

Kent Action Against Live Exports (KAALE)

“I never give them hell. I just tell the truth and they think it's hell.”

President Harry S Truman

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‘The Black Spurs’: <http://www.theblackspurs.com.au/Contents.htm>

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PRESS RELEASE

20th April 2012 – For Immediate Release

KAALE Express their serious concerns to EU Legal Affairs regarding Uk Calf Welfare in Hungary and Slaughter Standards in Croatia, associated with Uk Live Exports.



Photographs by ‘Eyes on Animals’, ‘Animal Welfare Foundation’ and ‘Welfare’.

Sheet 1

BAN LIVE ANIMAL EXPORTS

Kent Action Against Live Exports (KAALE).

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Volunteer manned organisation Kent Action Against Live Exports (KAALE) have today made an official complaint to the EU Legal Affairs Department of Health and Consumer protection, Brussels, Belgium, regarding an investigation and subsequent report undertaken by EU animal welfare organisations during 20th -21st March 2012.

Inspections of various Hungarian assembly stations designated to dispatch animals to Turkey were undertaken by investigators from animal welfare organisations 'Eyes on Animals' (NL), 'Animal Welfare Foundation' (DE) and 'Welfarm' (HU).



KAALE has expressed its concerns relating to several of the points raised in the report.

These concerns include:

- **At the entrance to one Hungarian facility ('Agracoop Kft') there is a clear sign indicating that this location has received some 615,000 Euros from the EU to 'modernise their facility'**
- **despite EU funding to modernise their facilities, 'Agracoop Kft' still retain the old, now (EU) illegal (since 2006), veal crate system - made out of wood, fitted with slatted floors and equipped with solid wooden dividers**
- **the solid wooden divider type of crate system has been illegal within all existing EU member states since 2006**

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- *calves housed within these now illegal facilities are thus unable to either see or touch each other*
 - *the possibility that Uk originated animals (with 'UK' ear tags) observed at ('Agracoop Kft') may have been confined within such illegal systems*
 - *male calves from the United Kingdom (specifically with 'UK' identifiable ear tags) end up in this ('Agracoop Kft') facility after being trucked down into Hungary from their origins within the Uk*
 - *between August and September 2011, many calves probably originating from Northern Ireland have been, and will continue to be, further fattened at the 'Agracoop Kft' facility prior to being re-exported and subsequently going for slaughter in other parts of Europe; namely Germany and Croatia*
 - *Whilst Germany is an existing member state of the European Union, and as such, should adequately meet EU standards for animals at slaughter, Croatia is currently NOT a member state of the EU, thereby raising questions of slaughter standards*
 - *'Agracoop Kft' (Hungary) employees verbally informed investigators (during March 2012) that calves carrying 'UK' ear tags are potentially (after further fattening) re-exported from Hungary into Croatia for slaughter*
 - *As such, KAALE raises its concerns to EU Legal Affairs that slaughter standards for Uk animals within Croatia may not be compliant with those of EU regulations; thereby causing animal suffering after arduous transportation (re-export) from Hungary.*
-

KAALE EU Correspondent Mark Johnson declares:

"We at KAALE are witnessing live calves being exported out of the Uk to mainland Europe via Ramsgate, Kent, on a very regular basis. Several hauliers involved with this business are from both the North and South of Ireland.

All information relating to export shipments from Ramsgate since the commencement of the trade here last year have been detailed in a series of KAALE monitoring reports, which are issued to the press and media after each and every export consignment.

There is the possibility that if not transiting through Ramsgate, calves are being exported directly from Ireland to Europe, such as the regular and very popular Rosslare-Cherbourg route, which can take in excess of 20 hours, with calves confined within a transporter on a ferry for the whole of this time. We have serious concerns about the welfare of the calves and haulier compliances with EU transport regulations once they arrive in Europe, regardless of the routes to mainland Europe which are taken. Of particular concern are journey time compliances if calves are going all the way to Hungary.

Many previous concerns were supported with documented investigation evidence, were presented by KAALE to the EU during August 2010 in a 120 page, 7 investigation report titled 'A Time for Change'.

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Although we cannot currently declare that live calves being exported from Ramsgate port are ending up in illegal fattening systems in Hungary, it is possible. The simple fact that calves probably from Northern Ireland or other locations within the UK are being hauled by road all the way to Hungary for further fattening is beyond belief.

In their letter of 20th April 2012, KAALE have also expressed their concerns to the EU Legal Affairs team regarding the slaughter of the calves once they have been 'further fattened' at these Hungarian facilities. Once further fattened in Hungary, the calves are then re-exported to countries such as Croatia for slaughter.

As Croatia is NOT a member state of the EU, it does not therefore have to comply with existing slaughter standards as defined in EU regulations and legislation. 'Agracoop Kft' employees verbally informed investigators (during the March 2012 visits) that calves carrying 'UK' ear tags were potentially (after further fattening) re-exported from Hungary into Croatia for slaughter.

As a result, in their formal written complaint, KAALE have asked the EU Legal Affairs team for full written guarantees that 'UK' tagged animals are being slaughtered to the highest of standards (ie. EU compliant standards) within Croatia. Additionally, KAALE have requested that the EU now provides (KAALE) with full evidence of this, including the names of facilities (slaughterhouses) within Croatia which undertake the slaughter of Hungarian exported British calves carrying 'UK' ear tags.

This investigation has proven that despite being provided with substantial funds from EU resources (to Hungary) for compliance with EU animal welfare standards, there is an obvious failure of EU enforcement of EU regulations within the existing EU member states by the EU Commission, and following this, we can only hopefully assume that Croatian slaughterhouses are up to at least existing EU standards. For this, we currently have no assurances whatsoever".

