



Mr. Stavros Dimas
Member of the Commission
Rue de la Loi, 200
Bruxelles

Brussels, 2 February 2006

Dear Mr. Stavros Dimas,

We are writing to you with regard to the conciliation agreement made on Tuesday 31 January 2006 on the Regulation on certain fluorinated greenhouse gases (2003/0189A).

We would like to express our deep concern about the final agreement, which in practice supports the need for the continued use of very potent greenhouse gases across Europe, in applications including refrigeration; stationary air conditioning and thermal insulation. This is despite the fact that for most applications, more environment- and climate-friendly alternatives do exist, and as has been clearly shown by the cases of Austria and Denmark, national law can be successfully used to promote the use of such alternatives.

As these national laws have proven to be workable, why should we not introduce the same high environmental standards throughout the EU? We strongly believe that the deal should have ensured that the Danish and Austrian ban on F-gases would apply in all EU-25 Member States as soon as possible. When more environmentally friendly alternatives do exist, there is no excuse not to use them.

However we do acknowledge that there is one positive element of the deal on F-gases: namely, that it grants Denmark and Austria permission to maintain stricter national rules for at least the next 6 years instead of forcing them to revert to old fashioned environmental laws.

We note that according to media reports, you gave strong hints on Wednesday 1 February 2006 that the Commission would drop ongoing infringement procedures against Denmark and Austria over their national laws. According to the Environment Daily on 1 February you said "The Commission will take into account the situation in place since yesterday".

Can you please confirm then, that the Commission will drop ongoing legal actions against Denmark and Austria, and if so, when this will happen? If you cannot confirm whether the Commission will withdraw the ongoing cases, could you inform us why?

Sincerely yours,

Monica Frassoni
Co-President

Caroline Lucas
MEP

Margrete Auken
MEP

Marie Anne Isler Beguin
MEP

Eva Lichtenberger
MEP