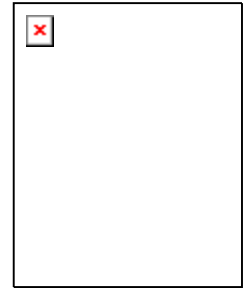
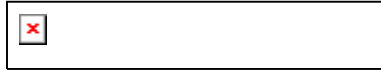


DR. CAROLINE LUCAS  
Green Party  
for the South East of England



HE Mr Dan Ghibernea  
Arundel House  
4 Palace Green  
London W8 4QD

February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2006

Dear Ambassador,

I am sure you are aware that a decision was taken earlier this week to begin a mass extermination programme aimed at the stray dog population in Bucharest. I have received letters and emails from a number of constituents outraged at this policy and would like to express my concern to the Romanian authorities.

I understand that the proposed extermination campaign is in response to the death of a Korean businessman who was bitten by a stray dog. I also appreciate that Bucharest has a problem with strays, dating back to policies pursued by Ceausescu in the 1980's, and which has ramifications for health care, tourism and a number of other areas. However, given Romania's ambitions to become a member of the European Union, and the outrage that this week's decision has provoked across the world, I am urging the authorities in Bucharest to review the situation.

Romania is an official member of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and should be guided by its recommendations on the humane treatment of animals. In particular I would ask you to press the authorities in Bucharest to implement a systematic sterilization programme, as an alternative to the massacre of thousands of defenceless animals. This is OIE's preferred solution to a large-scale stray dog problem and also recommended by NGO's and animal protection groups across Europe.

I look forward to hearing your views on this matter and learning what is being done to ensure Romania meets its responsibilities as a future member of the EU.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Lucas".

Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.