

**DR. CAROLINE LUCAS**

**Green Member of the European Parliament  
for the South East of England**

10 May 2004

Commissioners David Byrne & Pascal Lamy  
Consumer Protection and Trade Commissioners  
The European Commission  
rue de la Loi 200  
1049 Bruxelles

Dear Commissioner,

The Commission has stated that it will not act to ban the import, production and sale of cat and dog fur until a number of Member States have implemented differing national legislation on this issue. This is now the case with a number of Member States having banned the import, sale and production of cat and dog fur.

That an estimated 2,000,000 dogs and cats are allowed to be slaughtered and sold annually as part of an international fur trade is abhorrent. Increasing evidence shows that cat and dog fur is being 'farmed' and sold in a number of member states in the EU. Not only is this practice abhorrent in terms of animal welfare, it also constitutes fraud. Voluntary labelling initiatives are clearly not sufficient in this instance. Furthermore, the slaughter process itself is horrific, on more than one occasion investigators reporting that animals are skinned whilst still alive.

Following the adoption of the European Parliament's Written Declaration on cat and dog fur I am writing to you to demand immediate action from the European Commission to ban the import, sale and production of cat and dog fur across the European Union.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Caroline Lucas  
Green Party MEP for South East England