

Welfare of Animals During Transport

As of 2011 the European Commission is reviewing this issue and, depending on its findings, may decide to alter the legislation. In January 2011 the European Food Safety Authority issued its Report which will form the basis of the Commission's work for 2011.

This can be downloaded from:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/1966.htm>

The TBA will continue to work closely with other equestrian organisations, DEFRA and through the European Breeders Federation in Brussels to ensure the interests of British breeders are taken into account. Meetings with European officials and Members of the European Parliament will take place on this issue throughout 2011.

The TBA's policy position on this issue is that we understand and support the main thrust of previous research and legislation which focuses on slaughter horses that are still travelling in unfit and unsafe conditions, over distances and times of travel that are unacceptable.

However, will continue to ask policy makers, both at EU and UK level, to remain vigilant against the temptation to impose blanket solutions for all equines, as it would not only be unfair to British breeders but severely detrimental, as the safest possible transport and the best possible welfare methods are applied already by our industry that, through its very long standing experience of moving valuable stock, has always been an absolute priority.

We will press to keep the current derogations for the registered horse (for example from rest and travel times, travelling mares in the last 10% of gestation, and the requirement for satellite navigation systems). Indeed, there remain some proposals which, while in the interests of slaughter horses, would actually have a negative affect on our sector (for example constant access to hay or water, excessive space in partitions etc).