

No. 9967

**BULGARIA
and
TURKEY**

Veterinary Convention. Signed at Sofia on 30 May 1967

Authentic text: French.

Registered by Bulgaria on 20 October 1969.

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[TRANSLATION—TRADUCTION]

VETERINARY CONVENTION¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Government of the Republic of Turkey, with a view to strengthening and extending the economic and commercial relations existing between the two countries, protecting each other's territory from the spread of communicable animal diseases and zoonoses communicable to man and achieving collaboration in all fields of veterinary science and practice, have concluded this Convention.

To this end they have appointed the following plenipotentiaries :

The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria :

His Excellency Mr. Ivan Bachev, Minister for Foreign Affairs;

The Government of the Republic of Turkey :

His Excellency Mr. Ihsan Sabri Çağlayangil, Minister for Foreign Affairs,

who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows :

Article 1

The two Contracting Parties have agreed to comply with the veterinary conditions established by this Convention for the import, export and transit of animals and products of animal origin.

Article 2

The Contracting Parties shall, at frontier posts established by the two countries, exercise veterinary and health control on the import, export and transit of animals and products of animal origin, fodder and articles capable of transmitting communicable animal diseases and zoonoses communicable to man.

Frontier veterinary and health control shall be effected only by a State veterinary officer.

¹ Came into force on 7 June 1968 by the exchange of the instruments of ratification, which took place at Sofia, in accordance with article 27.

Frontier veterinary-health control posts are :

In the People's Republic of Bulgaria :

- For rail transport : Svilengrad station;
- For road transport : the village of Kapitan Andreevo and the town of Malko Tirnovo;
- For maritime transport : the towns of Varna and Burgas;
- For air transport : the towns of Sofia, Plovdic and Burgas.

In the Republic of Turkey :

- For rail transport : Sirkeci (Istanbul), Uzun Köprü, Karaağaç (Edirne);
- For road transport : Kapikule (Edirne);
- For maritime transport : Istanbul;
- For air transport : Yeşilköy (Istanbul).

If necessary, the frontier posts, railway stations or airports designated for veterinary control may be changed or increased in number by prior agreement between the two Contracting Parties.

Article 3

1. For the purposes of this Convention, the term " animals " means : solid-hoofed animals (horses, asses, mules, hinnies);

- Cloven-hoofed animals (cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats, camels and pigs);
- Poultry (chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks, guinea-fowls);
- Domestic animals, valuable game and birds of various sorts;
- Exotic animals and birds;
- Bees;
- Fish, crabs, snails, tortoises, frogs and snakes.

2. For the purposes of this Convention the term " products of animal origin " means :

- Animal raw materials—all parts of the carcass, unprocessed, irrespective of the purpose for which they are intended;
- Product of animal origin—parts of the animal's carcass, fresh or processed, intended for human consumption, as well as eggs, milk, dairy products, honey and fish roes;
- Wastes of animal origin—parts of the bodies of animals not intended for human consumption.

Article 4

Export, import or transit consignments of animals and products of animal origin shall be accompanied by the following certificates :

1. In the case of animals : veterinary certificate of origin and health.

2. In the case of products of animal origin : veterinary certificate of origin and health and laboratory inspection certificate.

The veterinary certificates shall be issued by a State veterinary officer or a veterinary officer designated for this purpose by the State in accordance with the models established by the central veterinary services in the French language.

Article 5

The veterinary certificate of origin and health shall include : the name and address of the consignor, the name of the place and department or region of origin and the species, number, description and distinguishing features of the animals. It must also indicate that the animals were raised in the territory of the exporting country.

The certificate shall contain data indicating that the animals had remained in their place of origin for twenty-one consecutive days before the date of dispatch. The State veterinary officer shall confirm in the veterinary certificate that during the period indicated the farm and the places they passed through on their way to the station at which they were loaded were not infected with the communicable diseases mentioned in article 6 of this Convention and that they were examined before being loaded and found in a good state of health.

