

Brussels, 28. 06. 2006  
D(2006) 1041

Dear Ms Lucas,

Thank you for your letter of 5 April 2006 concerning an EU-wide ban on the trade in cat and dog fur.

The Commission is still examining the possibilities for action at Community level concerning the problem of trade in cat and dog fur. I have always confirmed that the political will to tackle this problem exists, and that the Commission's services are working on proposals to overcome a number of legal difficulties. But the legal difficulties that have to be faced are serious, e.g. the legal basis for a proposal in the Treaty or problems regarding WTO law.

At this stage, in particular, the Commission must base its legislative proposal on sound data and provide information about how the necessary enforcement could work. Furthermore, the Commission has been recently informed that in some Member States cat furs are traded and sold. In addition, footage from an NGO was sent to the Commission showing the alleged trade in cat and dog fur in the European Union. The existence of such trade must now be analysed, with the help of the Member States, in the context of a possible import ban. A letter has in this respect been sent to the Chief Veterinary Officers.

I am confident that the legal problems around the issue can be sorted out. I look forward to the support of the European Parliament as well as the Council during the legislative procedure once a proposal has been adopted by the Commission.

Yours sincerely,

Best regards  


Dr. Caroline Lucas, MEP  
European Parliament  
Rue Wiertz  
1047 Brussels