

Commissioner Markos Kyprianou
Commissioner for Health and Consumer protection
European Commission
Rue de la Loi, 200
Bruxelles 1049

05 April 2006

Dear Commissioner Kyprianou,

Re: EU-wide ban on the trade in cat and dog fur

During discussions last year with both the Intergroup on Animal Welfare and the Agriculture Council, on the subject of how to deal with the issue of the trade in cat and dog fur, you mentioned that the Commission was looking into possibilities for action at Community level, including the option of establishing a complete ban on this trade.

Given that a Written Declaration calling for a ban on this trade was signed by over half of all MEPs in 2002, with the resulting Resolution requesting the Commission to "draft a regulation under internal market powers to ban the import, export, sales and production of cat and dog furs and skins", and given that the majority of EU Member States gave their agreement to a possible EU ban during the July 2005 Agriculture Council, there is clearly political support for such a ban at EU level.

Additionally, as you acknowledge in your letter of 8 July 2005, there is widespread public support (both EU-wide and worldwide) for putting an end to this abhorrent trade. This is further illustrated by the fact that 5 EU Member States have already introduced national provisions prohibiting the marketing of cat and dog furs, and by the legislation introduced in the US and Australia prohibiting the trade in dog and cat fur products.

Against this background, and in light of the Commission's newly adopted Commission EU Action Plan on Animal Welfare which includes a "Proposal to address public concerns on the trading of cat and dog fur and derived products 2006", I am writing to enquire whether the Commission has yet completed its survey into EU level action, and if and when, as would be the next logical step, the Commission will be proposing an EU-wide ban on the trade in cat and dog fur and derived products.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

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

Dr. Caroline Lucas
Green Party MEP for South East England

cc. Commissioners Mandelson, Ferrero-Waldner, McCreevy and Frattini