

Brussels, 19.02.2001 D/000450

Dear Dr. Lucas,

Thank you for your letter of January 2001 in relation to export refunds for exports of live cattle to third countries.

Although animal welfare issues are clearly under the responsibility of the Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection, export refund policies fall under the responsibility of the Directorate General for Agriculture.

In addition, I would like to draw your attention to Commission Regulation (EC) No 615/98 laying down specific detailed rules of application for the export refund arrangements as regards the welfare of live bovine animals during transport. This regulation stipulates that the payment of export refunds for live animals is subject to compliance with Directive 91/628/EEC and also provides for a monitoring system.

The Directorate General for Agriculture is presently reviewing current procedures for the implementation of the above-mentioned regulation and my services collaborate closely with them in order to clarify some aspects in relation to the protection of animals during transport.

I will therefore pass your letter to Mr. Fischler who will provide you with a more detailed reply.

Yours sincerely,



David BYRNE

Dr. Caroline LUCAS
Member of the European Parliament
Rue Wiertz
8 G103

1047 BRUSSELS