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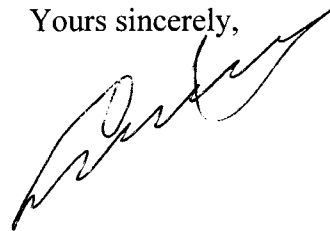
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Dear Dr Lucas,

In response to your letter of 8 September, I would like to inform you that the Commission is continuing to work towards a revitalisation of the environmental dialogue with Russia and we are currently discussing the possibility of a technical meeting in the first half of 2006.

The agenda for any such meetings will be drawn up in agreement with the Russian authorities. The seal hunt issue is one of the issues that could be considered for such an agenda, alongside a series of other issues, such as climate change and energy efficiency.

Yours sincerely,



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