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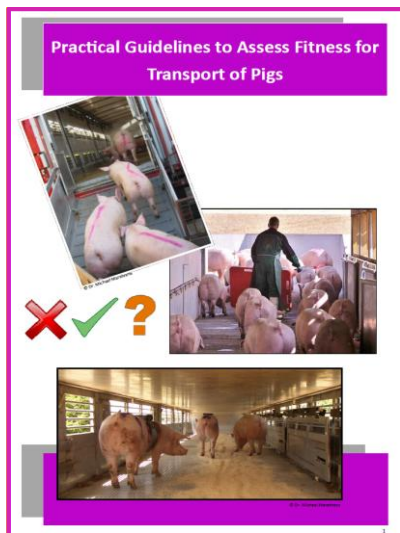
## PRESS RELEASE

### European Commission welcomes practical EU guidelines to assess fitness of pigs for transport

Brussels, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016

Practical EU guidelines to assess the fitness of pigs for transport, aiming to be an extra tool available to professionals to ensure a high level of fitness for transport of pigs, written by leading EU agri-food, veterinary, road transport, and animal welfare stakeholder groups, have been welcomed by the European Commission. The move comes after 2 years of work by the UECBV, Copa and Cogeca, Eurogroup for Animals, Animals' Angels, FVE, IRU, ELT, INAPORC and Cooperl Arc Atlantique.

*“Whilst the role of European legislation is essential in setting out harmonised rules to protect the animals' welfare, guidelines such as these which explain how these rules should be carried out in practice are crucial,”* said Mr Gavinelli, Head of the Animal Welfare Unit of DG SANTE, speaking after the meeting. Continuing, he added that *“these joint guidelines will help all those responsible to work together to ensure a high level of welfare of transported animals”*.



These guidelines are designed to provide easy to understand help and advice to professionals involved in the transportation of pigs and aim to complement existing EU legislation.

The guidelines do not represent the real situation in Europe today, but provide a comprehensive list of situations that may occur and the conditions that may result in an animal being classed as unfit for transport to help operators ensure animal welfare is constantly maximised.

The guidelines are visual and use photographs/drawings and simple texts to help all operators decide on the suitability of pigs for transport. Ensuring a high level of welfare of animals during transport is in everyone's interest. Transporting animals that are unfit not only causes animal suffering but could also lead to penalties, financial losses and the withdrawal of the authorisation of the transporter and/or the driver as well.

Whilst the guidelines' primary aim is to ensure a high level of animal welfare, they also can be useful to better protect the health and safety of anyone involved in the transport process.

The guidelines are currently available in English, with Dutch, French, German, Italian, Polish, Romanian and Spanish versions available in the next few months. If you are a professional involved in the transport of pigs (producer, veterinarian, transporter, etc.), you can request a copy through the UECBV website or via [info@uecbv.eu](mailto:info@uecbv.eu).

For further information, consult the UECBV website <http://www.uecbv.eu/> or by phone: + 32 2 230 46 03 / Fax: + 32 2 230 94 00 or by e-mail to [info@uecbv.eu](mailto:info@uecbv.eu)

**Copa and Cogeca** (European farmers and European agri-cooperatives) [www.copa-cogeca.eu](http://www.copa-cogeca.eu)

**UECBV** (European Livestock and Meat Trades Union) [www.uecbv.eu](http://www.uecbv.eu)

**Eurogroup for animals** (European organisation on animal welfare)  
[www.eurogroupforanimals.org](http://www.eurogroupforanimals.org)

**Animals' Angels** (international organisation on animal welfare) [www.animals-angels.com](http://www.animals-angels.com)

**FVE** (Federation of Veterinarians of Europe) [www.fve.org](http://www.fve.org)

**IRU** (International Road Transport Union) [www.iru.org](http://www.iru.org)

**ELT** (European Livestock Transporters) [www.european-livestock.com](http://www.european-livestock.com)

**INAPORC** (l'interprofession nationale porcine - France) [www.leporc.com](http://www.leporc.com)

Cooperl Arc Atlantique- [www.cooperl.com](http://www.cooperl.com)