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for the South East of England

Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou
The European Commission
DG Health and Consumers
B-1049 Brussels

9th October 2008

Dear Commissioner

Review of Pigs Directive

I am writing to urge that DG Sanco very belatedly brings forward the long-planned review of the Pigs Directive without further delay.

Council Directive 91/630 EEC (as amended in 2001) laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs, requires the Commission to submit two reports to the Council on specified aspects of pig welfare, in order to provide the basis for a review of the Directive. Directive 91/630 EEC requires the first report to have been submitted in 2005, and the second by the 1st of January 2008. As far as I am aware, neither report has been submitted.

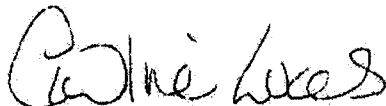
The European Food Safety Authority has now produced five Reports and Opinions on pig welfare, all designed to inform and guide the reports that the Commission is required to prepare. It would be extremely disappointing if this considerable body of scientific research by EFSA were allowed to go to waste due to inaction by the Commission. Yet if it is not acted upon soon, it will become outdated.

Moreover, the Community Action Plan on the Protection on the Welfare of Animals foresees the submission in 2009 of a report to the Parliament and the Council on the protection of pigs. If the Commission does not put forward this report soon, it is unlikely to submit a report in 2009.

Could you therefore please advise what stage the preparation of this report is currently at, and when we may expect it to be published?

Many thanks and I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,



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