

## Long Distance Transport of MINKS from THE NETHERLANDS to GREECE (21. – 26.11.2011)<sup>1</sup> Transport company: Busser Transport BV (The Netherlands)

Date and time of first observation:	23.11.2011, 15:30 o'clock
Place of first observation:	Italy, port of Bari
License plates:	Dutch license plates: BV-GV-66 / WL-10-VX (lorry + trailer)
Transport company:	Busser Transport BV, Bennekom (The Netherlands)
Number of animals:	1.800 minks (1.500 females, 300 males)
Category of animals:	For breeding (acc. to the attendant accompanying the minks)
Place of departure:	V.O.F. Moradi, Heumen (The Netherlands)
Competent veterinarians at place of departure:	Pecon B.V., Gemert (The Netherlands)
Date and time of departure:	21.11.2011, around 12:00 o'clock (acc. to attendant)
Place of destination:	Bosmann Minkfarm AG, Kastoria (Greece)
Itinerary:	The Netherlands – Germany – Austria – Italy - Greece
Total distance from place of departure to destination:	2.120 km <sup>23</sup> + sea journey from Bari (Italy) to Igoumenitsa (Greece)
Estimated journey time:	3 days (acc. to driver, i.e. from 21.until 24.11.2011)
Time the transport effectively took:	5 days (i.e. from 21. until 26.11.2011)
Programmed control post:	not programmed (as not required by legislation)

### Loading conditions:

- the single containers consist of six cages, in which the minks are placed individually; the containers are placed on top of each other, in piles of four;
- the containers do not appear to be fixed to the walls of the truck and they are not fixed to each other; thus there is a **high risk that the containers fall down** due to abrupt manoeuvres of the truck. Indeed two containers on the second deck of the trailer are lying on the floor – it is unclear if they had fallen down or had been intentionally placed there; in any case there is a high risk that they slip around due to manoeuvres of the truck.
- the floor of the containers consists of wire; on top of each container there is a metal panel, but as the cages are not placed exactly on top of each other **urine drips down from the front side of the cages into the lower cages (and in the water bowls of the minks placed there)**
- no **bedding in the cages to absorb excrements; intense stink of excrements**
- twice we observe **minks that had escaped from the cages**. In one case we observe the attendant catching the escaped mink; there are **traces of blood on the floor from this mink**.

<sup>1</sup> Date of observation by Animals' Angels/LAV: 23 and 24.11.2011. The mentioned dates of departure and arrival have been concluded from the accompanying documents and/or other information received.

<sup>2</sup> 1.890 km from Heumen (The Netherlands) to the port of Bari (Italy) + 230 km from Igoumenitsa (Greece) to the place of destination, Kastoria (Greece).

<sup>3</sup> Acc. to ADAC RoutenPlaner

**Feeding and watering:**

- According to the minks' attendant the animals were fed for the last time in the farm in The Netherlands, i.e. on Monday, 21.11.11. Thus until the time of the police check in Italy on 23.11.11 the animals had not been fed for more than two days. There was **no feed for the minks on board**. It was planned not to feed the minks during the whole programmed transport time of 3 days.
- According to the minks' attendant he watered the minks twice a day with a water hose. Each mink has a water bowl in its compartment.

**Accompanying documents:**

- **no veterinary declaration on board stating the animals' state of health**. During the police/veterinary check the drivers organize for a veterinary declaration to be sent by fax. This veterinary declaration does however not comply to the legal requirements (it is not linked to the animals on board the truck and it is dated 05.10.11, i.e. 1,5 months before the animals were sent to Greece) and therefore the Italian veterinarians cannot accept it. An acceptable veterinary declaration is then sent the following day (24.11.11) from the Dutch to the Italian veterinarians.
- according the transporter's authorization on board the **transporter is not authorized to transport minks**
- no journey log (not required for the transport of minks)

**Short description of happenings:**

23.11.2011 from 16:35 o'clock on

The truck is checked by police in the port of Bari (Italy). In the course of the check also the competent veterinarians are called.

