



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate D - Animal Health and Welfare  
D4 - International questions (bilateral)  
Head of Unit

SANCO

13. 04. 2010

Brussels,  
SANCO/D4/FVC/vs D 440430

**Subject: Formal complaint - EU approved Horse Slaughter Plant - Carnicos de Jerez, Zacatecas, Mexico**

Dear Dr Fragoso Sánchez,

The Commission has received a letter from an Animal Welfare organisation, Animals' Angels.

In their letter, the organisation draws our attention to inhumane treatment of horses in the EU approved Horse Slaughter Plant - Carnicos de Jerez, Zacatecas and the poor conditions of these animals during transport.

The European Commission attaches great importance to animal welfare. Animals are recognised as sentient beings by Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the European Institutions are obliged to pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals when formulating and implementing Union's legislation.

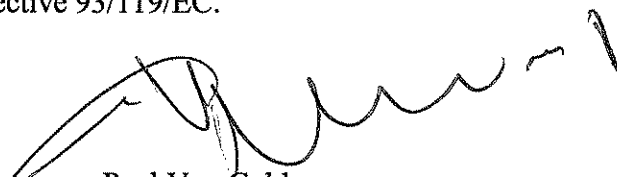
In slaughterhouses approved in third countries for the purpose of exporting meat to the EU, the responsible competent authority should certify that the animal welfare requirements equivalent to those laid down in Council Directive 93/119/EC<sup>1</sup> on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing are met.

Regarding the animal transport, Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport is not applicable in third countries.

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<sup>1</sup> To note that Council Directive 93/119/EC will be repealed by Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 as from 1 January 2013.

I would hereby like to ask you to investigate the practices indicated in this letter, especially as regards unfit horses being dragged on the floor. This practise could be considered not equivalent to Council Directive 93/119/EC. I would appreciate it to receive information concerning the official checks put in place in the slaughterhouse verifying the adequate implementation of Council Directive 93/119/EC.



Paul Van Geldorp

Enclosure: Letter of Animals' Angels of 24 November 2009.

c.c.: Mr J. Rueda, L. Martínez, Embassy of Mexico  
Mr L.E. González, Mr. R. González Ministry of the Economy of Mexico