



L214.



*Eyes on
Animals*

Thursday 20 March 2025

Dear

- Jean-Marc Roué, Chairman, Brittany Ferries
- Christophe Mathieu, CEO, Brittany Ferries
- Rodolphe Saadé, Chairman and CEO, CMA CGM Group

Brittany Ferries resumption of inhumane live exports from Ireland to France

We, along with over 100 signatories, are appalled to read reports that Brittany Ferries is due to resume the live export of farmed animals for further fattening from Ireland to France. We urge you to withdraw from this retrograde change that would see Brittany Ferries return to this inhumane trade after 30 years.

In the three decades that Brittany Ferries has held a leading animal welfare policy, alongside P&O, to not be involved in the transport of live animals, there has been further scientific evidence of the great suffering imposed on animals during long-distance live transport. Public opposition to this trade has also increased.

In 2022, the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) recognised the welfare problems involved in long distance transport. The FVE's input for the Revision of the Transport Regulation states:

- “Animals should be transported as little as possible, reared as close as possible to the premises on which they are born and slaughtered as close as possible to the point of production.”
- As a principle, long journeys (more than an 8-hour journey from start to final destination) should be avoided for all animals.”
- “Transport of animals on long journeys by sea vessels must be phased out.”

During live exports and long-distance transport, scientific evidence has found that animals may suffer extremes of temperature and are also often deprived of sufficient rest, food or water. As sentient beings, they also experience fear and distress.

This scientific evidence, along with strong public opposition, led to the UK banning this trade in 2024. And in the EU, greater protection for farmed animals' welfare during live transport is supported by the majority of European citizens. The 2023 Special Eurobarometer found that eight out of ten Europeans think the travel time for the commercial transport of live animals within or from the EU should be limited and an overwhelming nine out of ten people believe it's important to protect the welfare of farmed animals.

Unweaned animals are particularly vulnerable and in its audit report dated 22 December 2023 (DG(SANTE) 2022-7503) the Commission stressed that, in its view, the transport of unweaned calves from Ireland to France is being carried out in breach of Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport because feeding requirements are not being met.

The Commission interprets the Regulation as requiring unweaned calves to be fed after a maximum of 19 hours during the long sea crossing by roll-on roll-off (RORO) ferry from Ireland to France. However, the calves are not fed during the crossing; indeed it is not possible to feed unweaned calves while they are on a truck on board a RORO ferry. For unweaned calves, feed consists of cow's milk or milk replacer. Brittany Ferries declared that they would "ensure that the highest animal welfare standards are prioritised at every stage of the journey." Should your company transport unweaned calves, what specific measures are you planning to uphold EU animal protection legislation and prioritise animal welfare for unweaned calves?

We believe this resumption of live animal exports will be detrimental to the "unforgettable experience" Brittany Ferries promises customers in its new campaign. As the Eurobarometer results show, people using Brittany Ferries to enjoy their holidays are unlikely to want to be faced with the misery of witnessing lorries crammed with suffering animals as they take their journeys with you. It is also in opposition to the Brittany Ferries Holding company CMA CGM's sustainability statement, which states that it is committed to actively supporting research.

EFSA's 2022 Scientific Opinion on the welfare of cattle during transport states that, in order to prevent prolonged hunger, intervals between milk meals for unweaned calves should not exceed 12 hours. However, while on board Brittany Ferries, this time frame will be exceeded for unweaned calves.

We once again urge Brittany Ferries to abandon this unconscionable decision which would see a return to this inhumane animal export trade on your ferries.