The veterinary certificate of origin and health of animals shall be valid for a period of ten days from the date of its issue. If this period expires before the consignment arrives at the frontier post of the exporting country, it may be extended for ten days by a State veterinary officer (provided no symptoms of communicable disease have been found in the consignment). The result of the inspection shall be entered on the veterinary certificate.

In the case of large breeding cattle and solid-hoofed animals, individual veterinary certificates shall be issued for each animal.

In the case of collective consignments of cattle for slaughter, a list must be annexed to the veterinary certificate giving the name and address of the owner, the sex of the animal and the number of the certificate of origin. This list, which shall be based on the certificates of origin of the animals, shall be signed by the veterinary surgeon and mentioned in the certificate.

Collective veterinary certificates may be issued for small animals or poultry when the animals or the poultry are of the same species, are transported together in the same vehicle and are intended for the same destination.

Preferably a veterinary certificate of origin and health should be issued for each vehicle (wagon, lorry with or without trailer, ship, aeroplane, etc.).

Article 6

The veterinary certificate of origin and health of animals intended for export shall certify :

A. That the following diseases have not occurred in the territory of the exporting country :

1. Rinderpest (*pestis bovina*), contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (*pleuropneumonia contagiosa bovina*) and mucous disease, African horse sickness, African swine fever—within twelve months in the territory of the exporting country;

2. Dourine, glanders, infectious anaemia, communicable encephalomyelitis, influenza and viral abortion of solid-hoofed animals—within the preceding six months and within a radius of thirty kilometres of the animals' place of origin;

3. Tuberculosis, brucellosis, leukaemia, trichomoniasis and vibriosis—within the preceding twelve months on the farm of origin;

4. Foot-and-mouth disease of cloven-hoofed animals, atrophic rhinitis, Teschen disease, viral gastro-enteritis, sheep and goat pox—within the preceding six months and within a radius of thirty kilometres of the animals' place of origin;

5. Chronic mycoplasmosis, leukaemia, infectious bronchitis, infectious laryngotracheitis and ornithosis-psittacosis—within the preceding twelve months on the farms of origin;

6. Fowl pest, pseudo-pest (Newcastle disease) and cholera—within the preceding forty days within a radius of twenty kilometres of the place of origin;

7. Rabies—within the preceding twelve months in the place of origin of the dogs and cats; and,

8. In the case of game, valuable-fur-bearing animals, hares and rabbits—that their region of origin has been free from infectious diseases peculiar to these species for the preceding twelve months;

9. In the case of exotic animals—that they have been kept in quarantine or in a zoological garden for the preceding two months;

10. In the case of bees—that there has been no notifiable communicable disease within a radius of ten kilometres of the hives within the preceding twelve months;

11. In the case of fish and fish spawn intended for stocking inland waters—that there has been no case of infectious or parasitic disease in the fish-ponds of origin.

B. The veterinary certificate must also certify that the animals have undergone the following diagnostic examinations :

1. Solid-hoofed animals—serodiagnostic mallein test for glanders fifteen days before dispatch and that the result was negative;
 2. Brood mares and colts—two serodiagnoses for dourine, influenza and viral abortion at an interval of fifteen days, that the result was negative and that the last examination took place not more than twenty-one days before dispatch;
 3. Cattle for breeding—an intracutaneous tuberculin test twenty days before dispatch and that the result was negative;
 4. Cattle, sheep and goats for breeding—two serodiagnoses for brucellosis carried out in a State laboratory at an interval of fifteen days, that the result was negative and that the last diagnosis was made fourteen days before dispatch;
 5. Small animals for breeding (male and female sheep and goats)—serodiagnosis for bluetongue, infectious epididymitis and viral abortion no more than fifteen days before dispatch and that the result was negative.
- C. The veterinary certificate must also certify that the animals have been vaccinated, as follows :
1. Cattle, sheep and goats—against foot-and-mouth disease, with a vaccine approved by the official veterinary service of the importing country, at least fifteen days and no more than four months before dispatch;
 2. Solid-hoofed animals, cattle, sheep and goats for breeding and production—against anthrax, at least thirty days before dispatch;
 3. Pigs over the age of two months—against swine fever with a crystal violet vaccine, at least twenty days before dispatch;
 4. Sheep and goats for breeding and production—against variola, at least thirty days before dispatch;
 5. Dogs and cats—against rabies, at least thirty days and no more than twelve months before dispatch.

