

European Parliament

DR CAROLINE LUCAS
Green Party
for the South East of England

Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou,
The European Commission,
DG Health and Consumers
B-1049 Brussels

30th November 2009

Dear Commissioner,

Animal welfare concerns in Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina

I am writing to draw your attention to two animal welfare concerns regarding strays and pets, which I would like to ask you to take action on.

I have been contacted by many constituents regarding the situation of stray dogs in Skopje, Macedonia, where there are reports that city facilities for strays are completely inadequate, and result in terrible suffering for the dogs they are meant to be helping. I have also received a large volume of constituent correspondence about the hunting of dogs and cats, both pets and strays, in the town of Bosanki Brod in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

These reports are extremely worrying. They have been brought to my attention by very large numbers of people, both constituents and others, demonstrating how concerned many EU citizens are about the welfare of pets and strays.

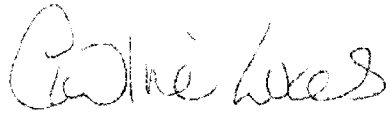
I recognise that the Commission has limited influence on this issue, especially in countries outside the EU. However, as Macedonia is recognised as a candidate for EU membership, and Bosnia-Herzegovina is a potential candidate country, I would like to ask the Commission to ensure that improved animal welfare standards are integral to ongoing dialogues with these two countries.

I am copying this letter to Commissioner Ferraro-Waldner, to ask that she raises this issue and presses for higher animal welfare standards as part of the EU's external relations with Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

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I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Lucas', written in a cursive style.

Caroline Lucas MEP

President of the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals

CC: Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner