



To the Honourable Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Türkiye
URGENT REQUEST FOR THE OFFLOADING OF CATTLE FROM THE
MV SPIRIDON 2 AT BANDIRMA PORT IN TÜRKİYE.

Dear Minister Hasan Keskin,

By email: Keskin.hasan@tarimorman.gov.tr

9 November 2025

We write to you from South Africa regarding an urgent and deeply distressing animal welfare situation involving the 2,901 surviving cattle (with 48 mortalities reported) currently aboard the MV *Spiridon 2*, anchored at Bandırma Port, Türkiye.

We have been made aware of the grave plight of these animals, who have now endured approximately 50 days at sea since departing Uruguay. We respectfully appeal for your immediate intervention to enable the swift unloading of the surviving cattle in order to prevent further suffering and loss of life.

It is our understanding that the delay in disembarkation is related to an issue concerning ear tag identification. If this is indeed the case, we kindly urge that animals with correct identification be permitted to disembark without further delay. Doing so would relieve overcrowding and allow for more space and better conditions for those animals whose documentation issues are still being resolved.

Long-distance sea transport from Uruguay to Türkiye places extraordinary physical and psychological strain on live animals. Extended confinement results in extreme fatigue, dehydration, stress, and increased vulnerability to illness and injury. Given the duration of this voyage, it is highly likely that essential provisions such as fodder, bedding, and fresh water are severely depleted or exhausted. The risk of starvation and dehydration is

acute, and we understand that the ship's reverse osmosis system may not reliably produce sufficient fresh water near coastal waters.

For the sake of these animals' welfare and in the interest of upholding Türkiye's strong reputation for compassion and responsible stewardship, we humbly request that every effort be made to bring the animals ashore without further delay. Land-based care will allow for immediate access to food, clean water, veterinary assistance, and the opportunity for the cattle to rest and recover from their long journey.

The global community is watching with growing concern, and decisive action from your Ministry will serve as a powerful affirmation of Türkiye's commitment to humane and ethical animal welfare standards.

We implore you, Honourable Minister, to intervene urgently and facilitate the unloading of these animals to prevent further suffering and mortality.

Yours sincerely,



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CO-FOUNDER / EXCO MEMBER

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Member of the Cape Animal Welfare Forum and the Farmed Animal Alliance