Article 7

The veterinary certificate of origin and health of products of animal origin shall certify :

(a) That the products are derived from animals free from infectious and parasitic diseases communicable to animals and man;

(b) That the products are derived from places free from infectious and parasitic animal diseases;

(c) That the fresh and preserved (salted, smoked, dried) meat and meat products are derived from animals which have been examined by a State veterinary officer before and after slaughtering and that they have been produced in

slaughter-houses or meat-processing plants specially designated for export and placed under constant health and veterinary control;

(d) That the meat and the meat products are fit for consumption;

(e) That the pork has been analysed for trichinosis, with negative result.

Article 8

If the frontier veterinary officers so decide, consignments of milk, dairy products and eggs being exported or imported or in transit shall not be required to undergo the veterinary examination if they are accompanied by valid veterinary certificates certifying that they were produced by approved export establishments placed under the control of the State veterinary service, and by a certificate of laboratory analysis.

Consignments of eggs for incubation shall be accompanied by a veterinary certificate of origin and health certifying that they come from farms free from infectious poultry diseases and more especially from *salmonella gallinarum-pullorum*, fowl pest, pseudo-fowl pest (Newcastle disease), mycoplasmosis, fowl cholera, leukaemia, ornithosis-psittacosis, infectious bronchitis, etc.

Article 9

Transit consignments of the following products of animal origin accompanied by a valid veterinary certificate shall not be subject to veterinary control :

1. Wool, bones, down and feathers, when they have been industrially washed and placed in closed bags;
2. Dried and salted casings, gullets, stomachs and bladders and tallow, when packed in closed and sealed crates or casks;
3. Hides, whether dried, salted or preserved in brine, skins of game, skin wastes whether processed or not, when placed in closed vehicles with watertight floors;
4. Horns, claws, hooves, bones, dried, cleaned and freed from the soft parts, when placed in closed vehicles;
5. Meat and preserved meat products, when in hermetically sealed cans.

Article 10

Meat and meat products from cattle, solid-hoofed animals, sheep, pigs and poultry for export must be prepared in specially approved export slaughter-houses and meat-processing plants in the exporting country.

Each Contracting Party shall communicate to the other Party, within three months from the entry into force of this Convention, the list of approved export slaughter-houses and meat processing plants and the numbers assigned to them. Any amendments to the lists shall be communicated immediately to the other Contracting Party.

Article 11

The approved export slaughter-houses and meat-processing plants shall be placed under constant veterinary and health control and must comply with the following conditions :

1. Slaughter-houses :

(a) Shall have separate rooms for large animals, for small animals, and for pigs and a special section for the slaughtering of animals suffering or suspected of suffering from communicable diseases;

(b) Shall have floors, walls, slaughtering facilities and slaughtering equipment of all kinds which are easy to clean and disinfect;

(c) Shall be equipped with running hot and cold water, plumbing and sewerage facilities, a ventilation system and other equipment necessary for hygiene;

(d) Shall have special places for the processing of stomachs, casings and sub-products of all sorts of waste of animal origin, and a furnace for the rendering of edible and industrial fats;

(e) Shall have refrigerating facilities in perfect condition and refrigerating areas in keeping with the capacity of the plant;

(f) Shall be provided with all the equipment necessary to enable operations on slaughtered animals to be carried out while the latter are suspended.

2. Meat-processing plants :

Meat-processing sections shall be so arranged that the whole production process may be carried out under the best possible hygienic conditions. They shall have all the premises and equipment necessary for the technological process involved.

The meat-processing rooms shall be isolated from the slaughtering rooms.

Meat used as raw material shall be supplied by approved export slaughter-houses.

Antibiotics and antioxidants shall not be used to preserve products.

3. Persons employed at approved export slaughter-houses and meat-processing plants shall undergo periodic medical examinations and shall have individual health cards. Persons suffering from communicable or parasitic diseases or who

are carriers of a disease capable of contaminating meat and meat products shall not be allowed to work.

