

Member of the European Parliament

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

Commissioner Mariann Fischer Boel  
Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development  
European Commission  
200, Rue de la Loi  
B-1049 Brussels

28 October 2009

Dear Commissioner Fischer Boel,

I am writing in relation to the use of indiscriminate and inhumane snares in the UK.

Article 8 of the Berne Convention, of which the EU is a signatory, states that contracting Parties shall prohibit the use of all indiscriminate means of capture and killing and the use of all means capable of causing local disappearance of, or serious disturbance to, populations of a species, and in particular, the means specified in Appendix IV (which lists snares). While article 9 of the Convention allows some exceptions, it is only where there is no other satisfactory solution.

Although snares are mainly set to trap foxes in the UK, badger populations are also adversely affected. Badgers should be released by law, but they often injure themselves in snares or die before being released. Experiments carried out by the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have shown that one in three badgers caught in "body snares" suffered "severe" injuries which breached the criteria for "humaneness". In the UK and the rest of Europe, foxes can be controlled by lamping and trained marksmen or live traps, so satisfactory alternative solutions to snares are available.

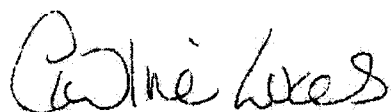
As far as I am aware, the UK is one of only five EU members that still allow snares to be used for trapping, alongside Ireland, France, Spain and Belgium. Given that the EU has signed the Berne Convention, the actions of these countries would appear to be contrary to Article 8.

European Parliament, Office 8G103, Rue Wiertz, B-1047 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 2845153 Fax: +32 2 2849153 Email: [caroline.lucas@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:caroline.lucas@europarl.europa.eu)  
Web: [www.carolinelucasmep.org.uk](http://www.carolinelucasmep.org.uk)

I would be very grateful if you could let me know what the Commission intends to do to bring these Member States into line.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Lucas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Caroline Lucas MEP