**Measures taken by the Italian authorities:**

1. Police issues **three fines amounting to 8.666,67 Euro** for:
  - exceeding the limits of the transporter's authorisation, i.e. transporting minks even though the transporter's authorisation did not include the species minks (6.666,67 Euro acc. to Art. 8, paragraph 2 of D.L. 151/2007)
  - health certificate not on board (1.000 Euro acc. to Art. 5, paragraph 1 and 2 of D.L. 151/2007)
  - urine and faeces falling down on the animals placed in the lower cages and cages not secured as to prevent displacement (1.000 Euro acc. to Art. 7, paragraph 2 and annex 3 of D.L. 151/2007)

As obligatory by Italian traffic regulation the **means of transport is prevented from continuing transport to destination** ("fermo amministrativo") until the driver pays the fine on the spot. The fine was paid two days after the police check, i.e. on 25.11.2011.

2. The veterinary authorities **put the minks under sanitary restriction** ("vincolo sanitario") because the animals are not accompanied by a veterinary declaration which meets the legal requirements. After the Dutch veterinarians had sent a satisfactory veterinary declaration by fax on 24.11.2011, the sanitary restriction was removed.

23.11.2011, 21:40 o'clock

As neither the truck nor the animals are allowed to continue transport to destination in Greece the truck leaves the port of Bari and is escorted by police in direction to the official control post in the vicinity.

Shortly after leaving the port the **truck stops due to a break down** (in fact already when we saw the truck first at 15:30 o'clock it was loosing liquid). As the **driver appears unable to organize for a mechanic** to come and repair the truck in the end the police calls a mechanic.

24.11.2011

00:30 o'clock

The mechanic manages to repair the truck at least provisionally in a way that it can make it to the control post.

During their stay at the control post the minks remained inside the small cages. As the drivers do not have any feed for the minks on board and the minks' attendant claims that in the absence of proper mink feed the only feed the minks can eat are apples, the owner of the control post organizes for apples to be delivered. But at 15:15 o'clock of 24.11.11 the **driver/attendant still had not fed the apples to the minks**. According to the information received the minks were finally fed between 17:00 and 19:00 o'clock of 24.11.11.

As the driver does not manage to pay the fine on 24.11.11 to the police the truck is still not allowed to continue to destination in Greece.

25.11.11

According to the information received the driver paid the fined and thus the mink truck left the control post on 25.11.11 and took the evening ferry from Bari (Italy) to Igoumenitsa (Greece). Consequently it can be supposed that the truck arrived at destination in the morning of 26.11.11, after **5 days of transport**.

#### **VIOLATIONS of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005:**

1. Undue suffering caused  
→ due to the fact that the attendant did not feed the minks during more than 3 days, due to the inadequate transport conditions and due to unnecessary delays caused by inadequate organisation of the transport  
(Violation of Art. 3)
2. Animals not fed at least every 24 hours  
(Violation of Art. 6 (3) in connection with Chapter III, point 2.7.)
3. Urine and faeces falling on the animals placed underneath not limited  
(Violation of Art. 6 (3) and of Art. 8 (1) in connection with Chapter III, point 1.7 letter a)
4. Containers not secured so as to prevent displacement due to the movement of the means of transport  
(Violation of Art. 6 (3) in connection with Chapter II, point 5.2.)
5. Containers not constructed/operated to prevent the animals from escaping or falling out  
(Violation of Art. 6 (3) in connection with Chapter II, point 1.1. letter d)
6. Transporter authorisation for minks missing  
(Violation of Art. 6, paragraph 1)
7. Veterinary declaration missing  
(Violation of Art. 5 (2) of Italian Decreto Legislativo 151/2007)



*Unsecured containers in piles of four.*



*Unsecured containers – two are lying on the floor.*



Urine from upper cages drips down into lower cages, inside the water bowls.



Floor consists of wires – minks lying in their excrements.



Escaped mink.



Traces of blood on floor from the escaped mink.



23./24.11.11, Bari; Break down of truck