

Brussels,

1444 05.07.00

Dear Ms Lucas

Thank you for your letter of 16 May 2000 concerning the report on broiler chickens adopted by the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare (SCAHAW) of the Commission.

The Commission shares the concerns expressed in your letter in relation to the welfare problems of broilers kept in intensive conditions as presented in the SCAHAW's report.

In relation to the welfare of broilers a Recommendation on domestic fowl adopted by the Standing Committee of the European Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for farming purposes is now in force.

The European Community is a contracting party to this Convention and participates in the work of the Committee.

Council Directive 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes states, in Article 5, that the Commission shall submit to the Council any proposal which may be necessary for the uniform application of the European Convention and, on the basis of a scientific evaluation, any recommendations made under that scope.

Following the conclusions of the report from the Scientific Committee and in the light of the above mentioned Directive, the Commission will develop as soon as possible a proposal to set up in the European Union the welfare requirements for the keeping of broilers.

Yours sincerely,



David Byrne

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