A copy of the KAALE letter sent to EU Legal Affairs is attached to this PR.

EU law on calves is contained in Council Directive 91/629/EEC laying down Minimum Standards for the Protection of Calves, as amended by Council Directive 97/2/EC and also by Commission Decision 97/182/EC, which amends the Annex to the 1991 Directive (the Calves Directive).

Prohibition of Veal Crates

Sources: ec.europa.eu/food/fs/aw/aw_legislation/calves/97-2-ec_en.pdf · PDF file

eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31997L0002:EN:HTML

ec.europa.eu/food/fs/aw/aw_legislation/calves/91-629-eec_en.pdf · PDF file

Council Directive 91/629/EEC of 19 November 1991 laying down minimum standards for the protection of calves.

Council Directive 97/2/EC of 20 January 1997 amending Directive 91/629/EEC laying down minimum standards for the protection of calves.

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Commission Decision 97/182/EC of 24 February 1997 amending the Annex to Directive 91/629/EEC laying down minimum standards for the protection of calves.

1991 Calves Directive supra n.51, as amended by 1997 Council Directive and 1997 Commission Decision, supra n.52 & 53, art 3 (3) and points 8 & 11 of Annex.

The key aspect of the EU Calves Directive is that it prohibits the veal crate system, which, along with sow gestation crates and battery cages for egg-laying hens, is widely regarded as one of the most inhumane aspects of factory farming.

- *New veal crates are prohibited from 1 January 1998 and existing veal crates are prohibited from 31 December 2006. The EU Calves Directive prohibits veal crates by providing that calves must be kept in groups from the age of 8 weeks, unless a veterinarian certifies that an animal's health or behaviour requires it to be isolated in order to receive treatment.*
- *Moreover, even where a calf is confined in an individual pen (i.e. before the age of 8 weeks, or pursuant to a veterinarian's certificate as referred to in the previous sentence), it cannot be kept in a veal crate as the Directive in effect provides that the pen must be large enough to enable the calf to turn round. What the Directive states is that "the width of any individual pen for a calf shall be at least equal to the height of the calf at the withers, measured in the standing position, and the length shall be at least equal to the body length of the calf, measured from the tip of the nose to the caudal edge of the tuber ischii (pin bone), multiplied by 1.1.*

Since 1 January 1998, EU law has required that:

- 1) *each calf over 2 weeks old shall be provided with a minimum daily ration of fibrous food, the quantity being raised from 50 grammes (g.) [1.8 ounces] to 250 g. [8.8 ounces] per day for calves from 8-20 weeks old; and*
- 2) *calves' food shall contain sufficient iron to ensure an average blood haemoglobin level of at least 4.5 millimols per litre.*

Further Sources

Eyes on Animals website: <http://eyesonanimals.com/>

Training of Hungarian truck drivers of Keus en Mollink International Transport:
[http://eyesonanimals.com/index.php?id=9&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=474&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=8&cHash=184fcbb900](http://eyesonanimals.com/index.php?id=9&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=474&tx_ttnews[backPid]=8&cHash=184fcbb900)

Unannounced visit of stations in Hungary that collect animals for export to Turkey - Day 2:
[http://eyesonanimals.com/index.php?id=9&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=478&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=8&cHash=0a373b8e77](http://eyesonanimals.com/index.php?id=9&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=478&tx_ttnews[backPid]=8&cHash=0a373b8e77)

Video footage – Sheep Transport to Turkey:
<http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=animal+welfare+foundation+de&view=detail&mid=0D538174FCB9A009218C0D538174FCB9A009218C&first=0&qpv=animal+welfare+foundation+de>

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BAN LIVE ANIMAL EXPORTS

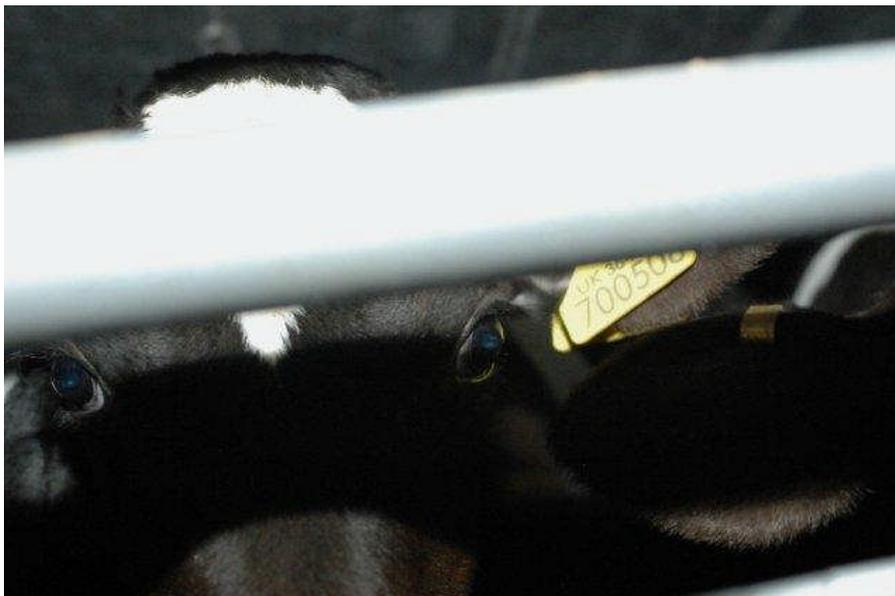
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Current EU animal transport legislation:

Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32005R0001:EN:NOT>



Animals Exported from Ramsgate, Kent. - Photos: V. Cameron – KAALE

ENDS

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