Yours sincerely,

- Philip Lymbery, Global CEO, Compassion in World Farming International
- Reineke Hameleers, CEO, Eurogroup for Animals
- Yvan Savy, Head of France, Compassion in World Farming
- Caroline Rowley, Director, Ethical Farming Ireland
- Lesley Moffat, Director, Eyes on Animals
- Brigitte Gothière, Director, L214

With further support from:

7. André Leu, International Director, Regeneration International
8. Anja Hazekamp, Honorary President of the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals and MEP for the Netherlands
9. Ben Goldsmith, Businessperson and environmentalist
10. Bishop Dominic Walker
11. Camille Etienne, french environmental activist
12. Carol Royle, Actor
13. Cathy Davey, Singer and songwriter
14. Chris Packham CBE, Naturalist, author and media presenter
15. Chris Mullin, Author and former politician
16. Christine Nicol, Professor of Animal Welfare, Royal Veterinary College, University of London
17. Cólín Nunan, Expert on antimicrobial resistance
18. Dale Vince, Businessperson
19. Dame Joanna Lumley, Actor and Author
20. Dan Richardson, Actor and filmmaker
21. David Mellor, Emeritus Professor of Animal Welfare Science and Bioethics
22. Deborah M Jones, BA(Hons),MA, PhD, General Secretary, Catholic Concern for Animals
23. Dr Amir Kassam, Expert in agroecology and conservation agriculture
24. Dr Amir Khan, GP and broadcaster
25. Dr Andrew Knight RCVS, Veterinary surgeon
26. Dr Andrew Rowan, Academic and President of WellBeing International
27. Dr Anni McLeod, Agriculture consultant
28. Dr Birgitta Wahlberg, Lecturer in Public Law, Åbo Akademi University
29. Dr Eleanor Boyle, Educator and writer
30. Dr James Dyke FRSA , Academic and journalist
31. Dr Jonathan Balcombe, Global expert on the welfare of fishes
32. Dr Kate Rawles, Philosopher and author
33. Dr Richard Ryder, Author
34. Dr Shireen Kassam, MD, PhD, DipIBLM, Consultant Haematologist and Honorary Senior Lecturer, King's College Hospital; founder, Plant-Based Health Professionals UK
35. Dr Thomas Legrand, Author, Politics of Being
36. Dr Alan McElligott, Associate Professor in Animal Behaviour and Welfare, City University Hong Kong
37. Dr Silvia Panizza, Teaching and research fellow in Ethics, University College Dublin
38. Duncan McNair, CEO of Save The Asian Elephants and Co-ordinator of the Low-Welfare Act Coalition of animal protection organisations
39. Eamonn Ives, Environmentalist and animal welfare advocate
40. Greg Guillotin, French comedian
41. Hélène Gateau, French veterinarian and TV host
42. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, Founder River Cottage and food campaigner
43. Isabella and Charlie Tree, Regenerative farmers
44. James Bolam, Actor

45. Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson, Ph.D., Philosopher and author
46. Joy Carter, Former Vice Chancellor Winchester University
47. Julia Stephenson, Journalist and author
48. Julian Richer, Businessperson and philanthropist
49. Kate Humble, Farmer and broadcaster
50. Linda Newbery, Author
51. Laurent Baffie, French actor, author and writer
52. Martin Palmer, Founder of FaithInvest
53. Megan McCubbin, Broadcaster
54. Michael Gottlieb, Restaurateur
55. Miriam Margolyes, Actor
56. Neil Hannon, Singer and songwriter
57. Nitin Mehta MBE, Promoter of Jain ethics on compassion for animals
58. Noelle Harrison, Novelist
59. Pauline McLynn, Actor and Author
60. Peter Egan, Actor
61. Pete Wedderburn BVM&S CertVR MRCVS, Veterinarian and journalist
62. Prof Marita Giménez-Candela, Expert on animal welfare law
63. Professor Clive Phillips, Academic and Editor-in-Chief of Animals, Springer Nature Animal Welfare series
64. Professor David Clough, Chair of Theology and Applied Sciences, University of Aberdeen
65. Professor John Webster, Emeritus Professor of Animal Husbandry, University of Bristol
66. Professor Lynne U. Sneddon, University of Gothenburg
67. Professor Peter Singer, Philosopher and author
68. Professor Rosie Green, Co-Director, Centre on Climate Change and Planetary Health, LSHTM
69. Professor Tim Jackson, Ecological economist and author
70. Professor Tim Lang, PhD, FFPH, Hon DSc, Professor Emeritus of Food Policy, City St George's, University of London
71. Professor Toby Knowles, Professor Emeritus, University of Bristol
72. Revd Prof Martin Henig, Archaeologist, ethicist, and Anglican clergyman
73. Revd Prof Michael Reiss, Professor of Science Education, University College London & Visiting Professor, Royal Veterinary College
74. Ros Draper, Author and leading expert in family therapy
75. Rosamund Young, Organic farmer and author
76. Saskia Bricmont, MEP for Belgium and Member of the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals
77. Seth Watkins, Regenerative farmer
78. Sir David Madden, Retired UK Ambassador
79. Sir Jonathon Porritt CBE, Leading writer and broadcaster on sustainable development
80. Stanley Johnson, Author
81. Sue Jameson, Actor
82. The Revd Professor Andrew Linzey, Director of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics
83. Tilly Metz, Honorary President of the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals and MEP for Luxembourg

