



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Research and Information Service Briefing Note

Paper 00/000 22nd August 2025 NIAR-147-2025

Windsor Framework Democratic Scrutiny Committee

Status Update

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of animals during transport and related operations, amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1255/97 and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 COM(2023) 770.

RaISe

This information is provided to Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) in support of their duties, and is not intended to address the specific circumstances of any particular individual. It should not be relied upon as professional legal advice, or as a substitute for it.

1 Status Update

At its meeting on 15th May 2025, the DSC made a decision to monitor [Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of animals during transport and related operations, amending Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1255/97 and repealing Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1/2005 COM\(2023\) 770.](#)

The proposed Regulation aims to enhance welfare protections for animals being transported in connection with an economic activity, within the EU and to or from the EU to third countries. The proposal is progressing through the “ordinary legislative procedure” established under the Lisbon Treaty.

A [revised text](#) of the proposed Regulation from the Danish Presidency of the European Council was made available on 22 July 2025. This will feed into the Council’s internal position (General Approach), which has not yet been agreed.

The revised Presidency text relates to Chapter III and Annex I of the proposed Regulation and focuses on clarifying responsibilities for applying for certificates of approval, setting requirements for livestock and container vessel decks, and establishing new rules for granting, rejecting, renewing, suspending, and withdrawing certificates of approval for transport by road, rail, and ship.

2 Next steps

On the Council side, Council experts are expected to continue to meet over the coming months and examine the proposal and revised Presidency texts, in order to prepare the Council’s internal position (General Approach).

Council experts of the Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Questions (Animal Welfare) are scheduled to examine the proposal on 11-12 September 2025.

A General Approach will need to be formally adopted by the Council once agreement has been reached at the technical level.

On the European Parliament side, the lead Committees [Transport & Tourism (TRAN) and Committee and Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) Committee] are expected to vote on their joint [draft Report](#) in either October or November 2025.

The text of the Report if adopted would then be submitted to plenary in November or December 2025. The Parliament is expected to approve the Report, potentially with further amendments but stop short of adopting it as its first reading position so that inter-institutional negotiations (trilogues) can be held with the Council.

Once both the Parliament and the Council have finalised their position on the proposal, informal negotiations with the aim of reaching a first reading agreement on the proposal are then expected to begin. Any resulting compromise would need to be approved by the European Parliament and by the Council. Once adopted, the Regulation would enter into force following its publication in the EU Official Journal.

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