

## **The revision of the welfare of transported animals: An encouraging effort with need for flexibility for farm animal breeders**

Brussels, 07/12/2023

- Animal welfare is a huge concern for Farm Animal Breeders of EFFAB at any stage of animal life.
- Transport of genetic material is prioritised, but some animals need to be transported for short, mid and long distances.
- Animal breeders care for the animals they breed and transport, as reflected in the [Code EFABAR](#).
- Excellent conditions are put in place to ensure the best well-being of breeding animals during their journey and beyond.

*As the welfare of farm animals at any stage of their lives is one of the cores of animal breeders' work, EFFAB positively values the revision of the animal welfare legislation during transport. We highly esteem the focus on workable and science-based solutions to improve animal welfare, in the framework of achieving more sustainable animal farming systems.*

With the publication of the proposal, we recognise the encouraging efforts put in by the EC in listening to scientists and stakeholders to develop a consistent proposal. We all agree that animals need to be protected in the best way possible.

Nonetheless, essential concerns related to the lack of flexibility on journey and resting times, temperature limits and the absence of recognising the special health status of breeding animals, need to be raised. In particular, considering the importance expressed by the EC and EFSA about the need to combine high levels of animal health and welfare of breeding animals during transportation.

The transport of animals for the purpose of disseminating genetic improvement is an essential part of the breeding process. Animal breeders transport animals only when transport options for genetic material (semen, embryos, hatching eggs, etc) are not feasible or efficient.

An equal access of farmers to the progress driven by genetics is needed. This progress signifies better sustainability, including improved animal welfare of the farm animal populations. And it must be disseminated within the EU, regardless of the geographical situation. This is also needed to partner with third countries, to give the opportunity to EU breeders to contribute to global sustainability of animal farming. This is why the transport of breeding animals remains, in some cases, necessary.

EFFAB remains open and available for further clarifications or questions on how animal breeders are ensuring animal welfare during transport, balanced breeding practices, or any other topics related to animal breeding and reproduction.

Press contacts:

*Ana Granados, Director of EFFAB, [ana.granados@effab.info](mailto:ana.granados@effab.info)*

*Barbara Barbosa, Policy Officer, [barbara.barbosa@effab.info](mailto:barbara.barbosa@effab.info)*

*Remark Temali, Communications Advisor, [remark.temali@effab.info](mailto:remark.temali@effab.info)*

### **About EFFAB**

*EFFAB (European Forum for Animal Breeding) represents the sector of animal breeding and reproduction in Europe. From ruminants to insects, from conventional to organic systems, we aim at genetically improving various farm animal species, to better meet the challenges of sustainability and animal welfare. Technology, responsible science and innovation are key to our work and to the future of farming. [www.effab.info](http://www.effab.info)*

### **About balanced breeding**

*Balanced and responsible breeding means finding a sustainable compromise for the people, the planet, and for farmed animals between traits related to the health and welfare of animals, their environmental impacts, and the quality and quantity of production (milk, meat, fish meat and eggs) whilst keeping genetic diversity.*