Animal protection organisations

84. Animals Angels: Helena Bauer Master Animal Law Society Project Manager
85. Animals Australia: Glenys Oogjes, CEO
86. APRAD, Association de Protection des Animaux par le Droit: Nathalie Soisson, Présidente
87. Association Justice Animaux Savoie (AJAS), Pauline di Nicolantonio, Présidente
88. Dier & Recht Frederieke Schouten: CEO and Veterinarian
89. Hellenic Animal Welfare Federation: Irini Molfessi Chair of the Board
90. Loomus - Animal Advocacy Organisation: Anu Tensing Board Member
91. Project 1882: Benny Andersson CEO
92. Rabbit Welfare Association & Fund (RWA&F)
93. The Swedish Society for the Protection of Animals Lillemor Wodmar, President
94. Animal Cross : Benoît Thomé, President
95. Animal Justice Project: Claire Palmer MSc Zoology Director
96. Animal Welfare Foundation: Iris Baumgärtner
97. Animals International: Gabriel Paun EU Director
98. Caring Vets: Nicole de Schwartz President
99. Deutscher Tierschutzbund e.V. Thomas Schröder, President
100. Djurskyddet Sverige (Animal Welfare Sweden): Åsa Hagelstedt Secretary General
101. Dublin Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals: Claire Owen, Political Affairs
102. Dyrevernalliansen: Anton Krag CEO and Zoologist
103. Fondation Brigitte Bardot: Adriana Oancea Negro, Directrice des affaires publiques et internationales
104. Four Paws: Corinna Reinisch, Programme Lead Farm Animal Welfare
105. Humane World For Animals Europe: Pankaj K, Campaign Director Europe
106. Kent Action Against Live Exports: Ian Birchall, Chair
107. La Fondation Droit Animal, Ethique et Sciences, Louis Schweitzer, Président
108. My Lovely Pig Rescue: Cathy Davey Manager
109. OABA: Frédéric Freund, Directeur
110. QUATRE PATTES: Nikita Bachelard, Team Lead Programmes
111. RSPCA: David Bowles, Head of Public Affairs and Campaigns
112. The European Institute for Animal Law and Policy: Olga Kikou, Director of Advocacy
113. Una Terra Foundation Zsofia Fulop Founder: Board of Trustees Member
114. WELFARM: Ghislain ZUCCOLO Chief Executive

Members of the European Parliament from France

115. Anthony Smith, Member of the European Parliament for France
116. Damien Carême, Member of the European Parliament for France
117. David Cormand, Member of the European Parliament for France
118. Emma Fourreau, Member of the European Parliament for France
119. Manon Aubry, Member of the European Parliament for France
120. Majdouline Sbai, Member of the European Parliament for France
121. Marie Toussaint, Member of the European Parliament for France
122. Mélissa Camara, Member of the European Parliament for France
123. Mounir Satouri, Member of the European Parliament for France