

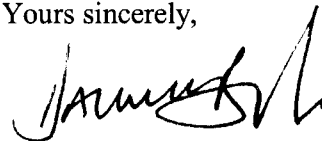
Brussels, 01.07.2004 D/000898

Dear Dr. Lucas,

Thank you for your letter of 10 May 2004 referring to Declaration 17 of the European Parliament calling for a ban on trade in cat and dog fur.

As you are aware, the issue was also raised in the Agriculture Council on 17 November 2003. In replying to the request from Member States to come forward with proposals for EU rules, I noted that Member States are already entitled to introduce their own measures provided they respect their obligations under the Treaty. Moreover, the Commission continues monitoring the situation in order to evaluate the necessity to address the issue at EU level.

Yours sincerely,



David BYRNE

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