



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Deputy Director General for food sustainability

Brussels,
SANTE G5/KV/iv(2021) 1840257

Subject: Open letter from 142 scientists supporting an end to caged farming throughout the EU

Dear Madams, dear Sirs.

President von der Leyen asked me to thank you for your letter of 23 February 2021 and to reply on her behalf.

With your letter, 142 scientists expressed their support to phase out the use of cages in farming throughout the EU and ask the Commission to issue a decision on the European Citizens' Initiative 'End the Cage Age' in that sense.

Animal welfare represents an important policy area for the Commission and it is now playing a strategic role in the EU Farm to Fork strategy.

As you are certainly aware, the European Commission committed under the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy to revise the EU animal welfare legislation with a view to align it with up to date scientific knowledge, to broaden its scope and to facilitate its implementation. New mandates have been given to EFSA to this end, and others are being considered. Better animal welfare would contribute to a sustainable food system by improving animal health and food quality, and reducing the need for medication. It may also help to preserve biodiversity. The way in which farmed animals are kept is key in this respect. I can therefore assure you that the issues addressed in your letter will be considered in this context.

The Commission is currently evaluating the European Citizens' Initiative 'End the Cage Age' and is considering possible actions to take. The Commission will adopt a communication outlining actions it intends to take, if any, at the latest by 14 July 2021, responding to this initiative.

Yours faithfully,

[e-signed]

Claire Bury

Ms Olga Kikou
Compassion in world farming
Email: [REDACTED]

Commission européenne/Europese Commissie, 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel, BELGIQUE/BELGIË - Tel. +32 22991111

