



Conservatives in the European Parliament

Press Release

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A CHANCE TO END LONG DISTANCE HORSE SLAUGHTER

Local Conservative MEP Malcolm Harbour is delighted by the victory of an initiative led by the animal charity World Horse Welfare that aims to end the cruel long distance transport to slaughter of Europe's most vulnerable horses. Harbour signed, and voted for, a written declaration in the European Parliament calling for an urgent review of EU legislation governing the welfare of animals during transport to slaughter. A Written Declaration is similar to a House of Commons Early Day Motion. As half of the Members of the European Parliament have now signed up to it, it has become a formal resolution of the parliament. The European Commission must now come forward with legislative proposals; the ball is in their court.

Currently some 100,000 horses a year are being transported across Europe to slaughter without rest, food or water. These journeys are inhumane and totally unnecessary.

In a statement the West Midlands' MEP said,

"The overwhelming support for this initiative shows that, like so many residents who are horse lovers, your MEPs want to see an end to unnecessary suffering. I'm sure that the vast majority of us baulk at the manner in which horses can be transported across the continent. Latest figures estimate that 100,000 horses are transported in atrocious conditions across Europe to slaughter. Imagine a 12 hour journey from Bulgaria or Romania to Italy often without rest, water or food in the stifling heat. Journeys such as these are inhumane and can lead to exhaustion, injury, pain suffering and stress. I find this intolerable.

Most of these journeys are completely unnecessary as slaughter facilities exist across Europe, so why are these horses being moved around like this? Within the UK, transporting a horse in a way that is detrimental to its welfare is a breach of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. The Act states that a person commits an offence if they are responsible for an animal, either permanently or temporarily and cause the animal to suffer, or fail to ensure its need are met.

"I have given my support to urgently review and change this legislation to make these loopholes a thing of the past."

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