages

Animal transport is a necessary part of agriculture.

But animals are living, sentient beings entrusted to our care.
They can feel fear, pain, and distress.
They depend entirely on us.

Good transport is an act of responsibility, compassion, and professional integrity.

We owe them care, competence, and respect at every step of the journey.

We have the knowledge, the tools, and the guidance to do this well.

For cross-border transport, **collaboration and communication are essential**.
And this platform — and this meeting — is a powerful example of that shared commitment.

CONTACT US

E-mail: info@fve.org

Website: <https://fve.org/>

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