

Brussels, 20/7-2005  
D(2005)855

Dear Mrs. Lucas,

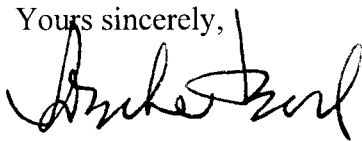
Thank you for your letter of 20 June 2005 in which you provide detailed comments on the crucial issue of animal welfare in the context of the Doha trade negotiations.

As you know, the Commission conducts these negotiations based on a mandate which generally covers non-trade concerns and more specifically animal welfare issues. I can assure you that for our trade negotiators animal welfare concerns remain an important issue in this negotiation. We will make big efforts to achieve a satisfactory outcome for our producers which are facing animal welfare standards which often are more demanding than in other countries.

With regard to your reference to the "Green Box" I would like to inform you that the broader review and clarification exercise of the "Green Box" criteria as provided for in the Framework Agreement of 1 August 2004 is a key issue which the EU needs to handle carefully. It is however clearly our negotiating objective to properly address our agenda on animal welfare under the WTO Domestic Support pillar.

I also took careful note of your comments regarding labelling and your reference to Developing Countries.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Caroline Lucas, MEP  
European Parliament  
Bât. Altiero Spinelli  
08G103  
60, rue Wiertz  
1047 Brussels