

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS
Green Party

for the South East of England

Marian Fischer Boel
DG - Agriculture and Rural Development
European Commission
B1049 Brussels
Belgium

May 25th 2005

Dear Commissioner,

A number of constituents have written to me recently about how they are affected by severe allergies to oilseed rape at this time of year. I have raised this matter on a previous occasion with one of your predecessors but I felt it was important to bring to the Commission's attention again.

I enclose a report that I commissioned into the health problems associated with oilseed rape. You will note that there are several recommendations including:

- The introduction of specified distances between residential and commercial buildings and public rights of way, and crop margins.
- The exclusion of oilseed rape from agri-environment grants
- An awareness campaign around the health risks of oilseed rape

The purpose of my letter is to find out if the Commission has any plans for legislation that might tackle the problems caused by oilseed rape - blistering in the mouth and throat, pneumonia, and increased risk of throat cancer to name a few.

I trust you will be able to look into this and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.