

Commissioner Mariann Fischer Boel  
Commissioner for Agriculture  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi, 200  
Bruxelles 1049

20th January 2006

Dear Commissioner Fischer Boel,

**Re: EU subsidies in the fur sector**

Thank you for your letter dated 21.09.05, in which you confirm that a number of projects involving breeding fur animals and/or processing fur products are being subsidised under rural development programmes in some Member States.

I am very concerned to learn that EU funding is going to such projects, as it is well documented that animals bred for fur are often kept in extremely poor conditions. These animals are usually kept in battery-style cages, receive little veterinary attention, and have few or no opportunities to express their natural behavioural habits. Additionally, slaughter methods used are often inhumane, and cause further suffering to the animals.

Furthermore, the Commission's own report entitled: "The Welfare of Animals Kept for Fur Production" is critical of husbandry systems on Fur farms, and states that conditions in such establishments are not compatible with the behavioural and physical needs of the animals.

In line with the Commission's own stated commitment to improving animal welfare standards across the EU, and with the independent decision of some Member States to ban fur farming completely, I would request that the Commission calls for an immediate end to Member States allocating subsidies to any projects involving breeding fur animals and/or the processing of fur.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Caroline Lucas  
Green Party MEP for South East England