

**FRANZ FISCHLER**

MITGLIED DER EUROPÄISCHEN KOMMISSION

23 -10- 2000

CAB - D 12451/00

Dear Dr. Lucas,

Thank you for your letter of 10 October 2000 regarding the amendment of Council Directive 91/630/EEC laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs.

In the framework of the interservice consultation launched by DG SANCO, my services were invited to examine the text of a communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the welfare of intensively kept pigs, accompanied by a draft proposal to amend Directive 91/630/EEC.

In the view of DG AGRICULTURE, this text should contain sufficient elements allowing to evaluate the economic and financial impact of the proposed animal welfare measures on production and trade of pigmeat in the future.

It is obvious that the financial consequences of the proposed measures for the European pig industry will play an important role in the consultation process by the Council and the European Parliament.

The present text does not allow such an evaluation. Therefore my services have invited DG SANCO to add the necessary elements to the text.

I would like to assure you of my own personal commitment to animal welfare issues. At the same time, however, it is my duty as Commissioner for Agriculture to assure that the interests and concerns of the European pig farmers are included in the future debate on animal welfare in this sector.

Yours sincerely



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