



To the European Food Chain partners,
EUROCOMMERCE Retail, Wholesale and International Trade Representation to the EU
COPA-COGECA Agri-Cooperation
BEUC European Consumers' Organisation
CLITRAVI Association of Meat Processing Industry
EDA European Dairy Association
UECBV European Livestock and Meat Trading Union
IFAH EU Animal Health Industry
EUROGROUP EU Animal Welfare Organisation
FESASS Fédération Européenne Santé Animale et Sécurité Sanitaire

c.c. EU Ministers of Agriculture
Euro Commissioner Markos Kyprianou
Euro Commissioner Neelie Kroes

The Netherlands, February 1st 2006

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

As organisations of smallholders, breeders and hobby holders in the European Union, we have pleaded incessantly for vaccination as THE way for animal disease control (see the attachments 'To Council' and 'Vaccination letter to Markos Kyprianou').

Killing healthy animals is unacceptable, especially with a safe alternative available. Unacceptable from the point of view of animal welfare and of social and public welfare.

It could, unintentionally, lead to groups in society becoming opponents. On one side the farmers, who will vaccinate only if they can sell their products for an equal price. On the other side the smallholders and breeders, who want to vaccinate their animals for protection; especially the ones who don't sell their animals and their products in the commercial circuit.

We suspect that, in the case of an outbreak, the marketing of vaccinated products will be THE bottle neck for proceeding to vaccination.

The EU could show its added value by solving this problem of trade restrictions within Europe, and by taking collective action in this matter towards third countries.

Your organisations will meet in the near future on this subject, we assume.

And as far as we know, all the parties involved do no longer accept the culling of healthy animals as an appropriate way of disease control. Therefore, you of all people should be able to solve the practical problems standing in the way of vaccination. We ask you therefore again, this time with the support of many European organisations of smallholders and hobby breeders, to make the utmost effort and make vaccination of commercial live stock and poultry possible.

The EU Directive for FMD (2003/85/EC) does not inhibit emergency vaccination and trade of 'vaccinated' products from the meat and dairy industry. Products from vaccinated animals are perfectly safe, as the OIE has stated many times.

The AI Directive (2005/94/EC) says in the Introduction (20) that preventive vaccination of poultry and other birds should not only be considered as a “*short term measure in an emergency, but as a long term measure to prevent introduction of the disease as well.*” And, “*Products of vaccinated poultry should be sold and traded in accordance with the Community legislation, including the Directive*”, Introduction (21).

We sincerely expect you to do everything within your power to lift any impediments for products of vaccinated animals in the normal market. We are already consuming meat which is vaccinated for all kinds of other diseases, and we have never complained before. So why *now!*

Besides, we feel strongly that killing and destroying healthy animals without any veterinary indication will damage the image of all food chain parties involved.

It cuts both ways!

With the highest regards,

On behalf of the undersigning organisations,



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