4. A disinfecting area in keeping with the plant's capacity, equipped with the necessary installations and equipment and supervised by a veterinary officer shall be laid out for the cleaning and disinfection of vehicles transporting animals, meat and meat products to the slaughter-houses and meat-processing plants.

Article 12

Consignments of fresh meat, whether chilled or frozen, shall be sent only in the following form :

- Cattle : halved or quartered carcasses or pieces weighing not less than ten kilogrammes;
- Pigs : halved carcasses, legs, pieces of bacon weighing not less than three kilogrammes;
- Horses : halved or quartered carcasses or unboned pieces weighing not less than ten kilogrammes;
- Lambs : whole carcasses;
- Sheep : whole or halved carcasses;
- Heads and tails : whole;
- Tongues, hearts, livers, kidneys, brains, thyroid glands : whole;
- Stomachs, rumens, casings : whole, cleaned and blanched;

- Carcasses of slaughtered animals other than pigs shall be flayed;
- The serous membranes and lymph nodes shall not be removed.

No way of cutting the meat other than that established by the veterinary service shall be allowed.

The meat shall be stamped after inspection and the name and number of the approved export slaughter-house and the date of slaughter shall be visible on the stamp.

Each quarter shall bear at least two inspection stamps.

Lamb and mutton shall be stamped on both halves of the carcass.

Each piece of meat shall bear at least one stamp.

Each parcel containing pieces of meat or intestines shall bear a label of the slaughter-house from which the meat comes. The label shall also bear the inspection stamp. A duplicate of the label shall be placed in each consignment.

Article 13

Poultry whose meat is to be exported shall be slaughtered only at poultry slaughter-houses approved by the central veterinary service of the exporting country.

Slaughtered poultry may be transported whole or in parts :

(a) Where poultry is imported whole, the body must be completely plucked and the head roughly plucked. They shall be drawn in accordance with trade practice;

(b) Where poultry is imported in parts (breasts, legs) they must be chilled or frozen and in a moisture-proof wrapper;

(c) Game must be whole.

Article 14

In the case of raw and processed meat to be exported, the State veterinary officer shall certify that the animals from which it comes were not treated with substances prohibited by the veterinary authorities.

Meat from animals which have been treated with oestrogenic or thyreostatic substances may not be imported.

Where preserved meat, meat products and fish are to be imported, the name and address of the producing establishment, the name and composition of the product, the date of production and the limit of preservation shall be indicated on the wrapping material (tin, plastic wrapper or the like).

Article 15

Fresh, chilled, frozen, salted or smoked fish shall be transported whole. Large fish shall be exported with their heads removed and gutted or filleted. Bone, skin and traces of blood shall be removed from fillets.

The species and weight of the fish and the name of the exporting enterprise shall be shown on the containers.

Article 16

The State veterinary officer or a veterinary officer authorized by the State shall inspect the animals at the loading station in accordance with the health and veterinary provisions of the exporting country.

When, by reason of *force majeure*, reloading becomes necessary it shall be done in the presence of a State veterinary officer who shall inspect the animals again and note the result on the veterinary certificate together with the reasons for the reloading.

Article 17

Consignments which do not conform with the above provisions, and animals which, at the frontier crossing the veterinary officers of the two countries find or suspect to be suffering from a communicable disease, shall be turned back.

Where a communicable disease is detected after the animals have entered the importing country, a State veterinary officer shall prepare a report, a copy of which shall be sent immediately to the central veterinary service of the other Contracting Party. The animals shall be dealt with in accordance with the regulations of the importing country.

Article 18

Where rinderpest, contagious pleuropneumonia of cattle and goats, African horse sickness, an exotic variety of foot-and-mouth disease of cloven-hoofed animals or other communicable diseases are detected in the territory of one of the Contracting Parties the other Party shall immediately be entitled to restrict or prohibit the import of transit of animals or products of animal origin. It shall immediately inform the other Contracting Party of this measure.

Article 19

The contracting Parties shall authorize the transit of consignments in accordance with the regulations in force and with the provisions of international sanitation and veterinary agreements to which they are parties.

