

Why animal transports from the EU to Türkiye cannot be authorized

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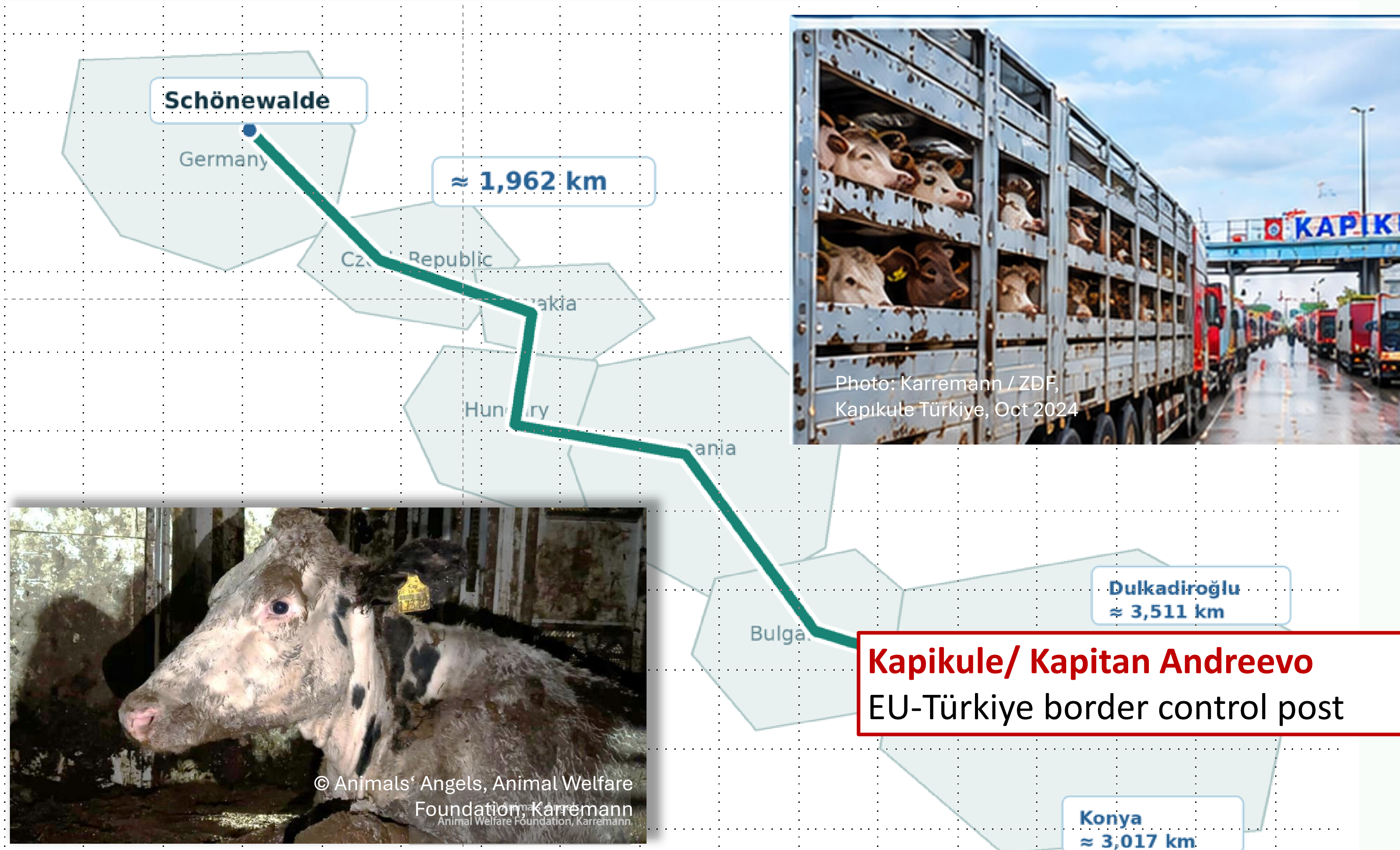
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Case Study — Kapikule 2024: 69 pregnant heifers — Germany → Türkiye — September–October 2024



12 Sept
2024
Departure
from
Germany

16 Sept –
14 Oct 2024
Almost
4 weeks
detained
at the border

→ Severe deterioration
of welfare
→ births under extremely
poor conditions
→ 13 calves + 8 cows
died

15 Oct
2024
Final animals
slaughtered / one
animal still alive at
landfill and
emergency-killed

16 Sept
2024
Arrival at Kapikule

14 Oct
2024
Surviving animals
moved to an
abattoir in Edirne

Journey Time Problem

Unpredictable border delays
→ **destination in time uncertain**

833 animal transports (2011– 21):

- 37% waited 6–12 h,
- 35% waited 12–24 h,
- 28 % waited > 24h, up to 8 days.

A 12-h delay leaves **13 h/ 845 km** of the **29-h max. permitted journey time**. With no control post in Türkiye, eastern parts of the country or third countries such as Iraq cannot be reached.

Welfare Consequences

Severe heat stress:
High temperatures are frequently documented at the Bulgarian Turkish Border, especially in summer.



- **Confinement enhances suffering:**
Due to severe difficulties in providing food and water and in maintaining an adequate thermal environment, numerous cases of dehydration, contamination, weakness, and injury have been documented.

- **No reliable emergency response:**
Emergency treatment, unloading and humane killing cannot be reliably ensured if necessary.

Legal & Operational Gap

No secured return route:
There are no agreements (EU-Türkiye) regarding the returning of rejected consignments.

WOAH: “Welfare first” :
WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code, Chap. 7.3, Art. 7.3.11 states that **“The welfare of the animals should be the first consideration”** when a journey is refused.
So far Turkish Authorities are lacking the necessary actions to prevent or alleviate animal suffering in case of transport delays.

Journey log guarantee :
Under Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, the organiser signs the journey log and declares that appropriate precautions have been taken to safeguard animal welfare throughout the entire journey.
→ If refusal, prolonged delay, emergency care and return cannot be reliably planned and implemented, the welfare guarantee cannot be substantiated.

Destination-related welfare risks

Slaughter without prior stunning is a documented practice in Türkiye raising significant animal-welfare concerns.



Conclusion

The combination of
- legally limited journey times,
- unpredictable border delays,
- the absence of authorised staging points / control posts in Türkiye,
- lack of reliable emergency measures
- and the lack of an assured return mechanism creates a **foreseeable animal-welfare risk that cannot be mitigated through journey planning**
Thus, animal transports from EU to Türkiye cannot be authorized.

Future prospects

The 2023 EC-proposal for a **Reg. on the protection of animals during transport and related operations, [...]** stipulates in Art. 32 (3) for livestock vessels, that the journey log at departure must not be signed unless the organizer has provided an **“Attestation” concerning the acceptance of documentation [...]** completed, signed and stamped by the CA of the third country of destination. **At least, this procedure should apply to road transports to third countries as well! Ideally, the CAs of third countries should carry out their checks (visual inspections) while the consignment is still on EU soil.**

Main Reference:

Eberhardt U, Eggert-Satzinger C, Fuchs G, von Holleben K, Holmes R, Hoyer C, Herzog K, Herzog U, Kernberger-Fischer I, Kümmel U, Rabitsch A, Scheibl P, Wirths F. (2025). [Why animal transports to Türkiye cannot be authorised](https://www.TiRuP.at). Tier- und Artenschutz in Recht und Praxis (TiRuP), 2025, pp. 81–98. DOI: 10.35011/tirup/2025-5 www.TiRuP.at