



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Crisis preparedness in food, animals and plants  
The Director

Brussels,  
SANTE/G5/DS/dm (2021)1611780

**Subject: Livestock vessels Elbeik and Karim Allah**

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 12 February 2021 on the above-mentioned subject.

In your email addressed to the animal transport national contact points and to the Commission, you ask the Commission *to directly intervene, if necessary, to support Spanish authorities in solving any administrative and bureaucratic problems related to these two cases.*

I would like to inform you that the Commission has been in close contact with the different authorities involved. I was first informed by the Italian Chief Veterinary Officer of the situation of the Karim Allah close to the port of Cagliari (Sardinia) on 18 February in the evening.

Since then, I have also been in contact with the Spanish Chief Veterinary Officer and they have accepted to receive the animals back. The Karim Allah is today (10/03/2021) in the port of Cartagena and has been checked by the Spanish competent authority who published a report of their inspection carried out on 25-26 February 2021<sup>1</sup>. They have proceeded to the euthanasia of animals.

The Elbeik was located in the waters of the port of Kalamata (Greece) but left the waters on 10 March morning to unknown destination.

On 24 February, Commissioner Kyriakides wrote to the Ministers of Agriculture of Spain and Cyprus asking them to give priority to this issue in order for the animals involved to avoid any unnecessary suffering and ensuring that all EU animal health and welfare provisions applicable are strictly respected.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/prensa/ultimas-noticias/informaci%C3%B3n-de-las-actuaciones-del-ministerio-de-agricultura-pesca-y-alimentaci%C3%B3n-en-relaci%C3%B3n-con-el-transporte-de-terneros-del-buque-karim-allah/tcm:30-558996>

Commissioner Kyriakides wrote also to the Greek Minister on 5 March 2021 asking them to give priority to this issue, and that this resulted in Greece allowing the vessel to call at the port at the south of Crete on 07/03/2021 to refuelled.

The Commission is keeping close contacts with the Spanish veterinary authorities and will investigate the matter and consider any necessary follow up regarding the conditions of the export of these animals in order to be clear who bears responsibility for what has happened and whether there are any lessons to be learnt.

Yours sincerely,

*[e-signed]*  
Bernard Van Goethem