Article 20

1. Each Contracting Party shall recognize as valid the official disinfection instructions in force in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

These instructions shall be applied to all consignments effected in accordance with the spirit of this Convention.

2. Railway wagons, lorries, with or without trailer, aeroplanes and ships used for the conveyance of consignments but not cleaned and disinfected in accordance with instructions, and wagons not bearing the prescribed label with the word "disinfected" shall be turned back by the frontier veterinary officer.

Article 21

The two Contracting Parties shall publish a fortnightly bulletin on the state of health of the animals and the situation with respect to communicable diseases in their respective countries. The bulletins shall be exchanged directly between the veterinary services of the Contracting Parties.

If a veterinary service requires more detailed data concerning the situation with respect to certain diseases in infected regions, the other Party shall be obliged to supply them.

Where rinderpest, bovine pleuropneumonia, foot-and-mouth disease of cloven-hoofed animals or communicable caprine pleuropneumonia occurs in the territory of either Contracting Party, the veterinary service of that Party shall immediately inform the service of the other Party by cable of the occurrence of the disease, the exact place of its appearance and the number of farms infected, the number of diseased animals and measures taken to combat it.

In the case of foot-and-mouth disease, the Party on whose territory the disease occurs shall in addition provide information by cable on the type of virus and course of the disease and on any discovery of new types or varieties of virus.

Article 22

If highly communicable diseases, such as foot-and-mouth disease, rinderpest, etc., occur in one of the countries, the following measures shall be applied :

(a) A strict protection zone shall be established on both sides of the frontier. In this zone, animals capable of being contaminated shall be given an appropriate vaccination and kept in strict quarantine;

(b) general and specific measures shall be taken simultaneously and by agreement with a view to the quickest possible elimination of the danger;

(c) when animals liable to be contaminated cross the frontier, the special measures the Party concerned deems necessary shall be applied and shall be brought to the notice of the other Contracting Party.

With a view to eliminating rabies from their territories, the Contracting Parties have agreed that the following supplementary measures shall be applied to dogs in the frontier veterinary zone :

(a) Obligatory registration;

(b) Killing of stray dogs;

(c) Compulsory appropriate vaccination.

Article 23

The Contracting Parties, recognizing the usefulness of and need for closer links between veterinary officers to enable them to exchange scientific and practical experience in the field of veterinary medicine, shall arrange exchange visits of veterinary experts on a reciprocal basis.

Article 24

The Contracting Parties shall arrange, by prior agreement, to send veterinary experts to each other's territory with a view to exchange of experience on matters relating to the application of the Convention or to visit officially approved export slaughter-houses, meat and fish processing plants and plants for the processing of by-products of animal origin and fattening centres for poultry intended for the other Contracting Party.

Article 25

The Contracting Parties agree to submit any difficulties that may arise from the implementation of this Convention to a Joint Commission, two members of which shall be veterinary surgeons — of the central veterinary service of each country.

The Commission shall meet within two months from the date of a proposal by one of the Parties that it should be convened.

If, within a period of thirty days following the date of the meeting, the Commission has not reached agreement, the problems left outstanding shall be settled through the diplomatic channel.

If there is a need for it in the frontier veterinary zone and if one of the Parties submits a duly substantiated request, the other Party shall render all assistance necessary for the prevention and control of communicable diseases by supplying experts, medicines, equipment etc.

Article 26

The Contracting Parties agree to apply the provisions of this Convention to any other newly detected animal diseases if there is a danger of their spread or transmission.

The central veterinary services shall keep each other informed of all questions relating to this Convention.

Article 27

This Convention shall be ratified in accordance with the legislation of each of the two countries and shall enter into force on the day on which the instruments of ratification are exchanged. The instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Sofia.

This Convention shall be valid for a period of one year. Unless denounced three months before the date of its expiry, it shall be deemed to be automatically extended for periods of one year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the representatives, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this Convention.

DONE at Sofia on 30 May 1967, in the French language in two original copies.

For the Government
of the People's Republic
of Bulgaria :

I. BACHEV

For the Government
of the Republic of Turkey :

Ihsan Sabri ÇAGLAYANGİL