

Brussels,

25.04.2002 D/000947

Dr Caroline Lucas MP  
European Parliament  
rue Wiertz  
B - 1047 Brussels

Dear Dr Lucas,

Thank you for your letter of 12 April 2002 calling for an EU wide ban on the import of cat and dog fur.

I am now reflecting on whether there is an EU dimension, which requires the Commission to take a position in relation to matters which fall within the competence of my Directorate General. You will appreciate that it is a complex issue given the uncertainties over the extent of such imports, the powers open to the Commission to propose a ban on imports of such products, the possibility of misleading labelling etc. The extent of support from the Member States for any such ban at the Community level must also be taken into consideration.

In the light of these consultations the Commission will decide if there is a case for further action.

Yours sincerely,



David Byrne